

§ 1709.1

1709.23–1709.99 [Reserved]
1709.100 OMB control number.

Subpart B—RUS High Cost Energy Grant Program

1709.101 Purpose.
1709.102 Policy.
1709.103–1709.105 [Reserved]
1709.106 Eligible applicants.
1709.107 Eligible communities.
1709.108 Supporting data for determining community eligibility.
1709.109 Eligible projects.
1709.110 Use of grant funds.
1709.111 Limitations on use of grant funds.
1709.112 Ineligible grant purposes.
1709.113 Limitations on grant awards.
1709.114 Application process.
1709.115 Availability of application materials.
1709.116 Application package.
1709.117 Application requirements.
1709.118 Submission of applications.
1709.119 Review of applications.
1709.120 Evaluation of applications.
1709.121 Administrator's review and selection of grant awards.
1709.122 Consideration of eligible grant applications under later grant announcements.
1709.123 Evaluation criteria and weights.
1709.124 Grant award procedures.
1709.125–1709.200 [Reserved]

Subpart C—Bulk Fuel Revolving Fund Grant Program

1709.201 Purpose.
1709.202 Policy. [Reserved]
1709.203 Definitions.
1709.204–1709.206 [Reserved]
1709.207 Eligible applicants.
1709.208 Use of grant funds.
1709.209 Limitations on use of grant funds.
1709.210 Application process.
1709.211 Submission of applications.
1709.212 Application review.
1709.213 Evaluation of applications.
1709.214 Administrator's review and selection of grant awards.
1709.215 Consideration of unfunded applications under later grant announcements.
1709.216 Evaluation criteria and weights.
1709.217 Grant award.
1709.218–1709.300 [Reserved]

Subparts D–F [Reserved]

Subpart G—Recovery of Financial Assistance Used for Unauthorized Purposes

1709.601 Policy.
1709.602–1709.999 [Reserved]

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Subpart A—General Requirements

§ 1709.1 Purpose.

The purpose of the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Assistance to High Energy Cost Rural Communities Program is to help local communities meet their energy needs through direct loans and grants for energy facilities in qualifying extremely high energy cost communities, grants and loans to the Denali Commission for extremely high energy cost communities in Alaska, and grants to States to support revolving funds to finance more cost effective means of acquiring fuel in qualifying communities. This subpart sets forth definitions and requirements which are common to all grant and loan programs in this part administered by the RUS Electric Program under section 19 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (RE Act) (7 U.S.C. 918a).

§ 1709.2 Policy. [Reserved]

§ 1709.3 Definitions.

Administrator means the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Agency means the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), or a successor agency.

Census block means the smallest geographic entity for which the U.S. Census Bureau collects and tabulates decennial census information and which are defined by boundaries shown on census maps.

Census designated place (CDP) means a statistical entity recognized by the U.S. Census Bureau comprising a dense concentration of population that is not within an incorporated place but is locally identified by a name and which has boundaries defined on census maps.

Electric program means the office within RUS, and its successor organization, that administers rural electrification programs authorized by the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (RE Act) (7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*) and such other programs so identified in USDA regulations.

Extremely high energy costs means community average residential energy costs that are at least 275 percent of