

Rural Utilities Service, USDA

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complete and eligible will be ranked competitively based on the following scoring criteria:

(1) Degree of expertise and successful experience in making and servicing commercial loans, with a successful record, for the following number of full years:

(i) At least 1 but less than 3 years—5 points

(ii) At least 3 but less than 5 years—10 points

(iii) At least 5 but less than 10 years—20 points

(iv) 10 or more years—30 points

(2) Extent to which the work plan demonstrates a well thought out, comprehensive approach to accomplishing the objectives of this part, clearly defines who will be served by the project, clearly articulates the problem/issues to be addressed, identifies the service area to be covered by the RFP loans, and appears likely to be sustainable. Up to 40 points.

(3) Percentage of applicant contributions. Points allowed under this paragraph will be based on written evidence of the availability of funds from sources other than the proceeds of an RFP grant to pay part of the cost of a loan recipient's project. In-kind contributions will not be considered. Funds from other sources as a percentage of the RFP grant and points corresponding to such percentages are as follows:

(i) Less than 20%—ineligible

(ii) At least 20% but less than 50%—10 points

(iii) 50% or more—20 points

(4) Extent to which the goals and objectives are clearly defined, tied to the work plan, and are measurable. Up to 15 points.

(5) Lowest ratio of projected administrative expenses to loans advanced. Up to 10 points.

(6) The evaluation methods for considering loan applications and making RFP loans are specific to the program, clearly defined, measurable, and are consistent with program outcomes. Up to 20 points.

(7) Administrator's discretion, considering such factors as creative outreach ideas for marketing RFP loans to rural residents; the amount of funds requested in relation to the amount of

needs demonstrated in the work plan; previous experiences demonstrating excellent utilization of a revolving loan fund grant; and optimizing the use of agency resources. Up to 10 points.

(c) All qualifying applications under this part will be scored based on the criteria contained in this section. Awards will be made based on the highest ranking applications and the amount of financial assistance available for RFP grants. All applicants will be notified of the results in writing on form AD-622.

§ 1783.10 What is the grant agreement?

RUS and the grant recipient will enter into a contract setting forth the terms and conditions governing a particular RFP grant award. RUS will furnish the form of grant agreement. No funds awarded under this part shall be disbursed to the grant recipient before the grant agreement is binding and RUS has received a fully executed counterpart of the grant agreement.

§ 1783.11 What is the revolving loan fund?

The grant recipient shall establish and maintain a revolving loan fund for the purposes set forth in § 1783.12. The revolving loan fund shall be comprised of revolving loan fund grant funds and the grant recipient's contributed funds. All revolving loan fund loans made to loan recipients shall be drawn from the revolving loan fund. All revolving loan fund loans shall be serviced and the revolving loan fund maintained, in accordance with this part and applicable law.

§ 1783.12 What are eligible uses of grant proceeds?

(a) Grant proceeds shall be used solely for the purpose of establishing the revolving loan fund to provide loans to eligible entities for:

(1) Pre-development costs associated with proposed water and wastewater projects or with existing water and wastewater systems, and

(2) Short-term costs incurred for replacement equipment, small-scale extension of services, or other small capital projects that are not part of the regular operations and maintenance

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activities of existing water and waste-water systems.

(b) A grant recipient may not use grant funds in any manner inconsistent with the terms of the grant agreement.

§ 1783.13 What administrative expenses may be funded with grant proceeds?

RFP grant funds may not be used for any purposes not described in §1783.12, including, without limitation, payment or reimbursement of any of the grant recipient's administrative costs or expenses. Administrative expenses may, however, be paid or reimbursed from revolving loan fund assets that are not RFP grant funds, including revolved funds and cash originally contributed by the grant recipient.

Subpart C—Revolving Fund Program Loans

§ 1783.14 What are the eligibility criteria for RFP loan recipients?

(a) A loan recipient must be an eligible entity as defined in §1783.3.

(b) The loan recipient must be unable to finance the proposed project from their own resources or through commercial credit at reasonable rates and terms.

(c) The loan recipient must have or will obtain the legal authority necessary for owning, constructing, operating and maintaining the proposed service or facility, and for obtaining, giving security for, and repaying the proposed loan.

(d) The project funded by the proceeds of an RFP loan must be located in, or the services provided as the result of such project must benefit, rural areas.

§ 1783.15 What are the terms of RFP loans?

(a) RFP loans under this part—

(1) Shall have an interest rate that is determined by the grant recipient and approved by RUS;

(2) Shall have a terms not to exceed 10 years; and

(3) Shall not exceed the lesser of \$100,000 or 75 percent of the total cost of a project. The total outstanding balance for all loans under this program

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to any one entity shall not exceed \$100,000.

(b) The grant recipient must set forth the RFP loan terms in written documentation signed by the loan recipient.

(c) Grant recipients must develop and use RFP loan documentation that conforms to the terms of this part, the grant agreement, and the laws of the state or states having jurisdiction.

§ 1783.16 How will the loans given from the revolving fund be serviced?

The grant recipient shall be responsible for servicing all loans, to include preparing loan agreements, processing loan payments, reviewing financial statements and debt reserves balances, and other responsibilities such as enforcement of loan terms. Loan servicing will be in accordance with the work plan approved by the Agency when the grant is awarded for as long as any loan made in whole or in part with Agency grant funds is outstanding.

PART 1785—LOAN ACCOUNT COMPUTATIONS, PROCEDURES AND POLICIES FOR ELECTRIC AND TELEPHONE BORROWERS

Subpart A [Reserved]

Subpart B—RUS Cushion of Credit Account Computations and Procedures

Sec.

1785.66 General.

1785.67 Definitions.

1785.68 Establishing an RUS cushion of credit payment account.

1785.69 Cushion of credit payment account computations.

1785.70 Application of RETRF cushion of credit payments.

AUTHORITY: 7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.; Title I, Subtitle D, sec. 1403, Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987, Pub. L. 100-203; Pub. L. 103-354, 108 Stat. 3178 (7 U.S.C. 6941 et seq.).

Subpart A [Reserved]