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SOURCE: 72 FR 63298, Nov. 8, 2007, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Overview

§ 764.1 Introduction.

(a) *Purpose.* This part describes the Agency's policies for making direct FLP loans.

(b) *Types of loans.* The Agency makes the following types of loans:

- (1) FO, including Downpayment loans;
- (2) OL, including Youth loans;
- (3) EM; and
- (4) CL.

[72 FR 63298, Nov. 8, 2007, as amended at 75 FR 54015, Sept. 3, 2010]

§ 764.2 Abbreviations and definitions.

Abbreviations and definitions for terms used in this part are provided in § 761.2 of this chapter.

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Subpart B—Loan Application Process

§ 764.51 Loan application.

(a) A loan application must be submitted in the name of the actual operator of the farm. Two or more applicants applying jointly will be considered an entity applicant. The Agency will consider tax filing status and other business dealings as indicators of the operator of the farm.

(b) A complete loan application, except as provided in paragraphs (c) through (f) of this section, will include:

(1) The completed Agency application form;

(2) If the applicant is an entity:

(i) A complete list of entity members showing the address, citizenship, principal occupation, and the number of shares and percentage of ownership or stock held in the entity by each member, or the percentage of interest in the entity held by each member;

(ii) A current personal financial statement from each member of the entity;

(iii) A current financial statement from the entity itself;

(iv) A copy of the entity's charter or any entity agreement, any articles of incorporation and bylaws, any certificate or evidence of current registration (good standing), and a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors or entity members authorizing specified officers of the entity to apply for and obtain the desired loan and execute required debt, security and other loan instruments and agreements;

(v) In the form of married couples applying as a joint operation, items (i) and (iv) will not be required. The Agency may request copies of the marriage license, prenuptial agreement or similar documents as needed to verify loan eligibility and security. Items (ii) and (iii) are only required to the extent needed to show the individual and joint finances of the husband and wife without duplication.

(3) A written description of the applicant's farm training and experience, including each entity member who will be involved in managing or operating the farm;

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(4) The last 3 years of farm financial records, including tax returns, unless the applicant has been farming less than three years;

(5) The last 3 years of farm production records, unless the applicant has been farming less than 3 years;

(6) Except for CL, documentation that the applicant and each member of an entity applicant cannot obtain sufficient credit elsewhere on reasonable rates and terms, including a loan guaranteed by the Agency;

(7) Documentation of compliance with the Agency's environmental regulations contained in subpart G of 7 CFR part 1940;

(8) Verification of all non-farm income;

(9) A current financial statement and the operation's farm operating plan, including the projected cash flow budget reflecting production, income, expenses, and loan repayment plan;

(10) A legal description of the farm property owned or to be acquired and, if applicable, any leases, contracts, options, and other agreements with regard to the property;

(11) Payment to the Agency for ordering a credit report on the applicant;

(12) Verification of all debts;

(13) Any additional information deemed necessary by the Agency to effectively evaluate the applicant's eligibility and farm operating plan;

(14) For EM loans, a statement of loss or damage on the appropriate Agency form;

(15) For CL only, a conservation plan as defined in § 761.2 of this chapter; and

(16) For CL only, and if the applicant wishes to request consideration for priority funding, plans to transition to organic or sustainable agriculture when the funds requested will be used to facilitate the transition.

(c) For a Lo-Doc OL request, the applicant must:

(1) Be current on all payments to all creditors including the Agency (if an Agency borrower);

(2) Have not received primary loan servicing on any FLP debt within the past 5 years; and

(3) Meet one of the following sets of criteria:

(i) The loan requested is \$50,000 or less and the total outstanding Agency

OL loan debt at the time of loan closing will be less than \$100,000; or

(ii) The loan requested is to pay annual operating expenses and the applicant is an existing Agency borrower who has received and timely repaid at least two previous annual OL loans from the Agency.

(4) Submit items (1), (2), (7), (9), and (11) of paragraph (b) of this section. The Agency may require a Lo-Doc applicant to submit any other information listed in paragraph (b) of this section as needed to make a determination on the loan application.

(d) For a CL Program streamlined application, the applicant must meet all of the following:

(1) Be current on all payments to all creditors including the Agency (if currently an Agency borrower).

(2) Have not received primary loan servicing on any FLP debt within the past 5 years.

(3) Have a debt to asset ratio that is 40 percent or less.

(4) Have a balance sheet that indicates a net worth of 3 times the requested loan amount or greater.

(5) Have a FICO credit score from the Agency obtained credit report of at least 700. For entity applicants, the FICO credit score of the majority of the individual members of the entity must be at least 700.

(6) Submit the following items:

(i) Items specified in paragraphs (b)(1), (b)(2), (b)(3), (b)(7), (b)(11), (b)(15), and (b)(16) of this section,

(ii) A current financial statement less than 90 days old, and

(iii) Upon Agency request, other information specified in paragraph (b) of this section necessary to make a determination on the loan application.

(e) For a youth loan request:

(1) The applicant must submit items (1), (7), and (9) of paragraph (b) of this section.

(2) Applicants 18 years or older, must also provide items (11) and (12) of paragraph (b) of this section.

(3) The Agency may require a youth loan applicant to submit any other information listed in paragraph (b) of this section as needed to make a determination on the loan application.

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(f) The applicant need not submit any information under this section that already exists in the applicant's Agency file and is still current.

[72 FR 63298, Nov. 8, 2007, as amended at 75 FR 54015, Sept. 3, 2010]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 76 FR 75434, Dec. 2, 2011, § 764.51 was amended by revising paragraph (b)(3), effective Jan. 3, 2012. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

§ 764.51 Loan application.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(3) A written description of the applicant's farm training and experience, including each entity member who will be involved in managing or operating the farm. Farm experience of the applicant, without regard to any lapse of time between the farm experience and the new application, may be included in the applicant's written description. If farm experience occurred more than 5 years prior to the date of the new application, the applicant must demonstrate sufficient on-the-job training or education within the last 5 years to demonstrate managerial ability;

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§ 764.52 Processing an incomplete application.

(a) Within 10 days of receipt of an incomplete application, the Agency will provide the applicant written notice of any additional information which must be provided. The applicant must provide the additional information within 20 calendar days of the date of this notice.

(b) If the additional information is not received, the Agency will provide written notice that the application will be withdrawn if the information is not received within 10 calendar days of the date of this second notice.

§ 764.53 Processing the complete application.

Upon receiving a complete loan application, the Agency will:

(a) Consider the loan application in the order received, based on the date the application was determined to be complete.

(b) Provide written notice to the applicant that the application is complete.

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(c) Within 60 calendar days after receiving a complete loan application, the Agency will complete the processing of the loan request and notify the applicant of the decision reached, and the reason for any disapproval.

(d) Except for CL requests, if based on the Agency's review of the application, it appears the applicant's credit needs could be met through the guaranteed loan program, the Agency will assist the applicant in securing guaranteed loan assistance under the market placement program as specified in § 762.110(h) of this chapter.

(e) In the absence of funds for a direct loan, the Agency will keep an approved loan application on file until funding is available. At least annually, the Agency will contact the applicant to determine if the Agency should retain the application or if the applicant wants the application withdrawn.

(f) If funding becomes available, the Agency will resume processing of approved loans in accordance with this part.

[72 FR 63298, Nov. 8, 2007, as amended at 75 FR 54015, Sept. 3, 2010]

§ 764.54 Preferences when there is limited funding.

(a) *First priority.* When there is a shortage of loan funds, approved applications will be funded in the order of the date the application was received, whether or not complete.

(b) *Secondary priorities.* If two or more applications were received on the same date, the Agency will give preference to:

(1) First, an applicant who is a veteran of any war;

(2) Second, an applicant who is not a veteran, but:

(i) Has a dependent family;

(ii) Is able to make a downpayment;

or
(iii) Owns livestock and farm implements necessary to farm successfully.

(3) Third, to other eligible applicants.