

## § 573.1

AUTHORITY: Pub. L. 104-155, 110 Stat. 1392, 18 U.S.C. 241 note; 42 U.S.C. 3535(d).

SOURCE: 61 FR 47405, Sept. 6, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

### § 573.1 Authority and purpose.

Section 4 of the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-155, approved July 3, 1996) authorizes HUD to guarantee loans made by financial institutions to certain nonprofit organizations to finance activities designed to remedy the damage and destruction to real and personal property caused by acts of arson or terrorism. This part establishes the general procedures and requirements that apply to HUD's guarantee of these loans.

### § 573.2 Definitions.

The following definitions are only applicable to loan guarantees under this part, and are not criminal definitions.

*Act* means "The Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996" (Pub. L. 104-155, approved July 3, 1996).

*Arson* means a fire or explosion causing damage to (or destruction of) real or personal property that a Qualified Certification Official determines, or reasonably believes, to be deliberately set.

*Borrower* means an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, whose property has been damaged or destroyed as a result of an act of arson or terrorism and that incurs a debt obligation to a financial institution for the purpose of carrying out activities eligible under his part.

*Financial Institution* means a lender which may be a bank, trust company, savings and loan association, credit union, mortgage company, or other issuer regulated by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Office of Thrift Supervision, the Credit Union Administration, or the U.S. Comptroller of the Currency. A Financial Institution may also be a Pension Fund.

*Guarantee* means an obligation of the United States Government guaranteeing payment of the outstanding principal loan amount, in whole or in part, plus interest thereon, on a debt obligation of the Borrower to a Financial Institution upon failure of the Borrower to repay the debt.

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*Guaranteed Loan Funds* means funds received by the borrower from the Financial Institution to finance eligible activities under this part, the repayment of which is guaranteed by HUD.

*Loan Guarantee Agreement* means an agreement between a Financial Institution and the Secretary detailing the rights, responsibilities, procedures, terms, and conditions under which a loan provided by a Financial Institution to a Borrower may be guaranteed under section 4 of the Act.

*Qualified Certification Official (QCO)*—

(1) *For the purpose of certifying an act of arson.* A State or local official authorized to investigate possible acts of arson. For the purposes of this definition, such an official is authorized to execute an Official Incident Report or its equivalent and may be an official or employee of such agencies as the local fire department, the local police department, or the State Fire Marshall Office or its equivalent. The term "Qualified Certification Official" also includes HUD, which will consult with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms of the Department of the Treasury in making its determinations.

(2) *For the purpose of certifying an act of terrorism.* The Secretary or his designee, in consultation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, shall determine whether an act of violence is a terrorist act or is reasonably believed to be a terrorist act.

*Section 4 Guaranteed Loan* means a HUD guaranteed loan made by a Financial Institution to a Borrower for the purpose of carrying out eligible activities to address damage or destruction caused by acts of arson or terrorism.

*Terrorism* means an act of violence causing damage to (or destruction of) real or personal property that the Secretary or his designee, in consultation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, determines to be, or reasonably believes to be, a terrorist act, as defined by applicable Federal law or guidelines.

### § 573.3 Eligible activities.

Guaranteed Loan Funds may be used by a Borrower for the following activities when it is certified in accordance

with § 573.6(e) that the activity is necessary to address damage caused by an act or acts of arson or terrorism as certified in accordance with § 573.6(f):

(a) Acquisition of improved or unimproved real property in fee or under long term lease.

(b) Acquisition and installation of personal property.

(c) Rehabilitation of real property owner, acquired, or leased by the Borrower.

(d) Construction, reconstruction, or replacement of real property improvement.

(e) Clearance, demolition, and removal, including movement of structures to other sites, of buildings, fixtures and improvements on real property.

(f) Site preparation, including construction, reconstruction, or installation of site improvements, utilities, or facilities, which is related to the activities described in paragraph (a), (c), or (d) of this section.

(g) Architectural, engineering, and similar services necessary to develop plans in connection with activities financed under paragraph (a), (b), (c), or (d) of this section.

(h) Acquisition, installation and restoration of security systems.

(i) Loans for refinancing existing indebtedness secured by a property which has been or will be acquired, constructed, rehabilitated or reconstructed, if such financing is determined to be appropriate to achieve the objectives of the Act and this part.

(j) Other necessary project costs such as insurance, bonding, legal fees, appraisals, surveys, relocation, closing costs, etc., paid or incurred by the Borrower in connection with the completion of the above activities.

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#### § 573.4 Loan term.

The term of the loan to be guaranteed by HUD under this part may not exceed 20 years.

#### § 573.5 Underwriting standards and availability of loan guarantee assistance.

(a) HUD may, in its discretion, accept the underwriting standards of the

Financial Institution making a loan to a Borrower.

(b) HUD will not make the loan guarantee unless it determines that the guaranteed loan is an acceptable financial risk under HUD's generally applicable loan underwriting standards based on the following:

(1) The Borrower's ability to pay debt service; and

(2) The value of the collateral assigned or pledged as security for the repayment of the loan.

(c) The provision of a loan guarantee to a Financial Institution and the amount of the guarantee do not depend in any way on the purpose, function, or identity of the organization to which the Financial Institution has made, or intends to make, a Section 4 Guaranteed Loan.

(d) HUD may disapprove a request for loan guarantee assistance based on the availability of funding.

(e) HUD may decline any Financial Institution's participation if its underwriting criteria are insufficient to make the guarantee an acceptable financial risk, or if the proposed interest rates or fees are unacceptable. HUD expects the proposed interest rates to take into account the value of the Federal guarantee.

(f) HUD may limit the availability of Guaranteed Loan Funds to geographic areas having the greatest need, as determined by a needs analysis of the most current available data conducted by HUD.

(g) Other requirements associated with the underwriting standards and guidelines shall be contained in the Loan Guarantee Agreement.

#### § 573.6 Submission requirements.

A Financial Institution seeking a Section 4 Guaranteed Loan must submit to HUD the following documentation:

(a) A statement that the institution is a Financial Institution as defined at § 573.2.

(b) A statement that the Borrower is eligible as defined at § 573.2.

(c) A description of each eligible activity for which the loan is requested.

(d) A statement of other available funds to be used to finance the eligible activities (e.g., insurance proceeds).