

**§§ 4280.166–4280.169**

**7 CFR Ch. XLII (1–1–13 Edition)**

(1) All other provisions of §§ 4280.101 through 4280.111 apply to the combined funding request.

(2) All other provisions of §§ 4280.112 through 4280.121 apply to the grant portion of the combined funding request.

(3) All other provisions of §§ 4280.122 through 4280.160 apply to the guaranteed loan portion of the combined funding request.

**§§ 4280.166–4280.169 [Reserved]**

**RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEM  
FEASIBILITY STUDY GRANTS**

**§ 4280.170 Applicant eligibility.**

To be eligible for a renewable energy system feasibility study grant under this subpart, the applicant must be an agricultural producer or a rural small business, as defined in § 4280.103, and must be the prospective owner of the renewable energy system for which the feasibility study grant is sought.

**§ 4280.171 Project eligibility.**

Only renewable energy system projects that meet the requirements specified in this section are eligible for feasibility study grants under this subpart. The project for which the feasibility study grant is sought shall:

(a) Be for the purchase, installation, expansion, or other energy-related improvement of a renewable energy system located in a State, as defined in § 4280.103;

(b) Be for a facility located in a rural area if the applicant is a rural small business, or in a rural or non-rural area if the applicant is an agricultural producer. If the agricultural producer's facility is in a non-rural area, then the feasibility study can only be for a renewable energy system on integral components of or directly related to the facility, such as vertically integrated operations, and are part of and co-located with the agriculture production operation;

(c) Be for technology that is pre-commercial or commercially available, and that is replicable;

(d) Not have had a feasibility study already completed for it with Federal and/or State assistance; and

(e) The applicant has a place of business in a State.

**§ 4280.172 Application eligibility provisions.**

(a) Applications for industry-level feasibility studies, also known as feasibility study templates or guides, are not eligible because the assistance is not provided to a specific project.

(b) Applications must be from the prospective owner(s) of the renewable energy system for which the feasibility study grant is sought. Applications from other entities (e.g., entities that would be conducting the feasibility study and are not the prospective owners) will not be accepted.

(c) Applications can be submitted for a modification to an existing renewable energy system (e.g., for the expansion portion of an existing wind farm).

(d) Applications cannot be submitted in a Fiscal Year for an RES project if an RES application for the same renewable energy system is submitted in that same Fiscal Year and vice versa.

**§ 4280.173 Grant funding for feasibility studies.**

(a) *Maximum grant amount.* The maximum amount of grant funds that will be made available for an eligible feasibility study project under this subpart to any one recipient will not exceed \$50,000 or 25 percent of the total eligible project cost of the study, whichever is less. Eligible project costs are specified in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) *Eligible project costs.* Only post-application costs will be considered eligible. Eligible project costs for renewable energy system feasibility studies shall be specific to the completion of the feasibility study (refer to Appendix E of this subpart for information on the content of a feasibility study) including, but not limited to, the items listed in paragraphs (b)(1) through (b)(3) of this section.

- (1) Resource assessment;
- (2) Transmission study; and
- (3) Environmental study.

(c) *Ineligible project costs.* Ineligible project costs for renewable energy system feasibility studies include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Costs associated with selection of engineering, architectural, or environmental services;
- (2) Designing, bidding, or contract development for the proposed facility;