

RBS and RUS, USDA

§ 4285.25

supported by a cooperative agreement under this part.

State agencies. State agencies include, among others, State Agricultural Experiment Stations and State Departments of Agriculture in the 50 States, the Virgin Islands, and Guam, and other appropriate State agencies. Final determination of whether certain 1890 or 1862 Land Grant institutions qualify as state agencies will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Office of the General Counsel (OGC), USDA.

§§ 4285.4–4285.23 [Reserved]

§ 4285.24 Eligibility.

To enter into a cooperative agreement for these funds, the applicant must:

(a) Be a State Agency as defined in § 4285.3 of this subpart;

(b) Have the financial, legal, administrative, and actual capacity to assume and carry out the responsibilities imposed by the Agreement. To meet the requirement of actual capacity it must either:

(1) Have necessary background and experience with proven ability to perform responsibly in the field of economic, business management, or other needed research area; or

(2) Have the necessary administrative and supervisory controls in place to assure an agreed upon contracting organization has the proven ability to perform responsibly in the field of economic, business management, or other needed research area;

(c) Legally obligate itself to administer cooperative agreement funds, provide adequate accounting of the expenditure of such funds, and comply with the cooperative agreement;

(d) Provide at least 50 percent of the funds necessary to conduct the research from non-federal funds; and

(e) Agree to conduct proposed research related to cooperatives and agricultural marketing.

§ 4285.25 Authorized use of cooperative agreement funds.

Funds received for research under cooperative agreements in this program shall only be used for:

(a) Payment of salaries and necessary employee benefits of personnel as

agreed upon in the Cooperative Agreement. Included are salaries and benefits of State employees assigned full-time to one or more projects, or the percent of the salaries and benefits related to project work for State employees assigned part-time to research on one or more projects. Salaries and benefits include basic salary, other compensation such as holiday pay, sick or annual leave, and personnel benefits (quarters allowance, payments to other funds such as employees' life insurance, health benefits, retirement, Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA), accident compensation, and similar payments). For any of the benefit items when the State usually pays the employer share, Federal funds may be used to pay the proportionate share of such employer contributions.

(b) Payment of necessary and reasonable office expenses such as office rental, office utilities, and office equipment rental. The purchase of office equipment is permissible when the cooperator determines it to be more economical than renting. However, as a general rule, these types of expenses would be classified as indirect costs in multiple funded organizations and would not be an allowable expense. Planned purchases of equipment costing more than \$200 per unit must be approved by RDA or its successor agency. Equipment purchased becomes State property pursuant to the cooperative agreement.

(c) Payment of necessary and reasonable costs of printing publications of research project results. However, all such publications should show the RDA or its successor agency as cooperator in the project and bear the following statement: "State funds for this project (publication) were matched with Federal funds under the Federal-State Research on Cooperatives Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Administration or its successor agency, Cooperative Services, as provided by the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 and (appropriate) fiscal year appropriations."

(d) Purchase of office supplies (such as paper, pens, pencils, and trade magazines) and postage needed for project activities.

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(e) Payment of necessary and reasonable travel expenses.

§§ 4285.26–4285.45 [Reserved]

§ 4285.46 Prohibited use of cooperative agreement funds.

(a) The Agricultural Marketing Act prohibits the use of Federal funds to pay for newspaper or periodical space and radio and television time, either directly to the media or indirectly through an advertising agency or other firm. County and State fair exhibits, as well as commodity months and weeks, are also excluded as the research on cooperatives program activities.

(b) Federal funds cannot be used to purchase products or samples of products to give away to the public.

(c) Federal program funds cannot be used to purchase:

(1) Promotional pieces such as point-of-sale materials, promotional kits, billboard space and signs, streamers, automobile stickers, table tents, and placemats; or

(2) Promotion items of a personal gift nature.

(d) Cooperative agreement funds cannot be used to conduct general publicity or information programs designed to build the image of the State's agriculture or of a particular State Department of Agriculture or Agricultural Experiment Station.

(e) Project funds cannot be used to pay for the salary and travel of employees of cooperatives, trade associations, commodity groups, and other industry organizations, or of State personnel while engaged in managing market orders, cooperatives, or other group endeavors.

(f) Commissioners, Directors, and Secretaries of State Departments of Agriculture, Agricultural Experiment Stations, and other State agencies cannot charge their salaries and travel to project funds, with the exception of travel to workshops or conferences devoted to the Federal-State Research On Cooperatives Program.

(g) Funds made available for this program shall not be subject to reduction for indirect costs or for tuition remission.

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§ 4285.47 Limitations.

The amount of funds available for the cooperative agreements under this program is limited to the amount appropriated for the fiscal year.

§§ 4285.48–4285.57 [Reserved]

§ 4285.58 How to apply for cooperative agreement funds.

(a) A program solicitation will be prepared and announced through publications such as the FEDERAL REGISTER, professional trade journals, agency or program handbooks, and/or any other appropriate means, as early as practicable each fiscal year in which funds are appropriated for the program.

(b) The annual program solicitation will contain information sufficient to enable all eligible applicants to prepare proposals including:

(1) Desired research topics. The FY-94 solicitation will encourage studies:

(i) To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of marketing of agricultural cooperatives;

(ii) To measure the impact of rural cooperatives on the local economies;

(iii) That help identify opportunities to develop cooperatives for new or alternative market uses of agricultural products;

(iv) That help identify ways to develop agricultural marketing cooperatives; and

(v) Addressing other cooperative marketing objectives;

(2) Explanation of eligibility requirements as outlined in §4285.24 of this subpart;

(3) The notice of availability of application forms and instructions for submission of applications;

(4) The notice of deadline dates for postmarking proposal packages.

(c) *Format for proposals.* Unless otherwise indicated by the Department in the annual program solicitation, the following information must be submitted for the preparation of proposals under this program:

(1) Form SF-424, "Application for Federal Assistance."

(2) Form SF-424A, "Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs."

(3) Form SF-424B, "Assurances—Non-Construction Programs."