

Rural Housing Service, USDA

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is limited to one bathtub, sink, commode, kitchen sink, water heater, and outside spigot.

(e) Construction and/or partitioning off a portion of the dwelling for a bathroom, not to exceed 4.6 square meters (48 square feet) in size.

(f) Pay reasonable costs for closing abandoned septic tanks and water wells when necessary to protect the health and safety of recipients of a grant for a purpose provided in paragraph (a) or (b) of this section and is required by local or State law.

(g) Make improvements to individual's residence when needed to allow the use of the water and/or waste disposal system.

[67 FR 78331, Dec. 24, 2002]

§ 3550.118 Grant restrictions.

(a) *Maximum grant.* Lifetime assistance to any individual for initial or subsequent Section 306C WWD grants may not exceed a cumulative total of \$5,000.

(b) *Limitation on use of grant funds.* WWD grant funds may not be used to:

(1) Pay any debt or obligation of the grantees other than obligations incurred for purposes listed in § 3550.117.

(2) Pay individuals for their own labor.

[67 FR 78331, Dec. 24, 2002]

§ 3550.119 WWD eligibility requirements.

In addition to the eligibility requirements of § 3550.103, WWD applicants must meet the following requirements:

(a) An applicant need not be 62 years of age or older.

(b) Own and occupy a dwelling located in a colonia. Evidence of ownership will be presented as outlined in § 3550.107.

(c) Have a total taxable income from all individuals residing in the household that is below the most recent poverty income guidelines established by the Department of Health and Human Services.

(d) Must not be delinquent on any Federal debt.

(e) The household income must be verified at the time they apply for assistance through verification of employment and benefits. Federal tax re-

turns are used as further verification of household income.

[61 FR 59779, Nov. 22, 1996, as amended at 67 FR 78331, Dec. 24, 2002]

§§ 3550.120–3550.149 [Reserved]

§ 3550.150 OMB control number.

The information collection requirements contained in this regulation have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and have been assigned OMB control number 0575-0172. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to vary from 5 minutes to 3 hours per response, with an average of 1½ hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comment regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the Department of Agriculture, Clearance Officer, STOP 7602, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0762. You are not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

[61 FR 59779, Nov. 22, 1996, as amended at 67 FR 78331, Dec. 24, 2002]

Subpart D—Regular Servicing

§ 3550.151 Servicing goals.

This subpart sets forth the Rural Housing Service (RHS) policies for managing the repayment of loans made under sections 502 and 504 of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended.

§ 3550.152 Loan payments.

(a) *Payment terms.* Unless the loan documents specify other loan repayment terms, borrowers are required to make monthly payments. Borrowers with existing loans specifying annual payments may request conversion to monthly payments, and must convert to a monthly payment schedule before any subsequent loan or new payment assistance is approved. Suitable forms of payment are: check, money order, or bank draft. Borrowers who make cash

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payments will be assessed a fee to cover the cost of conversion to a money order.

(b) *Application of payments.* If a borrower makes less than the scheduled payment, the payment is held in suspense and is not applied to the borrower's account. When subsequent payments are received in an amount sufficient to equal a scheduled payment, the amount will be applied in the following order:

(1) Protective advances charged to the account.

(2) Accrued interest due.

(3) Principal due.

(4) Escrow for taxes and insurance.

(c) *Multiple loans.* When a borrower with multiple loans for the same property makes less than the scheduled payment on all loans, the payment will be applied to the oldest loan and then in declining order of age. Future remittances will be applied beginning with the oldest unpaid installment.

(d) *Application of excess payments.* Borrowers can elect to make payments in excess of the scheduled amount to be applied to principal, provided there are no outstanding fees.

§ 3550.153 Fees.

RHS may assess reasonable fees including a tax service fee, fees for late payments, and fees for checks returned for insufficient funds.

§ 3550.154 Inspections.

RHS or its agent may make reasonable entries upon and inspections of any property used as security for an RHS loan as necessary to protect the interest of the Government. RHS will give the borrower notice at the time of or prior to an inspection.

§ 3550.155 Escrow account.

Escrow accounts will be administered in accordance with RESPA and section 501(e) of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended.

(a) Upon creation of the escrow account, RHS may require borrowers to deposit funds sufficient to pay taxes and insurance premiums applicable to the mortgage for the period since the last payments were made and to fund a cushion as permitted by RESPA.

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(b) Borrowers may elect to escrow at any time during the terms of the loan if the outstanding RHS loan balance is over \$2,500.

(c) RHS may require borrowers to escrow in conjunction with any special servicing action.

§ 3550.156 Borrower obligations.

(a) After receiving a loan from RHS, borrowers are expected to meet a variety of obligations outlined in the loan documents. In addition to making timely payments, these obligations include:

(1) Maintaining the security property; and

(2) Maintaining an adequately funded escrow account, or paying real estate taxes, hazard and flood insurance, and other related costs when due.

(b) If a borrower fails to fulfill these obligations, RHS may obtain the needed service and charge the cost to the borrowers account.

§ 3550.157 Payment subsidy.

(a) *Borrowers currently receiving payment subsidy.* (1) RHS will review annually each borrower's eligibility for continued payment subsidy and determine the appropriate level of assistance. To be eligible for payment subsidy renewal, the borrower must also occupy the property.

(2) If the renewal is not completed before the expiration date of the existing agreement, the effective date of the renewal will be either the expiration date of the previous agreement if RHS error caused the delay, or the next due date after the renewal is approved in all other cases.

(3) The borrower must notify RHS whenever an adult member of the household becomes employed or changes employment, there is a change in household composition, or if income increases by at least 10 percent. The household may also report decreases in income. If the change in the household's income will cause the payment for principal and interest to change by at least 10 percent, the household's payment subsidy may be adjusted for a new 12-month period. The new agreement will be effective the due date following the date the borrower's information is verified by RHS.