

§ 761.207

§ 761.207 Distribution of loan funds by State Offices.

A State Office may distribute its allocation of loan funds to District or County level using the same allocation methods that are available to the National Office. State Offices may reserve a portion of the funds to meet unexpected or justifiable program needs during the fiscal year.

§ 761.208 Target participation rates for socially disadvantaged groups.

(a) *General.* (1) The Agency establishes target participation rates for providing FO, CL, and OL loans to members of socially disadvantaged groups.

(2) The Agency sets the target participation rates for State and County levels annually.

(3) When distributing loan funds in counties within Indian reservations, the Agency will allocate the funds on a reservation-wide basis.

(4) The Agency reserves and allocates sufficient loan funds to achieve these target participation rates. The Agency may also use funds that are not reserved and allocated for socially disadvantaged groups to make or guarantee loans to members of socially disadvantaged groups.

(b) *FO and CL, loans based on ethnicity or race.* The FO and CL, loan target participation rate based on ethnicity or race in each:

(1) State is equal to the percent of the total rural population in the State who are members of such socially disadvantaged groups.

(2) County is equal to the percent of rural population in the county who are members of such socially disadvantaged groups.

(c) *OL loans based on ethnicity or race.* The OL loan target participation rate based on ethnicity or race in each:

(1) State is equal to the percent of the total number of farmers in the State who are members of such socially disadvantaged groups.

(2) County is equal to the percent of the total number of farmers in the county who are members of socially disadvantaged ethnic groups.

(d) *Women farmers.* (1) The target participation rate for women farmers in each:

7 CFR Ch. VII (1–1–14 Edition)

(i) State is equal to the percent of farmers in the State who are women.

(ii) County is equal to the percent of farmers in the county who are women.

(2) In developing target participation rates for women, the Agency will consider the number of women who are current farmers and potential farmers.

[72 FR 63285, Nov. 8, 2007, as amended at 75 FR 54013, Sept. 3, 2010]

§ 761.209 Loan funds for beginning farmers.

Each fiscal year, the Agency reserves a portion of direct and guaranteed FO and OL loan funds for beginning farmers in accordance with section 346(b)(2) of the Act.

§ 761.210 CL funds.

(a) The following applicants and conservation projects will receive priority for CL funding:

(1) Beginning farmer or socially disadvantaged farmer,

(2) An applicant who will use the loan funds to convert to a sustainable or organic agriculture production system as evidenced by one of the following:

(i) A conservation plan that states the applicant is moving toward a sustainable or organic production system, or

(ii) An organic plan, approved by a certified agent and the State organic certification program, or

(iii) A grant awarded by the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA.

(3) An applicant who will use the loan funds to build conservation structures or establish conservation practices to comply with 16 U.S.C. 3812 (section 1212 of the Food Security Act of 1985) for highly erodible land.

(b) [Reserved]

[75 FR 54013, Sept. 3, 2010]

§ 761.211 Transfer of funds.

If sufficient unsubsidized guaranteed OL funds are available, then beginning on:

(a) August 1 of each fiscal year, the Agency will use available unsubsidized guaranteed OL loan funds to make approved direct FO loans to beginning