

State's average total development costs exceed the National average by 50 percent or more.

B. No State may receive more than \$2.5 million, including set-aside funds.

### III. Rental Assistance (RA)

In addition to the State Matching RA program as described in Section VI. E. of this Notice and subject to its availability, new construction RA will be held in the National Office for use with section 515 Rural Rental Housing loans. Because the amount of RA available for new construction is minimal, RA will be granted to projects which best meet the scoring and ranking criteria at 7 CFR 3560.56(c). In addition, preferential consideration for RA will be given to projects: (1) where a subsidy for rent is provided from within the state jurisdiction; and (2) where the least amount of RA is needed to make the project feasible, calculated as a percentage. New construction RA may not be used in conjunction with a transfer or subsequent loan for repairs or rehabilitation, preservation purposes or for inventory property sales.

### IV. Application Process

All applications for section 515 new construction funds must be filed with the appropriate Rural Development State office and must meet the requirements of 7 CFR 3560.56 and Section V. of this Notice. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed and will be returned to the applicant. No application will be accepted after 5 p.m., local time, on the application deadline previously mentioned unless that date and time is extended by a Notice published in the **Federal Register**.

### V. Application Submission Requirements

A. Each application shall include all of the information, materials, forms and exhibits required by 7 CFR 3560, subpart B as well as comply with the provisions of this Notice. Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to include a checklist and to have their applications indexed and tabbed to facilitate the review process. The Rural Development State Office will base its determination of completeness of the application and the eligibility of each applicant on the information provided in the application.

B. Applicants are advised to contact the Rural Development State Office serving the place in which they desire to submit an application for the following:

1. Application information; and

2. List of designated places for which applications for new section 515 facilities may be submitted.

### VI. Areas of Special Emphasis or Consideration

A. The RHS encourages the use of funding from other sources in conjunction with Agency loans. This year there will be a National Office Initiative pursuant to 7 CFR 3560.56(c)(1)(iii), whereby preference points will be awarded to loan requests that meet the selection criteria as follows: In states where RHS has an on-going formal working relationship, agreement, or MOU with the State to provide State resources (State funds, State RA, HOME funds, CDBG funds, or LIHTC) for RHS proposals; or where the State provides preference or points to RHS proposals in awarding these State Resources, 20 points will be provided to loan requests that include such State resources in an amount equal to at least 5 percent of the TDC. NAHASDA funds may be considered a State Resource if the Tribal Plan for NAHASDA funds contains provisions for partnering with RHS for multifamily housing.

B. \$8,928,000 is available nationwide in a set-aside for eligible nonprofit organizations as defined in 42 U.S.C. 1485(w).

C. \$4,960,000 is available nationwide in a set-aside for the 100 most Underserved Counties and Colonias.

D. \$5,000,000 is available nationwide in a set-aside for EZ, EC, and REAP zone.

E. \$1,000,000 is available nationwide in a reserve for States with viable State RA programs. In order to participate, States are to submit specific written information about the State RA program, *i.e.*, a memorandum of understanding, documentation from the provider, etc., to the National Office.

Dated: March 3, 2005.

**Russell T. Davis,**

*Administrator, Rural Housing Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-XV-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Housing Service

#### Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) for Section 514 Farm Labor Housing Loans and Section 516 Farm Labor Housing Grants for Off-Farm Housing for Fiscal Year 2005

*Announcement Type:* Initial Notice inviting applications from qualified applicants for Fiscal Year 2005.

*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers (CFDA):* 10.405 and 10.427.

**SUMMARY:** This NOFA announces the timeframe to submit applications for section 514 Farm Labor Housing (FLH) loans and section 516 FLH grants for the construction of new off-farm FLH units and related facilities for domestic farm laborers. The intended purpose of these loans and grants is to increase the number of available housing units for domestic farm laborers. Applications may also include requests for section 521 rental assistance (RA) and operating assistance for migrant units. This document describes the method used to distribute funds, the application process, and submission requirements.

**DATES:** The deadline for receipt of all applications in response to this NOFA is 5 p.m., local time for each Rural Development State Office on May 13, 2005. The application closing deadline is firm as to date and hour. The Agency will not consider any application that is received after the closing deadline. Applicants intending to mail applications must provide sufficient time to permit delivery on or before the closing deadline. Acceptance by a post office or private mailer does not constitute delivery. Facsimile (FAX), COD, and postage due applications will not be accepted.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Douglas H. MacDowell or Henry Searcy, Senior Loan Specialists, Multi-Family Housing Processing Division—STOP 0781 (Room 1263-S), U.S. Department of Agriculture—Rural Housing Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-0781 or by telephone at (202) 720-1627 or (202) 720-1753, respectively. (This is not a toll free number.)

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Paperwork Reduction Act

The reporting requirements contained in this Notice have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under Control Number 0575-0045.

### Overview

The FLH program is authorized by the Housing Act of 1949: section 514 (42 U.S.C. 1484) for loans and section 516 (42 U.S.C. 1486) for grants. Tenant subsidies (RA) are available through section 521 (42 U.S.C. 1490a). Sections 514 and 516 provide Rural Housing Service (RHS) the authority to make loans and grants for financing off-farm housing to broad-based nonprofit organizations, nonprofit organizations of farmworkers, federally recognized Indian tribes, agencies or political subdivisions of State or local

government. In addition, loans may be made to limited partnerships in which the general partner is a nonprofit entity.

### Program Administration

#### I. Funding Opportunities Description

The Agency's FLH program is authorized by Title V of the Housing Act of 1949: section 514 (42 U.S.C. 1484) for loans and section 516 (42 U.S.C. 1486) for grants. Tenant subsidies (RA and operating assistance) are available through section 521 (42 U.S.C. 1490a). Agency regulations for the FLH program are published at 7 CFR part 3560, subpart L. Eligibility for section 516 off-farm FLH grants is limited to broad-based nonprofit organizations, nonprofit organizations of farmworkers, federally recognized Indian tribes, agencies or political subdivisions of State or local government, and public agencies (such as housing authorities). Eligibility for section 514 off-farm FLH loans includes each of the aforementioned entities and also includes limited partnerships which have a nonprofit entity as their sole general partner.

Housing that is constructed with these loans and grants must meet the Agency design and construction standards contained in 7 CFR part 1924, subparts A and C. Once constructed, off-farm FLH must be managed in accordance with the program's management regulation, 7 CFR part 3560. Tenant eligibility is limited to persons who meet the definition of a "domestic farm laborer", a "retired domestic farm laborer", or a "disabled domestic farm laborer", as these terms are defined in 7 CFR 3560.11. A domestic farm laborer is defined as "[a] person who, \* \* \*, receives a substantial portion of his or her income from farm labor employment (not self-employed) in the United States, Puerto Rico, or the Virgin Islands and either is a citizen of the United States or resides in the United States, Puerto Rico, or the Virgin Islands after being legally admitted for permanent residence. This definition may include the immediate family members residing with such a person." Farmworkers who are admitted to this country on a temporary basis under the Temporary Agricultural Workers (H-2A Visa) program are not eligible to occupy section 514/516 off-farm FLH.

The term "farm labor," as used in the definition of domestic farm laborer, includes "[s]ervices in connection with cultivating the soil, raising or harvesting any agriculture or aquaculture commodity; or in catching, netting, handling, planting, drying, packing, grading, storing, or preserving in the unprocessed stage, \* \* \*, any

agriculture or aquaculture commodity; or delivering to storage, market, or a carrier for transportation to market or to processing any agricultural or aquacultural commodity in its unprocessed stage." In addition, off-farm FLH must be operated on a nonprofit basis and tenancy must be open to all qualified domestic farm laborers, regardless at which farm they work.

Operating assistance may be used in lieu of tenant-specific rental assistance in off-farm labor housing projects financed under section 514 or section 516(i) of the Housing Act of 1949 (U.S.C. 1486(i)) that serve migrant farmworkers. To be eligible for the operating assistance, projects must be off-farm FLH projects financed under section 514 or section 516 with units that are for migrant farmworkers (housing units for year-round farmworker households are ineligible) and must otherwise meet the requirements of 7 CFR 3560.574. Migrants or migrant agricultural laborer is defined in 7 CFR 3560.11 as "[a] person (and the family of such person) who receives a substantial portion of his or her income from farm labor employment and who establishes a residence in a location on a seasonal or temporary basis, in an attempt to receive farm labor employment at one or more locations away from their home base state, excluding day-haul agricultural workers whose travels are limited to work areas within one day of their residence." Owners of eligible projects may choose tenant-specific RA or operating assistance, or a combination of both; however, any tenant or unit assisted with operating assistance may not also receive RA.

#### II. Award Information

Applications for Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 will only be accepted through the date and time listed in this NOFA.

Because RHS has the ability to adjust loan and grant levels, final loan and grant levels will fluctuate. The estimated funds available for FY 2005 for off-farm housing are: section 514, \$32,000,000 and section 516, \$12,000,000.

Individual requests may not exceed \$3 million (total loan and grant). If RA is available, it will be held in the National Office and will be awarded based on each project's financial structure and need. Section 516 off-farm FLH grants may not exceed 90 percent of the total development cost of the housing. Applications that require leveraged funding must have firm commitments in place for all of the leveraged funding within 1 year of the issuance of a "Notice of Preapplication

Review Action," Form AD-622. In order to be eligible for leveraged funding selection points, the commitment for leveraged funds must be submitted with the initial preapplication.

#### III. Eligibility Information

##### Applicant Eligibility

(1) *To be eligible to receive a section 516 grant for off-farm FLH*, the applicant must be a broad-based nonprofit organization, a nonprofit organization of farmworkers, a federally recognized Indian tribe, or an agency or political subdivision of a State or local government, or a public agency (such as a housing authority).

(2) *To be eligible to receive a section 514 loan for off-farm FLH*, the applicant must be a broad-based nonprofit organization, a nonprofit organization of farmworkers, a federally recognized Indian tribe, or an agency or political subdivision of a State or local government, a public agency (such as a housing authority) or a limited partnership which has a nonprofit entity as its sole general partner and:

(a) Be unable to provide the necessary housing from its own resources; and

(b) Except for State or local public agencies and Indian tribes, be unable to obtain the necessary credit through a labor housing loan or from other sources upon terms and conditions the applicant could reasonably be expected to fulfill.

(3) Broad-based nonprofit organizations must have a membership that reflects a variety of interests in the area where the housing will be located.

##### Cost Sharing or Matching

Section 516 grants for off-farm FLH may not exceed the lesser of 90 percent of the total development cost or the amount provided in 7 CFR 3560.562(c)(2).

##### Other Administrative Requirements

The following policies and regulations apply to loans and grants made in response to this NOFA:

(1) The policies and regulations contained in 7 CFR part 1901, subpart E regarding equal opportunity requirements;

(2) The requirements of 7 CFR part 3015, and 7 CFR part 3016 or 7 CFR part 3019 (as applicable), which establish the uniform administrative requirements for grants and cooperative agreements to state and local governments and to nonprofit organizations;

(3) The policies and regulations contained in 7 CFR part 1901, subpart F regarding historical and archaeological properties;

(4) The policies and regulations contained in 7 CFR part 1940, subpart G regarding environmental assessments;

(5) The policies and regulations contained in 7 CFR part 3560, subpart L regarding the loan and grant authorities of the FLH program;

(6) The policies and regulations contained in 7 CFR part 1924, subpart A regarding planning and construction;

(7) The policies and regulations contained in 7 CFR part 1924, subpart C regarding the planning and performing of site development work; and

(8) All other policies and regulations contained in 7 CFR part 3560 regarding the section 514/516 off-farm FLH program.

#### IV. Application and Submission Information

The application process will be in two phases: the initial preapplication (or proposal) and the submission of a formal application. Only those proposals that are selected for funding will be invited to submit formal applications. In the event that a proposal is selected for further processing and the applicant declines, the next highest ranked unfunded preapplication may be selected.

All preapplications for sections 514 and 516 funds must be filed with the appropriate Rural Development State Office and must meet the requirements of this Notice. Incomplete preapplications will not be reviewed and will be returned to the applicant. No preapplication will be accepted after 5 p.m., local time for each Rural Development State Office on May 13, 2005, unless date and time is extended by another Notice published in the **Federal Register**.

If a preapplication is accepted for further processing, the applicant will be expected to submit a complete, formal application prior to the obligation of Agency funds.

#### Preapplication Requirements

The preapplication must contain the following:

(1) A summary page listing the following items. This information should be double-spaced between items and not be in narrative form.

(a) Applicant's name.

(b) Applicant's Taxpayer

Identification Number.

(c) Applicant's address.

(d) Applicant's telephone number.

(e) Name of applicant's contact person, telephone number, and address.

(f) Amount of loan and grant requested.

(g) For grants, the applicant's Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering

System (DUNS) number. As required by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), all grant applicants must provide a DUNS number when applying for Federal grants, on or after October 1, 2003. Organizations can receive a DUNS number at no cost by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line at 1-866-705-5711.

Additional information concerning this requirement is provided in a policy directive issued by OMB and published in the **Federal Register** on June 27, 2003 (68 FR 38402-38405).

(2) A narrative describing the applicant's ability to meet the eligibility requirements stated in this Notice.

(3) Application for Federal Assistance (Standard Form 424) which can be found online at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/sf424.pdf>.

(4) A current, dated, and signed financial statement showing assets and liabilities with information on the repayment schedule and status of all debts.

(5) Evidence that the applicant is unable to obtain credit from other sources. Letters from credit institutions who normally provide real estate loans in the area should be obtained and these letters should indicate the rates and terms upon which a loan might be provided.

(Note: Not required from State or local public agencies or Indian tribes.)

(6) A statement concerning the need for a labor housing grant. The statement should include preliminary estimates of the rents required with and without a grant.

(7) A statement of the applicant's experience in operating labor housing or other rental housing. If the applicant's experience is limited, additional information should be provided to indicate how the applicant plans to compensate for this limited experience (*i.e.*, obtaining assistance and advice of a management firm, non-profit group, public agency, or other organization which is experienced in rental management and will be available on a continuous basis).

(8) A brief statement explaining the applicant's proposed method of operation and management (*i.e.*, on-site manager, contracting for management services, etc.). As stated in this Notice:

(a) The housing must be managed in accordance with the program's management regulation, 7 CFR part 3560 and

(b) Tenancy is limited to "domestic farm laborers," as defined in this Notice.

(9) Applicants must provide:

(a) A copy of, or an accurate citation to, the special provisions of State law

under which they are organized, a copy of the applicant's charter, their Articles of Incorporation, and their By-laws;

(b) The names, occupations, and addresses of the applicant's members, directors, and officers; and

(c) If a member or subsidiary of another organization, the organization's name, address, and nature of business.

(10) A preliminary survey to identify the supply and demand for labor housing in the market area. The market area must be clearly identified and may include only the area from which tenants can reasonably be drawn for the proposed project.

Documentation must be provided to justify a need within the intended market area for housing for "domestic farm laborers", as defined in this Notice. The preliminary survey should address or include the following items:

(a) The annual income level of farmworker families in the area and the probable income of the farmworkers who are apt to occupy the proposed housing;

(b) A realistic estimate of the number of farmworkers who are home-based in the area and the number of farmworkers who normally migrate into the area. Information on migratory workers should indicate the average number of months the migrants reside in the area and an indication of what type of family groups are represented by the migrants (*i.e.*, single individuals as opposed to families);

(c) General information concerning the type of labor intensive crops grown in the area and prospects for continued demand for farm laborers (*i.e.*, prospects for mechanization, etc.);

(d) The overall occupancy rate for comparable rental units in the area and the rents charged and customary rental practices for these units (*i.e.*, will they rent to large families, do they require annual leases, etc.);

(e) The number, condition, adequacy, rental rates and ownership of units currently used or available to farmworkers;

(f) A description of the units proposed, including the number, type, size, rental rates, amenities such as carpets and drapes, related facilities such as a laundry room or community room and other facilities providing supportive services in connection with the housing and the needs of the prospective tenants such as a health clinic or day care facility, estimated development timeline, estimated total development cost, and applicant contribution; and

(g) The applicant must also identify all other sources of funds, including the

dollar amount, source, and commitment status.

(Note: A section 516 grant may not exceed 90 percent of the total development cost of the housing.)

(11) A completed Form RD 1940-20, "Request for Environmental Information," and a description of anticipated environmental issues or concerns. The form can be found online at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/regs/forms/1940-20.pdf>.

(12) A prepared HUD 935.2, "Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan." The plan will reflect that occupancy is open to all qualified "domestic farm laborers," regardless of which farming operation they work at and that they will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, disability, marital or familial status or National origin in regard to the occupancy or use of the units. The form can be found online at [http://www.hudclips.org/sub\\_nonhud/html/pdfforms/935-2.pdf](http://www.hudclips.org/sub_nonhud/html/pdfforms/935-2.pdf).

(13) Evidence of site control such as an option or sales contract. In addition, a map and description of the proposed site, including the availability of water, sewer, and utilities and the proximity to community facilities and services such as shopping, schools, transportation, doctors, dentists, and hospitals.

(14) Preliminary plans and specifications, including plot plans, building layouts, and type of construction and materials. The housing must meet the Agency's design and construction standards contained in 7 CFR part 1924, subparts A and C and must also meet all applicable Federal, State, and local accessibility standards.

(15) A Supportive Services Plan describing services that will be provided on-site or made available to tenants through cooperative agreements with service providers in the community, such as a health clinic or day care facility. Off-site services must be accessible and affordable to farmworkers and their families. Letters of intent from service providers are acceptable documentation at the preapplication stage.

(16) A proposed operating budget utilizing Form RD 3560-7, "Multi Family Housing Project Budget/Utility Allowance." The form can be found online at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/regs>.

(17) An estimate of development cost utilizing Form RD 1924-13, "Estimate and Certificate of Actual Cost." The form can be found online at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/regs/forms/1924-13.pdf>.

(18) Form RD 3560-30, "Certification of No Identity Of Interest (IOI)" and Form RD 3560-31, "Identity of Interest Disclosure/Qualification Certification." These forms can be found online at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/regs>.

(19) Form HUD 2530, "Previous Participation Certification." The form can be found online at [http://www.hudclips.org/sub\\_nonhud/html/pdfforms/2530.pdf](http://www.hudclips.org/sub_nonhud/html/pdfforms/2530.pdf).

(20) If requesting RA or Operating Assistance, Form RD 3560-25, "Initial Request for Rental Assistance or Operating Assistance." The form can be found online at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/regs>.

(21) A Sources and Uses Statement showing all sources of funding included in the proposed project. The terms and schedules of all sources included in the project should be included in the Sources and Uses Statement.

(22) A separate one-page information sheet listing each of the "Application Scoring Criteria" contained in this Notice, followed by the page numbers of all relevant material and documentation that is contained in the proposal that supports the criteria.

(23) Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to include a checklist of all of the application requirements and to have their application indexed and tabbed to facilitate the review process.

#### Funding Restrictions

Individual requests may not exceed \$3 million (total loan and grant). Grants may not exceed 90 percent of the total development cost of the housing.

#### Intergovernmental Review

The construction of new section 516 off-farm FLH is subject to the Intergovernmental Review provisions of 7 CFR part 3015, subpart V which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials.

#### Submission Address

Applicants wishing to apply for assistance must contact the Rural Development State Office serving the place in which they desire to submit an application for off-farm labor housing to receive further information and copies of the application package. Rural Development will date and time stamp incoming applications to evidence timely receipt, and, upon request, will provide the applicant with a written acknowledgment of receipt. A listing of Rural Development State Offices, their addresses, telephone numbers, and person to contact follows:

**Note:** Telephone numbers listed are not toll-free.

Alabama State Office

Suite 601, Sterling Center  
4121 Carmichael Road  
Montgomery, AL 36106-3683  
(334) 279-3455  
TDD (334) 279-3495

James B. Harris  
Alaska State Office  
800 West Evergreen, Suite 201  
Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 761-7740  
TDD (907) 761-8905

Debbie Andrys  
Arizona State Office  
Phoenix Courthouse and Federal Building  
230 North First Ave., Suite 206  
Phoenix, AZ 85003-1706  
(602) 280-8706  
TDD (602) 280-8770

Johnna Vargas  
Arkansas State Office  
700 W. Capitol Ave., Rm. 3416  
Little Rock, AR 72201-3225  
(501) 301-3250  
TDD (501) 301-3063

Clinton King  
California State Office  
430 G Street, #4169  
Davis, CA 95616-4169  
(530) 792-5830  
TDD (530) 792-5848

Jeff Deiss  
Colorado State Office  
655 Parfet Street, Room E100  
Lakewood, CO 80215  
(720) 544-2923  
TDD (800) 659-2656

Mary Summerfield  
Connecticut  
Served by Massachusetts State Office

Delaware & Maryland State Office  
4607 South Dupont Highway  
PO Box 400  
Camden, DE 19934-9998  
(302) 697-4353  
TDD (302) 697-4303

Pat Baker  
Florida & Virgin Islands State Office  
4440 N.W. 25th Place  
Gainesville, FL 32606-6563  
(352) 338-3465  
TDD (352) 338-3499

Elizabeth M. Whitaker  
Georgia State Office  
Stephens Federal Building  
355 E. Hancock Avenue  
Athens, GA 30601-2768  
(706) 546-2164  
TDD (706) 546-2034

Wayne Rogers  
Hawaii State Office  
(Services all Hawaii, American Samoa,  
Guam and Western Pacific)  
Room 311, Federal Building  
154 Waianuenue Avenue  
Hilo, HI 96720  
(808) 933-8305  
TDD (808) 933-8321

Jack Mahan  
Idaho State Office  
Suite A1  
9173 West Barnes Dr.  
Boise, ID 83709  
(208) 378-5628  
TDD (208) 378-5644

LaDonn McElligott  
Illinois State Office  
2118 W. Park Court, Suite A  
Champaign, IL 61821-2986  
(217) 403-6222  
TDD (217) 403-6240  
Barry L. Ramsey  
Indiana State Office  
5975 Lakeside Boulevard  
Indianapolis, IN 46278  
(317) 290-3100 (ext. 423)  
TDD (317) 290-3343  
John Young  
Iowa State Office  
210 Walnut Street Room 873  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
(515) 284-4666  
TDD (515) 284-4858  
Sue Wilhite  
Kansas State Office  
1303 SW First American Place, Suite 100  
Topeka, KS 66604-4040  
(785) 271-2721  
TDD (785) 271-2767  
Virginia M. Hammersmith  
Kentucky State Office  
771 Corporate Drive, Suite 200  
Lexington, KY 40503  
(859) 224-7325  
TDD (859) 224-7422  
Paul Higgins  
Louisiana State Office  
3727 Government Street  
Alexandria, LA 71302  
(318) 473-7962  
TDD (318) 473-7655  
Yvonne R. Emerson  
Maine State Office  
967 Illinois Ave., Suite 4  
PO Box 405  
Bangor, ME 04402-0405  
(207) 990-9110  
TDD (207) 942-7331  
Bob Nadeau  
Maryland  
Served by Delaware State Office  
Massachusetts, Connecticut, & Rhode Island  
State Office  
451 West Street  
Amherst, MA 01002  
(413) 253-4315  
TDD (413) 253-4590  
Paul Geoffroy  
Michigan State Office  
3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 200  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
(517) 324-5192  
TDD (517) 337-6795  
Ghulam R. Sumbal  
Minnesota State Office  
375 Jackson Street Building, Suite 410  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
(651) 602-7782  
TDD (651) 602-7826  
Peter Lundquist  
Mississippi State Office  
Federal Building, Suite 831  
100 W. Capitol Street  
Jackson, MS 39269  
(601) 965-4325  
TDD (601) 965-5850  
Darnella Smith-Murray  
Missouri State Office  
601 Business Loop 70 West  
Parkade Center, Suite 235  
Columbia, MO 65203  
(573) 876-9305  
TDD (573) 876-9480  
Colleen James  
Montana State Office  
900 Technology Blvd. Suite B  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
(406) 585-2565  
TDD (406) 585-2562  
Deborah Chorlton  
Nebraska State Office  
Federal Building, Room 152  
100 Centennial Mall N  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
(402) 437-5594  
TDD (402) 437-5093  
Phil Willnerd  
Nevada State Office  
1390 South Curry Street  
Carson City, NV 89703-9910  
(775) 887-1222 (ext. 25)  
TDD (775) 885-0633  
Angilla Denton  
New Hampshire State Office  
Concord Center  
Suite 218, Box 317  
10 Ferry Street  
Concord, NH 03301-5004  
(603) 223-6046  
TDD (603) 229-0536  
Jim Fowler  
New Jersey State Office  
5th Floor North Suite 500  
8000 Midlantic Dr.  
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054  
(856) 787-7740  
TDD (856) 787-7784  
George Hyatt, Jr.  
New Mexico State Office  
6200 Jefferson St., NE, Room 255  
Albuquerque, NM 87109  
(505) 761-4944  
TDD (505) 761-4938  
Carmen N. Lopez  
New York State Office  
The Galleries of Syracuse  
441 S. Salina Street, Suite 357 5th Floor  
Syracuse, NY 13202  
(315) 477-6419  
TDD (315) 477-6447  
George N. Von Pless  
North Carolina State Office  
4405 Bland Road, Suite 2120  
Raleigh, NC 271209  
(919) 873-2066  
TDD (919) 873-2003  
Bill Hobbs  
North Dakota State Office  
Federal Building, Room 208  
220 East Rosser  
PO Box 1737  
Bismarck, ND 58502  
(701) 530-2049  
TDD (701) 530-2113  
Kathy Lake  
Ohio State Office  
Federal Building, Room 507  
200 North High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215-2477  
(614) 255-2418  
TDD (614) 255-2554  
Melodie Taylor-Ward  
Oklahoma State Office  
100 USDA, Suite 108  
Stillwater, OK 74074-2654  
(405) 742-1070  
TDD (405) 742-1007  
Ivan Graves  
Oregon State Office  
101 SW Main, Suite 1410  
Portland, OR 97204-3222  
(503) 414-3325  
TDD (503) 414-3387  
Margo Donelin  
Pennsylvania State Office  
One Credit Union Place, Suite 330  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-2996  
(717) 237-2282  
TDD (717) 237-2261  
Martha E. Hanson  
Puerto Rico State Office  
IBM Building, Suite 601  
Munoz Rivera Ave. #654 Street  
San Juan, PR 00918  
(787) 766-5095 (ext. 254)  
TDD 1-800-274-1572  
Lourdes Colon  
Rhode Island  
Served by Massachusetts State Office  
South Carolina State Office  
Strom Thurmond Federal Building  
1835 Assembly Street, Room 1007  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(803) 253-3432  
TDD (803) 765-5697  
Larry D. Floyd  
South Dakota State Office  
Federal Building, Room 210  
200 Fourth Street, SW  
Huron, SD 57350  
(605) 352-1132  
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(615) 783-1375  
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Heidi Setien  
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 Casper, WY 82602-5006  
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 Jack Hyde

**V. Application Review Information**

All applications for sections 514 and 516 funds must be filed with the appropriate Rural Development State Office and must meet the requirements of this Notice. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed and will be returned to the applicant. No application will be accepted after 5 p.m., local time for each Rural Development State Office on May 13, 2005, unless date and time is extended by another Notice published in the **Federal Register**. The Rural Development State Office will base its determination of completeness of the application and the eligibility of each applicant on the information provided in the application.

**Selection Criteria**

Section 514 loan funds and section 516 grant funds will be distributed to States based on a national competition, as follows:

- (1) States will accept, review, and score requests in accordance with the Notice. The scoring factors are:
  - (a) The presence and extent of leveraged assistance, including donated land, for the units that will serve program-eligible tenants, calculated as a percentage of the RHS total development cost (TDC). RHS TDC excludes non-RHS eligible costs such as a developer's fee. Leveraged assistance includes, but is not limited to, funds for hard construction costs, section 8 or other non-RHS tenant subsidies, and

state or federal funds. A minimum of ten percent leveraged assistance is required to earn points; however, if the total percentage of leveraged assistance is less than ten percent and the proposal includes donated land, two points will be awarded for the donated land. To count as leveraged funds for purposes of the selection criteria, a commitment of funds must be provided with the preapplication. Points will be awarded in accordance with the following table. (0 to 20 points)

Percentage	Points
75 or more .....	20
60-74 .....	18
50-59 .....	16
40-49 .....	12
30-39 .....	10
20-29 .....	8
10-19 .....	5
0-9 .....	0

Donated land in proposals with less than ten percent total leveraged Assistance: 2

(b) Percent of units for seasonal, temporary, migrant housing. (5 points for up to and including 50 percent of the units; 10 points for 51 percent or more.)

(c) The selection criteria includes one optional criteria set by the National Office. The National Office initiative will be used in the selection criteria as follows: Up to 10 points will be awarded based on the presence of and extent to which a tenant services plan exists that clearly outlines services that will be provided to the residents of the proposed project. These services may include, but are not limited to, transportation related services, on-site English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, move-in funds, emergency assistance funds, homeownership counseling, food pantries, after school tutoring, and computer learning centers. Two points will be awarded for each resident service included in the tenant services plan up to a maximum of 10 points. Plans must detail how the services are to be administered, who will administer them, and where they will be administered. All tenant service plans must include letters of intent that clearly state the service that will be provided at the project for the benefit of the residents from any party administering each service, including the applicant. (0 to 10 points)

(2) States will conduct the preliminary eligibility review, score the applications, and forward them to the National Office.

(3) The National Office will rank all requests nationwide and distribute funds to States in rank order, within funding and RA limits. A lottery in

accordance with 7 CFR 3560.56(c)(2) will be used for applications with tied point scores when they all cannot be funded. If insufficient funds or RA remain for the next ranked proposal, that applicant will be given a chance to modify their application to bring it within remaining funding levels. This will be repeated for each next ranked eligible proposal until an award can be made or the list is exhausted.

Dated: March 3, 2005.

**Russell T. Davis,**

*Administrator, Rural Housing Service.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Rural Housing Service**

**Notice of Funds Availability for the Section 533 Housing Preservation Grants for Fiscal Year 2005**

*Announcement Type:* Initial Notice inviting applications from qualified applicants for Fiscal Year 2005.

*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers (CFDA):* 10.433.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Housing Service (RHS) announces that it is soliciting competitive applications under its Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) program. The HPG program is a grant program which provides qualified public agencies, private nonprofit organizations, and other eligible entities grant funds to assist very low- and low-income homeowners in repairing and rehabilitating their homes in rural areas. In addition, the HPG program assists rental property owners and cooperative housing complexes in repairing and rehabilitating their units if they agree to make such units available to low- and very low-income persons. This action is taken to comply with Agency regulations found in 7 CFR part 1944, subpart N, which require the Agency to announce the opening and closing dates for receipt of pre-applications for HPG funds from eligible applicants. The intended effect of this Notice is to provide eligible organizations notice of these dates.

**DATES:** The closing deadline for receipt of all applications in response to this Notice is 5 p.m., local time for each Rural Development State Office on May 13, 2005. The application closing deadline is firm as to date and hour. RHS will not consider any application that is received after the closing deadline. Applicants intending to mail applications must provide sufficient time to permit delivery on or before the