

Richmond, VA 23229  
 (804) 287-1596  
 TDD (804) 287-1753  
 CJ Michels

Washington State Office  
 1835 Black Lake Blvd., Suite B  
 Olympia, WA 98512  
 (360) 704-7730  
 TDD (360) 704-7760  
 Robert Lund

Western Pacific Territories  
 Served by Hawaii State Office

West Virginia State Office  
 Federal Building  
 75 High Street, Room 320  
 Morgantown, WV 26505-7500  
 (304) 284-4889  
 TDD (304) 284-4836  
 Craig St. Clair

Wisconsin State Office  
 4949 Kirschling Court  
 Stevens Point, WI 54481  
 (715) 345-7608 (ext. 7145)  
 TDD (715) 345-7614  
 Peter Kohnen

Wyoming State Office  
 PO Box 11005  
 Casper, WY 82602-5006  
 (307) 233-6715  
 TDD (307) 233-6733  
 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.*

[FR Doc. 05-4774 Filed 3-11-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-XV-P**

**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

closing deadline date and time. Acceptance by the United States Postal Service or private mailer does not constitute delivery. Facsimile (FAX) and postage due applications will not be accepted.

#### 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 0575-0115.

##### Program Administration

###### I. Funding Opportunities Description

The funding instrument for the HPG Program will be a grant agreement. The term of the grant cannot exceed 1 year without Agency consent. Applicants should contact the Rural Development State Office to determine the allocation and the State maximum grant level, if any.

###### II. Award Information

For Fiscal Year 2005, \$8,810,944 is available for the HPG Program. A set aside of \$892,800 has been established for grants located in Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities, and REAP Zones and other funds will be distributed under a formula allocation to States pursuant to 7 CFR part 1940, subpart L, "Methodology and Formulas for Allocation of Loan and Grant Program Funds." Decisions on funding will be based on pre-applications.

###### III. Eligibility Information

7 CFR part 1944, subpart N provides details on what information must be contained in the pre-application package. Contact the Rural Development State office to receive further information on the State allocation of funds and copies of the pre-application package. Eligible entities for these competitively awarded grants include State and local governments, nonprofit corporations, federally recognized Indian tribes, and consortia of eligible entities.

As part of the application, all applicants must also provide a 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).

##### IV. Application and Submission Information

Applicants wishing to apply for assistance must make its statement of activities available to the public for comment. The applicant(s) must announce the availability of its statement of activities for review in a newspaper of general circulation in the project area and allow at least 15 days for public comment. The start of this 15-day period must occur no later than 16 days prior to the last day for acceptance of pre-applications by RHS.

Applicants must also contact the Rural Development State Office, serving the place in which they desire to submit an application 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 Centre  
4121 Carmichael Road  
Montgomery, AL 36106-3683  
(334) 279-3400  
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) 280-8765  
TDD (602) 280-8706  
Johnna Vargas

Arkansas State Office  
700 W. Capitol Ave., Rm. 3416  
Little Rock, AR 72201-3225  
(501) 301-3258  
TDD (501) 301-3063  
Clinton King

California State Office  
430 G Street, #4169  
Davis, CA 95616-4169  
(530) 934-4614 ext. 123  
TDD (530) 792-5848  
Linda Eveland

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 and 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 Waiianuenue 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 West 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) 284-4493  
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  
Beth Moore

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 Suite 2  
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. Simbal

Minnesota State Office  
375 Jackson Street Building, Suite 410  
St. Paul, MN 55125  
(651) 602-7804  
TDD (651) 602-7830  
Thomas Osborne

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) 876-9303  
TDD (573) 876-9480  
Becky Eftink

Montana State Office  
900 Technology Blvd, Suite B  
Bozeman, MT 59771  
(406) 585-2515  
TDD (406) 585-2562  
Deborah Chorlton

Nebraska State Office  
Federal Building, Room 152  
100 Centennial Mall N  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
(402) 437-5035  
TDD (402) 437-5093  
Sharon Kluck

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 Drive  
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) 477-6404  
TDD (315) 477-6447  
Tia Baker

North Carolina State Office  
4405 Bland Road, Suite 260  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
(919) 873-2066  
TDD (919) 873-2003  
William A. Hobbs

North Dakota State Office  
Federal Building, Room 208  
220 East Rosser  
PO Box 1737  
Bismarck, ND 58502  
(701) 530-2046  
TDD (701) 530-2113  
Barry Borstad

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) 414-3351  
TDD (503) 414-3387  
Diana Chappell

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  
San Juan, PR 00918  
(787) 766-5095 (ext. 249)  
TDD (787) 766-5332  
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  
TDD (605) 352-1147  
Roger Hazuka or Pam Reilly

Tennessee State Office  
Suite 300  
3322 West End Avenue  
Nashville, TN 37203-1084  
(615) 783-1375  
TDD (615) 783-1397  
Larry Kennedy

Texas State Office  
Federal Building, Suite 102  
101 South Main  
Temple, TX 76501  
(254) 742-9758  
TDD (254) 742-9712  
Julie Hayes

Utah State Office  
Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building  
125 S. State Street, Room 4311  
Salt Lake City, UT 84138  
(801) 524-4325  
TDD (801) 524-3309  
Janice Kocher

Vermont State Office  
City Center, 3rd Floor  
89 Main Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602  
(802) 828-6021  
TDD (802) 223-6365  
Heidi Setien

Virgin Islands

Served by Florida State Office

Virginia State Office  
Culpeper Building, Suite 238  
1606 Santa Rosa Road  
Richmond, VA 23229  
(804) 287-1596  
TDD (804) 287-1753  
CJ Michels

Washington State Office  
1835 Black Lake Blvd., Suite B  
Olympia, WA 98512  
(360) 704-7730  
TDD (360) 704-7742  
Robert L. Lund

Western Pacific Territories

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West Virginia State Office  
Federal Building  
75 High Street, Room 320  
Morgantown, WV 26505-7500  
(304) 284-4889  
TDD (304) 284-4836  
Craig St. Clair

Wisconsin State Office  
4949 Kirschling Court  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
(715) 345-7608 (ext.151)  
TDD (715) 345-7614  
Peter Kohnen

Wyoming State Office  
PO Box 82601  
Casper, WY 82602-5006  
(307) 233-6715  
TDD (307) 233-6733  
Jack Hyde

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For general information, applicants may contact Bonnie Edwards-Jackson, Senior Loan Specialist, Multi-Family Housing Processing Division, Rural Housing Service, United States Department of

Agriculture, Stop 0781, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0781, telephone (202) 690-0759 (voice) (this is not a toll free number) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD-Federal Information Relay Service).

#### V. Application Review Information

All applications for Section 533 funds must be filed with the appropriate Rural Development State Office and must meet the requirements of this Notice. Pre-applications determined not eligible and/or not meeting the selection criteria will be notified by the Rural Development State Office.

All applicants will file an original and two copies of Standard Form (SF) 424, "Application For Federal Assistance," and supporting information with the appropriate Rural Development State Office. A pre-application package, including SF-424, is available in any Rural Development State Office.

All pre-applications shall be accompanied by the following information which Rural Development will use to determine the applicant's eligibility to undertake the HPG program and to evaluate the pre-application under the project selection criteria of § 1944.679 of 7 CFR part 1944, subpart N.

(a) A statement of activities proposed by the applicant for its HPG program as appropriate to the type of assistance the applicant is proposing, including:

(1) A complete discussion of the type of and conditions for financial assistance for housing preservation, including whether the request for assistance is for a homeowner assistance program, a rental property assistance program, or a cooperative assistance program;

(2) The process for selecting recipients for HPG assistance, determining housing preservation needs of the dwelling, performing the necessary work, and monitoring/inspecting work performed;

(3) A description of the process for identifying potential environmental impacts in accordance with § 1944.672 of 7 part CFR 1944, subpart N, and the provisions for compliance with Stipulation I, A-G of the Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement, also known as PMOA, (RD Instruction 2000-FF, available in any Rural Development State Office) in accordance with § 1944.673(b) of 7 part CFR 1944, subpart N;

(4) The development standard(s) the applicant will use for the housing preservation work; and, if not the Rural Development standards for existing dwellings, the evidence of its

acceptance by the jurisdiction where the grant will be implemented;

(5) The time schedule for completing the program;

(6) The staffing required to complete the program;

(7) The estimated number of very low- and low-income minority and nonminority persons the grantee will assist with HPG funds; and, if a rental property or cooperative assistance program, the number of units and the term of restrictive covenants on their use for very low- and low-income;

(8) The geographical area(s) to be served by the HPG program;

(9) The annual estimated budget for the program period based on the financial needs to accomplish the objectives outlined in the proposal. The budget should include proposed direct and indirect administrative costs, such as personnel, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, contracts, and other cost categories, detailing those costs for which the grantee proposes to use the HPG grant separately from non-HPG resources, if any. The applicant budget should also include a schedule (with amounts) of how the applicant proposes to draw HPG grant funds, *i.e.*, monthly, quarterly, lump sum for program activities, etc.;

(10) A copy of an indirect cost proposal as required in 7 CFR parts 3015 and 3016, when the applicant has another source of federal funding in addition to the Rural Development HPG program;

(11) A brief description of the accounting system to be used;

(12) The method of evaluation to be used by the applicant to determine the effectiveness of its program which encompasses the requirements for quarterly reports to Rural Development in accordance with § 1944.683(b) of 7 part CFR 1944, subpart N and the monitoring plan for rental properties and cooperatives (when applicable) according to § 1944.689 of 7 part CFR 1944, subpart N;

(13) The source and estimated amount of other financial resources to be obtained and used by the applicant for both HPG activities and housing development and/or supporting activities;

(14) The use of program income, if any, and the tracking system used for monitoring same;

(15) The applicant's plan for disposition of any security instruments held by them as a result of its HPG activities in the event of its loss of legal status;

(16) Any other information necessary to explain the proposed HPG program; and

(17) The outreach efforts outlined in § 1944.671(b) of 7 CFR part 1944, subpart N.

(b) Complete information about the applicant's experience and capacity to carry out the objectives of the proposed HPG program.

(c) Evidence of the applicant's legal existence, including, in the case of a private nonprofit organization, a copy of, an accurate reference to, the specific provisions of State law under which the applicant is organized; a certified copy of the applicant's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws or other evidence of corporate existence; certificate of incorporation for other than public bodies; evidence of good standing from the State when the corporation has been in existence 1 year or more; and the names and addresses of the applicant's members, directors and officers. If other organizations are members of the applicant-organization, or the applicant is a consortium, pre-applications should be accompanied by the names, addresses, and principal purpose of the other organizations. If the applicant is a consortium, documentation showing compliance with § 1944.656(4)(ii) of 7 CFR part 1944, subpart N will also be included.

(d) For a private nonprofit entity, the most recent audited statement and a current financial statement dated and signed by an authorized officer of the entity showing the amounts and specific nature of assets and liabilities together with information on the repayment schedule and status of any debt(s) owed by the applicant.

(e) A brief narrative statement which includes information about the area to be served and the need for improved housing (including both percentage and the actual number of both low-income and low-income minority households and substandard housing), the need for the type of housing preservation assistance being proposed, the anticipated use of HPG resources for historic properties, the method of evaluation to be used by the applicant in determining the effectiveness of its efforts.

(f) Applicant must submit an original and one copy of Form RD 1940-20 prepared in accordance with Exhibit F-1 of 7 part CFR 1944, subpart N.

(g) Applicant must also submit a description of its process for:

(1) Identifying and rehabilitating properties listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places;

(2) Identifying properties that are located in a floodplain or wetland;

(3) Identifying properties located within the Coastal Barrier Resources System; and

(4) Coordinating with other public and private organizations and programs that provide assistance in the rehabilitation of historic properties (Stipulation I, D, of the PMOA, RD Instruction 2000–FF, available in any Rural Development State Office).

(h) The applicant must also submit evidence of the State Historic Preservation Office's, also known as SHPO, concurrence in the proposal, or in the event of nonconcurrence, a copy of SHPO's comments together with evidence that the applicant has sought the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's advice as to how the disagreement might be resolved, and a copy of any advice provided by the Council.

(i) The applicant must submit written statements and related correspondence reflecting compliance with § 1944.674(a) and (c) of 7 CFR part 1944, subpart N regarding consultation with local government leaders in the preparation of its program and the consultation with local and state government pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order 12372.

(j) The applicant is to make its statement of activities available to the public for comment prior to submission to Rural Development pursuant to § 1944.674(b) of 7 CFR part 1944, subpart N. The application must contain a description of how the comments (if any were received) were addressed.

(k) The applicant must submit an original and one copy of Form RD 400–1, "Equal Opportunity Agreement," and Form 400–4, "Assurance Agreement Funds," in accordance with § 1944.676 of 7 CFR part 1944, subpart N. Applicants should review 7 CFR part 1944, subpart N for a comprehensive list of all application requirements.

**Selection Criteria**

The Rural Development State Offices will utilize the following project selection criteria for applicants in accordance with § 1944.679 of 7 CFR part 1944, subpart N:

(a) Providing a financially feasible program of housing preservation assistance. Financially feasible is defined as proposed assistance which will be affordable to the intended recipient or result in affordable housing for very low- and low-income persons.

(b) Serving eligible rural areas with a concentration of substandard housing for households with very low- and low-income.

(c) Being an eligible applicant as defined in § 1944.658 of 7 CFR part 1944, subpart N.

(d) Meeting the requirements of consultation and public comment in accordance with § 1944.674 of 7 CFR part 1944, subpart N.

(e) Submitting a complete pre-application as outlined in § 1944.676 of 7 CFR part 1944, subpart N.

For applicants meeting all of the requirements listed above, the Rural Development State Offices will use weighted criteria as selection for the grant recipients. Each pre-application and its accompanying statement of activities will be evaluated and, based solely on the information contained in the pre-application, the applicant's proposal will be numerically rated on each criteria within the range provided. The highest-ranking applicant(s) will be selected based on allocation of funds available to the state.

(a) Points are awarded based on the percentage of very low-income persons that the applicant proposes to assist, using the following scale:

	Points
(1) More than 80% .....	20
(2) 61% to 80% .....	15
(3) 41% to 60% .....	10
(4) 20% to 40% .....	5
(5) Less than 20% .....	0

(b) The applicant's proposal may be expected to result in the following percentage of HPG fund use (excluding administrative costs) to total cost of unit preservation. This percentage reflects maximum repair or rehabilitation with the least possible HPG funds due to leveraging, innovative financial assistance, owner's contribution or other specified approaches. Points are awarded based on the following percentage of HPG funds (excluding administrative costs) to total funds:

	Points
(1) 50% or less .....	20
(2) 51% to 65% .....	15
(3) 66% to 80% .....	10
(4) 81% to 95% .....	5
(5) 96% to 100% .....	0

(c) The applicant has demonstrated its administrative capacity in assisting very low- and low-income persons to obtain adequate housing based on the following:

(1) The organization or a member of its staff has 2 or more years experience successfully managing and operating a rehabilitation or weatherization type program, including Rural Development's HPG Program: 10 points.

(2) The organization or a member of its staff has 2 or more years experience successfully managing and operating a program assisting very low- and low-income persons obtain housing assistance: 10 points.

(3) If the organization has administered grant programs, there are no outstanding or unresolved audit or investigative findings which might impair carrying out the proposal: 10 points.

(d) The proposed program will be undertaken entirely in rural areas outside Metropolitan Statistical Areas, also known as MSAs, identified by Rural Development as having populations below 10,000 or in remote parts of other rural areas (i.e., rural areas contained in MSAs with less than 5,000 population) as defined in § 1944.656 of 7 CFR part 1944, subpart N: 10 points.

(e) The program will use less than 20 percent of HPG funds for administration purposes:

	Points
(1) More than 20% .....	0
(2) 20% .....	1
(3) 19% .....	2
(4) 18% .....	3
(5) 17% .....	4
(6) 16% .....	4
(7) 15% or less .....	5

\* Not eligible

(f) The proposed program contains a component for alleviating overcrowding as defined in § 1944.656 of 7 CFR part 1944, subpart N: 5 points.

In the event more than one pre-application receives the same amount of points, those pre-applications will then be ranked based on the actual percentage figure used for determining the points. Further, in the event that pre-applications are still tied, then those pre-applications still tied will be ranked based on the percentage figures used for administration purposes (low to high). Further, for applications where assistance to rental properties or cooperatives is proposed, those still tied will be further ranked based on the number of years the units are available for occupancy under the program (a minimum of 5 years is required). For this part, ranking will be based from most to least number of years. Finally, if there is still a tie, then a lottery system will be used.

Dated: March 3, 2005.

**Russell T. Davis,**

*Administrator, Rural Housing Service.*

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