

**LOCAL TELEVISION LOAN
GUARANTEE BOARD****LOCAL Television Loan Guarantee
Program**

AGENCY: LOCAL Television Loan
Guarantee Board.

ACTION: Notice of application filing
deadline.

SUMMARY: The LOCAL Television Loan
Guarantee Board (Board) announces a
120-day application window for the
submission of guarantee applications.

DATES: Applications for guarantees must
be postmarked no later than April 21,
2004. Applications submitted through
guaranteed carrier services will be
considered postmarked on the date they
are submitted to the carrier.

Applications must show proof of
mailing consisting of one of the
following: (1) A legibly dated U.S.
Postal Service postmark; (2) a legible
mail receipt with the date of mailing
stamped by the U.S. Postal Service; or
(3) a dated shipping label, invoice, or
receipt from a commercial carrier. If an
application is sent through the U.S.
Postal Service, neither of the following
will be accepted as proof of mailing: (1)
A private metered postmark; or (2) a
mail receipt that is not dated by the U.S.
Postal Service. Applicants should note
that the U.S. Postal Service does not
uniformly provide a dated postmark.
Before relying on this method,
applicants should check with their local
post office.

Due to screening procedures at the
Department of Agriculture, packages
arriving via the United States Postal
Service's Priority Mail, First Class, and
Parcel Post services are irradiated,
which can damage the contents, or
delay delivery to the Board. Thus,
applicants are encouraged to consider
the impact of these procedures in
selecting their chosen method for
application delivery.

Applications will not be accepted via
facsimile machine transmission or
electronic mail.

Applications with postmarked dates
after April 21, 2004 will not be
considered and will be returned to the
applicant.

ADDRESSES: An original and two copies
of completed applications must be
submitted to the Board at: Secretary,
Local Television Loan Guarantee Board,
STOP 1575, Room 2919-S, 1400
Independence Avenue, SW.,
Washington, DC 20250-1575.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Richard Anderson, Rural Utilities
Service/USDA, STOP 1590, Room 5151,
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.,
Washington, DC 20250-1590.
Telephone: (202) 720-9556, fax: (202)
720-0810, e-mail:
randerso@rus.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On
December 21, 2000, the President signed
Public Law 106-553, the Federal
Funding Act for Fiscal Year 2001. Title
X of the statute, entitled the "Launching
Our Communities" Access to Local
Television Act of 2000" (Act),
established the LOCAL Television Loan
Guarantee Board and authorized the
Board to guarantee loans to facilitate
access, on a technologically neutral
basis, to signals of local television
stations for households located in
nonserved areas or underserved areas.
The Board is composed of the
Secretaries of Agriculture, Treasury, and
Commerce, and the Chairman of the
Board of Governors of the Federal
Reserve System, or their designees.
Individuals have been designated as
Board members for each of the agencies
represented on the Board. The Act
authorizes the Board to approve loan
guarantees up to 80 percent of the
principal amount of loans; the aggregate
value of all loans for which loan
guarantees are issued under the Act
(including the unguaranteed portion of
such loans) may not exceed \$1.25
billion. The Board's authority to
guarantee loans under the program
expires on the earlier of the date the
Secretary of Agriculture determines that

at least 75 percent of designated market
areas (DMAs), other than the top 40
DMAs, have access to local television
broadcast signals for virtually all
households or December 31, 2006.

The Act requires the issuance of
regulations to implement its provisions.
Specifically, the Act requires that these
regulations set forth: (1) The form of any
application to be submitted to the
Board; (2) the time periods for the
review and consideration by the Board
of applications submitted to the Board,
as well as any other actions to be taken
by the Board with respect to such
applications; (3) appropriate safeguards
against evasions of the Act; (4)
circumstances in which an applicant,
together with any affiliate of an
applicant, shall be treated as an
applicant for a guarantee; (5)
requirements that appropriate parties
submit to the Board any documents and
assurances that are required for the
administration of the Act's provisions;
(6) requirements governing defaults on
loans guaranteed under the Act,
including the administration of the
payment of guaranteed amounts upon
default; and (7) other provisions
consistent with the Act's purposes as
the Board considers appropriate. The
final regulations to implement the
program are published elsewhere in
today's **Federal Register** and will be
codified at Title 7 of the Code of Federal
Regulations Parts 2200 and 2201.

Application requirements are set forth
in the final regulations published today.
Each application will be reviewed in
accordance with the program's final
regulations. Incomplete or ineligible
applications will be returned to
applicants.

Dated: December 15, 2003.

Jacqueline G. Rosier,

*Secretary, LOCAL Television Loan Guarantee
Board.*

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