

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Rural Housing Service****Housing Demonstration Program**

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

ACTION: Notice of funding for the rural housing demonstration program.

SUMMARY: The Rural Housing Service (RHS) announces the availability of housing loan funds for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 for the Rural Housing Demonstration Program. For FY 2003, RHS has set aside \$1 million for the Innovative Demonstration Initiatives. The Agency is soliciting proposals for a Housing Demonstration program under section 506(b) of title V of the Housing Act of 1949. Under section 506(b), RHS may provide loans to low income borrowers to purchase innovative housing units and systems that do not meet existing published standards, rules, regulations, or policies. The intended effect is to increase the availability of affordable Rural Housing (RH) for low-income families through innovative designs and systems.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 24, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gloria L. Denson, Senior Loan Specialist, Single Family Housing Direct Loan Division, RHS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 0783, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-0783, Telephone: (202) 720-1474. (This is not a toll free number.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under current standards, regulations, and policies, some low-income rural families lack sufficient income to qualify for loans to obtain adequate housing. Section 506(b) of title V of the Housing Act of 1949, 42 U.S.C. 1476, authorizes a housing demonstration program that could result in housing that these families can afford. Section 506(b) imposes two conditions: (1) That the health and safety of the population of the areas in which the demonstrations are carried out will not be adversely affected, and (2) that the aggregate expenditures for the demonstration may not exceed \$10 million in any fiscal year. Grant funds for these proposals are not authorized.

Rural Development State Directors are authorized in FY 2003 to accept demonstration concept proposals from individuals.

The objective of the demonstration programs is to test new approaches to constructing housing under the statutory authority granted to the Secretary of Agriculture. Rural

Development will review each application for completeness and accuracy. Some demonstration proposals may not be completely consistent with 7 CFR part 3550—Direct Single Family Housing Loans and Grants regulation. Under section 506(b) of the Housing Act of 1949, the Agency may provide loans for innovative housing design units and systems which do not meet existing published standards, rules, regulations, or policies. The innovative housing units and systems should be creative, affordable, durable, energy efficient, and include a diversity of housing types. Examples of eligible proposals include, but are not limited to: new or improved energy-savings houses, roofing that cools, building techniques that cut costs and improve the quality of rural housing.

The Equal Credit Opportunity Act and Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 provide that a program such as this be administered affirmatively so that individuals of similar low-income levels in the housing market area have housing choices available to them regardless of their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status and disability. Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Rural Development makes reasonable accommodations to permit persons with disabilities to apply for agency programs. Executive Order 12898 requires the Agency to conduct a Civil Rights Impact Analysis on each project prior to loan approval. Also, the requirements of Executive Order 11246 are applicable regarding equal employment opportunity when the proposed contract exceeds \$10,000.

Completed applications that have been determined to carry out the objectives of the program will be considered on a first come, first served basis based on the date a completed application was submitted. An application is considered complete only if the "Application for Approval of Housing Innovation" is complete in content, contains information related to the criteria and all applicable additional information required by the application form has been provided. All application packages must be in accordance with the technical management requirements and address the criteria in the Proposal Content. The application, technical management requirements, Proposal Content and Criteria and further information may be obtained from the Rural Development State office in each state. (See the State Office address list at the end of this notice or access the Web site at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/recd_map.html.) Applicants submitting an incomplete application will be advised in writing of additional

information needed for continued processing.

The following evaluation factors will not be weighted and are non-competitive. RHS, in its analysis of the proposals received, will consider whether the proposals will carry out the objectives of this demonstration effort in accordance with the following criteria:

A. Housing Unit Concept

1. A proposal must be well beyond the "idea" state. Sufficient testing must have been completed to demonstrate its feasibility. The proposal must be judged ready for full scale field testing in a rural setting.

2. Ability of the housing unit to provide for the protection of life, property, and for the safety and welfare of the consumer, general public and occupants through the design, construction, quality of materials, use, and maintenance of the housing unit.

3. Flexibility of the housing units in relation to varying types of housing and varying site considerations.

1. Flexibility of the housing unit concept, insofar as it provides the ability to adjust or modify unit size and arrangements, either during design or after construction.

1. Efficiency in the use of materials and labor, with respect to cost in place, conservation of materials, and the effective use of labor skills. Potential for use in the Mutual Self-Help Housing program will be considered.

6. Selection of materials for durability and ease of maintenance.

7. Concepts for the effective use of land and development.

B. Organization Capabilities

1. The experience and "know-how" of the proposed organization or individual to implement construction of the housing unit concept in relation to the requirements of RHS's housing programs.

2. The management structure and organization of the proposer.

3. The quality and diversity of management and professional talent proposed as "key individuals."

4. The management plan of how this effort will be conducted.

C. Cost and Price Analysis

1. The level of costs which are proposed, as they may compare with other proposals and be considered realistic for the efforts planned. Also, the quantity and level of detail in the information supplied.

2. Projected cost of "housing in place," with particular reference to housing for very low and low-income families.

The State Director will send an acceptable proposal to the National Office for concurrence by the RHS Administrator before the State Director may approve it. If the proposal is not selected, the State Director will so notify the applicant in writing, giving specific reasons why the proposal was not selected. The funds for the RH Demonstration program are available for section 502 single family housing applicants who wish to purchase an approved demonstration dwelling. Funds cannot be reserved or guaranteed under the demonstration housing concept. There is no guarantee that a market exists for demonstration dwellings, and this does not ensure that an eligible loan applicant will be available for such a section 502 RH dwelling. If there is no available RHS eligible loan applicant, the RH demonstration program applicant will have to advance funds to complete the construction of the demonstration housing, with the risk that there may be no RHS applicant or other purchaser from which the builder will recover his or her development and construction costs.

This program or activity is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.410. For the reasons contained in 7 CFR part 3015, subpart V and RD Instruction 1940-J, "Intergovernmental Review of Rural Development Programs and Activities," this program or activity is excluded from the scope of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials.

All interested parties must make a written request for a proposal package. The request must be made to the State Director in the State in which the proposal will be submitted; RHS will not be liable for any expenses incurred by respondents in the development and submission of applications.

The reporting requirements contained in this notice have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under Control Number 0575-0114.

Dated: June 13, 2003.

James E. Selmon III,
Acting Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

The following is an address list of Rural Development State Offices across the nation:

Alabama

Sterling Centre, 4121 Carmichael Road, Suite 601, Montgomery, AL 36106-3683, (334) 279-3400.

Alaska

Suite 201, 800 W. Evergreen, Palmer, AK 99645-6539, (907) 761-7705.

Arizona

Phoenix Corporate Center, 3003 N. Central Avenue, Suite 900, Phoenix, AZ 85012-2906, (602) 280-8700.

Arkansas

Room 3416, 700 W. Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201-3225, (501) 301-3200.

California

Agency 4169, 430 G Street, Davis, CA 95616-4169, (530) 792-5800.

Colorado

Room E100, 655 Parfet Street, Lakewood, CO 80215, (720) 544-2903.

Delaware and Maryland

PO Box 400, 4607 S. DuPont Highway, Camden, DE 19934-9998, (302) 697-4300.

Florida and Virgin Islands

PO Box 147010, 4440 NW 25th Place, Gainesville, FL 32614-7010, (352) 338-3400.

Georgia

Stephens Federal Building, 355 E. Hancock Avenue, Athens, GA 30601-2768, (706) 546-2162.

Hawaii

Room 311, Federal Building, 154 Waiianuenue Avenue, Hilo, HI 96720, (808) 933-8309.

Idaho

Suite A1, 9173 W. Barnes Drive, Boise, ID 83709, (208) 378-5600.

Illinois

2118 W. Park Court, Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821, (217) 403-6222, (217) 398-5412 for automated answer.

Indiana

5975 Lakeside Boulevard, Indianapolis, IN 46278, (317) 290-3100.

Iowa

873 Federal Building, 210 Walnut Street, Des Moines, IA 50309, (515) 284-4663.

Kansas

PO Box 4653, 1303 SW First American Place, Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66604, (785) 271-2700.

Kentucky

Suite 200, 771 Corporate Drive, Lexington, KY 40503, (859) 224-7300.

Louisiana

3727 Government Street, Alexandria, LA 71302, (318) 473-7920.

Maine

PO Box 405, 967 Illinois Avenue, Suite 4, Bangor, ME 04402-0405, (207) 990-9110.

Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island

451 West Street, Amherst, MA 01002, (413) 253-4300.

Michigan

Suite 200, 3001 Coolidge Road, East Lansing, MI 48823, (517) 324-5100.

Minnesota

410 AgriBank Building, 375 Jackson Street, St. Paul, MN 55101-1853, (651) 602-7800.

Mississippi

Federal Building, Suite 831, 100 W. Capitol Street, Jackson, MS 39269, (601) 965-4316.

Missouri

Parkade Center, Suite 235, 601 Business Loop 70 West, Columbia, MO 65203, (573) 876-0976.

Montana

Unit 1, Suite B, PO Box 850, 900 Technology Boulevard, Bozeman, MT 59715, (406) 585-2580.

Nebraska

Federal Building, Room 152, 100 Centennial Mall N., Lincoln, NE 68508, (402) 437-5551.

Nevada

2100 California Street, Carson City, NV 89701-5336, (775) 887-1222.

New Jersey

Tarnsfield Plaza, Suite 22, 800 Midlantic Drive, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054, (856) 787-7700.

New Mexico

Room 255, 6200 Jefferson Street, NE., Albuquerque, NM 87109, (505) 761-4950.

New York

The Galleries of Syracuse, 441 S. Salina Street, Suite 357, Syracuse, NY 13202-2541, (315) 477-6400.

North Carolina

Suite 260, 4405 Bland Road, Raleigh, NC 27609, (919) 873-2000.

North Dakota

Federal Building, Room 208, 220 East Rosser, PO Box 1737, Bismarck, ND 58502-1737, (701) 530-2044.

Ohio

Federal Building, Room 507, 200 N. High Street, Columbus, OH 43215-2418, (614) 255-2400.

Oklahoma

Suite 108, 100 USDA, Stillwater, OK 74074-2654, (405) 742-1000.

Oregon

Suite 1410, 101 SW Main, Portland, OR 97204-3222, (503) 414-3300.

Pennsylvania

Suite 330, One Credit Union Place, Harrisburg, PA 17110-2996, (717) 237-2299.

Puerto Rico

IBM Building—Suite 601, 654 Munos Rivera Avenue, Hato Rey, PR 00918-6106, (787) 766-5095.

South Carolina

Strom Thurmond Federal Building, 1835 Assembly Street, Room 1007, Columbia, SC 29201, (803) 765-5163.

South Dakota

Federal Building, Room 210, 200 Fourth Street, SW., Huron, SD 57350, (605) 352-1100.

Tennessee

Suite 300, 3322 W. End Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203-1084, (615) 783-1300.

Texas

Federal Building, Suite 102, 101 S. Main, Temple, TX 76501, (254) 742-9700.

Utah

Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building, 125 S. State Street, Room 4311, Post Office Box 11350, Salt Lake City, UT 84147-0350, (801) 524-4320.

Vermont and New Hampshire

City Center, 3rd Floor, 89 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05602, (802) 828-6000.

Virginia

Culpeper Building, Suite 238, 1606 Santa Rosa Road, Richmond, VA 23229, (804) 287-1550.

Washington

Suite B, 1835 Black Lake Blvd., SW., Olympia, WA 98512-5715, (360) 704-7740.

West Virginia

Federal Building, Room 320, 75 High Street, Morgantown, WV 26505-7500, (304) 284-4860.

Wisconsin

4949 Kirschling Court, Stevens Point, WI 54481, (715) 345-7600.

Wyoming

Federal Building, Room 1005, 100 East B, PO Box 820, Casper, WY 82602, (307) 261-6300.

[FR Doc. 03-15920 Filed 6-23-03; 8:45 am]

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 2003; Correction

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service (RHS), USDA.

ACTION: Notice; correction.

SUMMARY: The Rural Housing Service (RHS) corrects a notice published May 16, 2003 (68 FR 26941-26943). This action is taken to remove references to the application deadline of August 14, 2003.

Accordingly, the notice published May 16, 2003 (68 FR 26941-26943), is corrected as follows:

On page 26941, in the third column, in the 30th line of the SUMMARY, remove the sentence reading "This Notice changes the timeframe to submit applications for the Section 514 Farm Labor Housing Loans and Section 516 Farm Labor Housing Grants for Off-Farm Housing for Fiscal Year 2003 to be August 14, 2003."

On page 26942, in the third column, under "Application Process", in the eighth line, remove the sentence reading "No application will be accepted after 5 p.m., local time, on August 14, 2003 unless date and time is extended by another Notice published in the **Federal Register**."

Dated: June 18, 2003.

Arthur A. Garcia,

Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

[FR Doc. 03-15824 Filed 6-23-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XV-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

[I.D. 061803]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the

following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Title: Socioeconomic Monitoring Program for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

Form Number(s): None.

OMB Approval Number: 0648-0409.

Type of Request: Regular submission.

Burden Hours: 420.

Number of Respondents: 70.

Average Hours Per Response: 3 hours for a commercial fishing panel response; and 10 hours for a dive shop log.

Needs and Uses: The purpose of this information collection is to obtain socioeconomic monitoring information in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS). In 1997, regulations became effective that created a series of "no take zones" in the FKNMS. Monitoring programs are used to test the ecological and socioeconomic impacts of the "no take zones". Two voluntary data collection efforts support the socioeconomic monitoring program.

The first collection involves a set of panels on commercial fishing operations, where commercial fishermen will be interviewed to assess financial performance and assess the impacts of Sanctuary regulations. Information on catch, effort, revenues, and operating and capital costs will be obtained to do financial performance analysis. Information on socioeconomic factors for developing profiles of the commercial fishermen such as age, sex, education level, household income, marital status, number of family members, race/ethnicity, percent of income derived from fishing, percent of income derived from study area, and years of experience in fishing will be gathered to compare panels with the general commercial fishing population. The data will be collected annually.

The second collection will monitor recreational for-hire operations through the use of dive logs for estimating use in the "no take areas" versus other areas for snorkeling, scuba diving, and glass-bottom boat rides. Volunteers will collect the logbooks monthly.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations, individuals or households.

Frequency: Annual, recordkeeping.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

OMB Desk Officer: David Rostker, (202) 395-3897.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0266, Department of