

have the opportunity to address the Council at those sessions.

Dated: February 28, 2005.

Patricia M. O'Connor,

*District Ranger, Yakutat Ranger District,
Tongass National Forest.*

[FR Doc. 05-4304 Filed 3-4-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3401-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Business-Cooperative Service's (RBS) intention to request an extension of a currently approved information collection in support of the program for "Rural Development Loan Servicing."

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 6, 2005 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mel Padgett, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, Stop 3225, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-3225, Telephone: (202) 720-1495.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Rural Development Loan Servicing.

OMB Number: 0570-0015.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 2005.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: This regulation is for servicing and liquidating loans made by the RBS, under the Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) to eligible IRP intermediaries and applies to ultimate recipients and other involved parties. This regulation is also for servicing the existing Rural Development Loan Fund (RDLF) loans previously approved and administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under 45 CFR part 1076. The objective of the IRP is to improve community facilities and employment opportunities and increase economic activity in rural areas by financing business facilities and community development. This purpose is achieved through loans made by RBS to intermediaries that establish programs for the purpose of providing

loans to ultimate recipients for business facilities and community development. The regulations contain various requirements for information from the intermediaries and some requirements may cause the intermediary to require information from ultimate recipients. The information requested is vital to RBS for prudent loan servicing, credit decisions and reasonable program monitoring. The provisions of this subpart supersede conflicting provisions of any other subpart.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 3 hours per response.

Respondents: Non-profit corporations, public agencies, and cooperatives.

Estimated number of Respondents: 420.

Estimated number of responses per respondent: 10.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 11,235 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Renita Bolden, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 692-0035.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of RBS, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of RBS estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments may be sent to Renita Bolden, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-0742. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: February 23, 2005.

Peter J. Thomas,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 05-4309 Filed 3-4-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Announcement of Value-Added Producer Grant Application Deadlines and Funding Levels

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of solicitation of applications.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) announces the availability of approximately \$14.3 million in competitive grant funds for fiscal year (FY) 2005 to help independent agricultural producers enter into value-added activities. RBS hereby requests proposals from eligible independent producers, agricultural producer groups, farmer or rancher cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures interested in a competitively-awarded grant to fund one of the following two activities: (1) Planning activities needed to establish a viable value-added marketing opportunity for an agricultural product (e.g. conduct a feasibility study, develop a business plan, develop a marketing plan); or (2) acquire working capital to operate a value-added business venture that will allow producers to better compete in domestic and international markets. In order to provide program benefits to as many eligible applicants as possible, applications can only be for one or the other of these two activities, but not both. The maximum award per grant is \$100,000 for planning grants and \$150,000 for working capital grants and matching funds are required.

DATES: You may submit completed applications for grants on paper or electronically by 4 p.m. Eastern time on May 6, 2005.

ADDRESSES: You may obtain application guides and materials for a Value-Added Producer Grant at the following Internet address: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm> or by contacting the Agency Contact for your state listed in Section VII of this notice.

Submit final paper applications via the postal service for a grant to Cooperative Services, Attn: VAPG Program, Mail Stop 3250, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-3250. Submit final paper applications via UPS or Federal Express for a grant to Cooperative Services, Attn: VAPG Program, Room 4016, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250. The phone number that should be used for FedEx packages is (202) 720-7558.