

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Natural Resources Conservation Service****Notice of Proposed Changes to Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Indiana**

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in section IV of the FOTG of the NRCS in Indiana for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It is the intention of NRCS in Indiana to issue two revised conservation practice standards in section IV of the FOTG. The revised standards are Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645) and Irrigation Water Management (Code 449). These practices may be used in conservation systems that treat highly erodible land.

DATES: Comments will be received on or before July 21, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Address all requests and comments to Jane E. Hardisty, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 6013 Lakeside Blvd., Indianapolis, Indiana 46278. Copies of these standards will be made available upon written or electronic request. You may submit electronic requests and comments to joe.gasperi@in.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jane E. Hardisty, 317-290-3200.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after enactment of the law, to NRCS state technical guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law, shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days, the NRCS in Indiana will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period, a determination will be made by the NRCS in Indiana regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of changes will be made.

Dated: June 12, 2000.

Jane E. Hardisty,

State Conservationist, Indianapolis, Indiana.
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Rural Housing Service****Request for Proposals (RFP): Farm Labor Housing Technical Assistance Grants**

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This RFP announces an availability of funds and the timeframe to submit proposals for Farm Labor Housing Technical Assistance (FLH-TA) grants.

Section 516 of the Housing Act of 1949 authorizes the Rural Housing Service (RHS) to provide financial assistance (grants) to eligible private and public nonprofit agencies to encourage the development of domestic and migrant farm labor housing projects. This RFP requests proposals from qualified private and public nonprofit agencies to provide technical assistance to groups who qualify for FLH loans and grants.

Work performed under these grants is expected to result in an increased submission of applications for farm labor housing loans and grants under the section 514 and 516 programs and in an increase of the availability of decent, safe, and sanitary housing for farm laborers.

DATES: The deadline for receipt of all applications in response to this RFP is 5:00 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, on August 21, 2000. 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. Acceptance by a post office or private mailer does not constitute delivery. Facsimile (FAX), COD, and postage due applications will not be accepted.

ADDRESSES: Applications should be submitted to the USDA—Rural Housing Service; Attention: Douglas MacDowell; Multi-Family Housing Processing Division—STOP 0781, Washington, DC 20250-0781. RHS will date and time stamp incoming applications to evidence timely receipt and, upon request, will provide the applicant with a written acknowledgement of receipt.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sue M. Harris-Green, Deputy Director, Multi-Family Housing Processing Division—Direct Loans, RHS, USDA, Room 1241, South Building, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-0781, telephone (202) 720-1604. (This is not a toll free number.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The technical assistance grants authorized under section 516 are for the purpose of encouraging the development of domestic and migrant farm labor housing projects under sections 514 and 516 of the Act. Proposals must demonstrate the capacity to provide the intended technical assistance.

The RHS intends to award one grant for each of three geographic regions. When establishing the three regions, consideration was given to such factors as farmworker migration patterns and the similarity of agricultural products and labor needs within certain areas of the United States. A single applicant may submit grant proposals for more than one region; however, separate proposals must be submitted for each region.

Eastern Region: AL, CT, DE, FL, GA, IN, KY, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, NC, OH, PA, PR, RI, SC, TN, VI, VT, VA, WV.

Central Region: AR, IL, IA, KS, LA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, ND, OK, SD, TX, WI.

Western Region: AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY, and the Pacific Territories.

Funding

The RHS has the authority to utilize up to ten (10) percent of its section 516 appropriation for FLH-TA grants. The total FY 2000 appropriation for section 516 is \$13,500,000. Therefore, the total amount of the FY 2000 appropriation that is available for FLH-TA grants is \$1,350,000. Of that amount, up to \$506,250 will be available for each of the Eastern and Western Grant Regions and up to \$337,500 of the remaining funds will be available for the Central Grant Region. Work performed under these grants must be completed within three years of entering into the grant agreement provided as Appendix A to this Notice. The disbursement of grant funds during the grant period will be contingent upon the grantee making progress in meeting the minimum performance requirements as described in the Scope of Work section of this notice, including, but not limited to, the submission of loan application packages.

Eligibility

Eligibility for grants under this notice is limited to private and public nonprofit agencies. Grantees must have the knowledge, ability, technical expertise, or practical experience necessary to develop and package loan and grant applications for FLH under the section 514 and 516 programs (see the Application Requirements section of