

Rural Housing Service, USDA

§ 3575.48

Guarantee, proposals for facilities financed in whole or in part with a loan guaranteed by the Agency will be coordinated with all appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies. Borrowers and lenders will be required to comply with any Federal, State, or local laws or regulatory commission rules which are in existence and which affect the project including, but not limited to:

- (a) Organization and authority to design, construct, develop, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities;
- (b) Borrowing money, giving security, and raising revenues for repayment;
- (c) Land use zoning;
- (d) Health, safety, and sanitation standards; and
- (e) Protection of the environment and consumer affairs.

§§ 3575.44–3575.46 [Reserved]

§ 3575.47 Economic feasibility requirements.

All projects financed under the provisions of this section must be based on taxes, assessments, revenues, fees, or other sources of revenues in an amount sufficient to provide for facility operation and maintenance, a reasonable reserve, and debt payment. Other sources of revenue or guarantors are particularly important in considering the feasibility of recreation-type loans. The lender is responsible for determining the credit quality and economic feasibility of the proposed loan and must address all elements of the credit quality in a written financial feasibility analysis which includes adequacy of equity, cash flow, security, history, and management capabilities. Financial feasibility reports must take into consideration any interest rate adjustment which may be instituted under the terms of the note. The lender's financial credit analysis may also serve as the feasibility analysis when sufficient evidence is included to determine economic feasibility as well as financial viability.

(a) *Financial feasibility.* The borrower, lender, or other qualified entity must prepare the financial feasibility analysis (suggested financial feasibility guidelines are available in any Agency office) in the following instances:

- (1) Facilities primarily used for fire and rescue services;
- (2) Facilities that are not dependent on facility revenues for debt payment;
- (3) Loans of less than \$500,000; or
- (4) Projects in which the borrower has operated similar facilities on a financially successful basis.

(b) *Utility projects.* The borrower's consulting engineer may complete the financial feasibility analysis for utility systems.

(c) *Other community facilities.* Financial feasibility reports for all other facilities must be prepared by a qualified entity not having a direct interest in the management of the facility. The lender may prepare the feasibility study if qualified staff is available.

(d) *Exceptions.* The Agency loan approval official may exempt the lender from the requirement for an independent financial feasibility report (when requested by the borrower and the lender) provided the approval official determines that the financial feasibility analysis prepared by the borrower fairly represents the financial feasibility of the facility and the financial feasibility analysis contains an accurate projection of the usage, revenues, and expenses of the facility.

(e) *Insufficient information.* When the lender or Agency has insufficient information to determine the borrower's repayment ability, an independent feasibility analysis is required.

§ 3575.48 Security.

(a) *Lender responsibility.* The lender is responsible for obtaining and maintaining proper and adequate security to protect the interest of the lender, the holder, and the Government.

(b) *Type of security.* Security must be of such a nature that repayment of the loan is reasonably ensured when considered with the integrity and ability of project management, soundness of the project, and the borrower's prospective earnings. The security may include, but is not limited to, the following: General obligation bonds, revenue bonds, pledge of taxes or assessments, assignment of facility revenue, land, easements, rights-of-way, water rights, buildings, machinery, equipment, accounts receivable, contracts,

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cash, or other accounts or assignments of leases or leasehold interest.

(c) *Separate security.* All security must secure the entire loan. The lender will not take separate security to secure only the unguaranteed portion of the loan. The lender will not require compensating balances or certificates of deposit as a means of eliminating the lender's exposure on the unguaranteed portion of the loan.

§§ 3575.49–3575.51 [Reserved]

§ 3575.52 Processing.

(a) *Preapplications.* (1) The preapplication package must be submitted either alone or the necessary information may be submitted simultaneously with the application. The preapplication package will contain:

(i) An Application for Federal Assistance on a form provided by the Agency (available in any Agency office);

(ii) State intergovernmental or other type review comments and recommendations for the borrower's project (clearinghouse comments, if applicable);

(iii) Supporting documentation necessary to make an eligibility determination such as financial statements, audits, copies of organizational documents, existing debt instruments, etc.; and

(iv) Documentation of lender eligibility in accordance with § 3575.27.

(2) If the Agency determines that the project may meet requirements and is likely to be funded, the lender must submit a complete application if it has not previously submitted one. The Agency must do an environmental review before further processing will be completed.

(b) *Applications.* Contents of application package:

(1) Application for Loan and Guarantee on a form prescribed by the Agency (available in any Agency office);

(2) Proposed loan agreement;

(3) Request for Environmental Information (available in any Agency office);

(4) Preliminary architectural or engineering report;

(5) Cost estimates;

(6) Appraisal reports (as appropriate);

(7) Credit reports;

(8) Financial feasibility analysis and report; and

(9) Any additional information required.

§ 3575.53 Evaluation of application.

If the Agency determines that the borrower is eligible, the proposed loan is for an eligible purpose, there is reasonable assurance of repayment ability, sufficient collateral and equity exists, the proposed loan complies with all applicable statutes and regulations, the environmental review is complete and considered in determining compliance, and adequate funds are available, the Agency will provide the lender and the borrower with the Conditional Commitment for Guarantee, listing all conditions for the guarantee. Applicable requirements will include the following:

(a) Approved use of guaranteed loan funds (source and use of funds);

(b) Rates and terms of the loan;

(c) Scheduling of payments;

(d) Number of customers;

(e) Security and lien priority;

(f) Appraisals;

(g) Insurance and bonding;

(h) Financial reporting;

(i) Equal opportunity and non-discrimination;

(j) Environment or mitigation;

(k) Americans with Disabilities Act;

(l) By-laws and articles of incorporation changes; and

(m) Other requirements necessary to protect the Government.

§§ 3575.54–3575.58 [Reserved]

§ 3575.59 Review of requirements.

(a) *Lender and borrower.* The lender and borrower must complete and sign the Acceptance of Conditions and return a copy to the Agency as soon as possible. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, if certain conditions cannot be met, the lender and borrower may propose alternate conditions for Agency consideration.

(b) *Cancellation.* If the lender decides at any time after receiving a Conditional Commitment for Guarantee that it no longer wants a guarantee, the lender must immediately advise the Agency of the cancellation.