

Rural Utilities Service, USDA

§ 1703.36

Explain if the project is part of a community-based economic development program; and

(6) “Plan for improving the marketable skills of people in rural areas” (§1703.46(h)(2)(vi)). Include information on any written plan for the project to provide opportunities or incentives to improve the marketable skills of rural residents through training and/or education. For projects that consist of providing training or education, indicate how it will benefit rural residents;

(g) “Location” (§1703.46(h)(3)), which indicates whether or not the project will be located in a town and, if so, the name of the town;

(h) “Support for the program—cushion of credit payments” (§1703.46(h)(4)), which mentions any cushion of credits payments made recently in accounts at RUS;

(i) “Demonstration project” (§1703.46(h)(5)), which includes a discussion of any commitments from the owner(s) of the project to be a demonstration project and a copy of the written commitment;

(j) “Probability of success” (§1703.46(h)(6)), which includes:

(1) “Owners and management of the project” (§1703.46(h)(6)(i)) that discusses how the knowledge, experience, education and training of the proposed owners and management of the project increases the likelihood of long-term success; and

(2) “Ultimate recipient’s business plan” (§1703.46(h)(6)(ii)), that references an attached copy of the business plan.

(i) The plan should include:

(A) A description of the project;

(B) A description of the business, if applicable, its products and the prospects of the industry;

(C) What will be produced or accomplished;

(D) The area to be served;

(E) Any market research or marketing plan;

(F) Any operating plan;

(G) Total project costs and projected use of funds by purpose or category;

(H) A financial plan, including a feasibility study with projected balance sheets, income statements and cash flow statements;

(I) The source of supplemental funds, the nature and strength of commitments from other sources of financing, and the equity contribution;

(J) The proposed ownership and management of the project;

(K) A description of any coordination with a local, regional or state development organization; and

(L) Other relevant information.

(ii) The scope of the plan should reflect the amount requested in the application, the risks involved with developing and operating the project, and the overall cost of the project. The plan should describe any coordination with a local, regional or state development organization.

§ 1703.36 Section of the application covering the project description.

In general, this section should be more detailed the larger the project for which the borrower is requesting funding. The section of the application on the “project description” must include:

(a) A description of the proposed project including the nature of the project, the location of the project, organizations that will be involved in the project and the primary beneficiaries of the project. Also include in this subsection a statement describing whether the borrower has or will have a direct or indirect (through a subsidiary or affiliated organization) ownership or similar beneficial interest in the facilities to be constructed or in the entity that will occupy or utilize these facilities. In addition, explain whether it seems likely that the proposed project will be undertaken or completed in the absence of an RUS zero-interest loan or grant;

(b) A separate paragraph entitled “Uses of RUS Funds and Total Project Costs”, that includes a breakdown of the specific uses of RUS funds and a breakdown of the specific uses of all funds necessary to ensure completion of the project. Project costs should be limited to the amount to be spent over the 2-year period after receiving RUS funds;

(c) For a project that involves the establishment of a new venture, such as a rural business incubator or a similar start-up venture, a discussion of how the costs of establishing, organizing

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and arranging financing for the venture will be paid, how start-up costs incurred after the venture has been established will be paid, the expected sources of revenue necessary to sustain the project and revenue and expense projections for the first 3 years of the project;

(d) If the borrower will provide a pass-through-loan or pass-through-grant to another entity, outline the terms and conditions that the borrower intends to place on the recipient of the RUS funds including the security arrangements and collateral on a zero-interest loan. The discussion of proposed security arrangements and collateral should reflect the amount requested in the application, the risks involved with developing and operating the project, and the overall cost of the project;

(e) For pass-through-loans and pass-through-grants, a description of the ultimate recipient, including the form of organization and ownership (i.e., corporation, nonprofit corporation, cooperative, partnership, sole proprietor), the owner(s) and the chief officers;

(f) If the project involves construction, a brief description of the construction necessary to make the project operational and the organization involved with the project that will be responsible for building the project facilities or having them built;

(g) A discussion of the manner in which the borrower intends to monitor the zero-interest loan and/or grant proceeds to ensure that they are used only for approved purposes; and

(h) If applicable, a discussion on any potential conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest, a clarification of any aspect of the project with respect to the restriction that it must not result primarily in the transfer of any existing employment or business activity from one area to another or a clarification of any aspect of the project with respect to limitations in §§ 1703.20 and 1703.21.

§ 1703.37 Section of the application covering the environmental impact of the project.

(a) For a proposed project that only involves internal modifications or equipment additions to buildings or other structures (for example; relo-

cating interior walls or adding computer facilities) and/or external changes or additions to existing buildings, structures or facilities requiring physical disturbance of less than 0.4 hectare (0.99 acre), the environmental information normally required is:

(1) A copy of a flood hazard zone map from the Federal Emergency Management Agency with the location of the project site marked;

(2) A statement of whether or not the proposed project will be located within an area protected under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*);

(3) A description of the internal modifications or equipment additions, and the external changes or additions to existing buildings, structures or facilities being proposed, the size of the site in hectares, and the general nature of the proposed use of the facilities once the project is completed, including any hazardous materials to be used, created or discharged, any substantial amount of air emissions, wastewater discharge, or solid waste that will be generated; and

(4) A statement of whether the project site contains or is near a property listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (16 U.S.C. 470).

(b) For all other proposed projects include:

(1) A copy of a flood hazard zone map from the Federal Emergency Management Agency with the location of the project site marked (42 U.S.C. 4001 *et seq.*);

(2) A diagram showing the general layout of the proposed facilities on the project site;

(3) The size of the project site in hectares;

(4) A map (preferably a U.S. Geological Survey map) of the project area indicating the boundaries of the project;

(5) A statement of whether or not the project will be located within an area protected under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act;

(6) The amount of property to be cleared, excavated, fenced or otherwise disturbed by the project;

(7) The current land use and zoning of the project site and any vegetation on the project site;