

## Rural Utilities Service, USDA

## § 1783.9

this program are available, the Secretary will publish a notice to that effect. The notice will establish the period during which applications for such funds may be submitted for consideration.

### § 1783.7 What is the grant application process?

(a) The applicant must complete and submit the following items to RUS to apply for a grant under this part:

(1) Application for Federal Assistance: *Standard Form 424*;

(2) Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs: *Standard Form 424A*;

(3) Assurances—Non-Construction Programs: *Standard Form 424B*;

(4) Evidence of applicant's legal existence and authority in the form of certified copies of organizational documents and a certified list of directors and officers with their respective terms;

(5) Evidence of tax exempt status, and

(6) Most recent annual audit conducted by an independent auditor.

(b) The applicant must submit a written work plan that demonstrates the ability of the applicant to make and service loans to eligible entities under this program and the feasibility of the applicant's lending program to meet the objectives of this part.

(c) The applicant should submit a narrative establishing the basis for any claims that it has substantial expertise in making and servicing loans. The Secretary will give priority to an applicant that demonstrates it has substantial experience of this type.

(d) The applicant may submit such additional information as it elects to support and describe its plan for achieving the objectives of the part.

### § 1783.8 What are the acceptable methods for submitting applications?

(a) Applications for RFP grants may be submitted by U.S. Mail. Applications submitted by mail must be addressed as follows: Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 1548, Washington, DC 20250-1548. The outside of the application should be marked: "Attention: Assistant Admin-

istrator, Water and Environmental Programs." Applications submitted by mail must be postmarked not later than the filing deadline to be considered during the period for which the application was submitted.

(b) In lieu of submitting an application by U.S. Mail, an applicant may file its application electronically by using the Federal Government's eGrants Web site (Grants.gov) at <http://www.grants.gov>. Applicants should refer to instructions found on the Grants.gov Web site for procedures for registering and using this facility. Applicants who have not previously registered on Grants.gov should allow a sufficient number of business days to complete the process necessary to be qualified to apply for Federal Government grants using electronic submissions. Electronic submissions must be filed not later than the filing deadline to be considered during the period for which the application was submitted.

(c) The methods of submitting applications may be changed from time to time to reflect changes in addresses and electronic submission procedures. Applicants should refer to the most recent notice of funding availability for notice of any such changes. In the event of any discrepancy, the information contained in the notice must be followed.

### § 1783.9 What are the criteria for scoring applications?

(a) Applications that are incomplete or ineligible will be returned to the applicant, accompanied by a statement explaining why the application is being returned.

(b) Promptly after an application period closes, all applications that are complete and eligible will be ranked competitively based on the following scoring criteria:

(1) Degree of expertise and successful experience in making and servicing commercial loans, with a successful record, for the following number of full years:

(i) At least 1 but less than 3 years—5 points

(ii) At least 3 but less than 5 years—10 points

(iii) At least 5 but less than 10 years—20 points