

assistance to be made available with respect to the Program and parties with a pecuniary interest in CHSP and submission of a report on expected sources and uses of funds to be made available for CHSP. Each applicant shall include information required by 24 CFR part 12 on form HUD-2880 "Applicant/Recipient Disclosure/Update Report," as required by the FEDERAL REGISTER Notice published on January 16, 1992, at 57 FR 1942.

(d) *Nondiscrimination and equal opportunity.* (1) The fair housing poster regulations (24 CFR part 110) and advertising guidelines (24 CFR part 109);

(2) The Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Program requirements of 24 CFR part 200, subpart M, and the implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 108; and

(3) Racial and ethnic collection requirements—Recipients must maintain current data on the race, ethnicity and gender of program applicants and beneficiaries in accordance with section 562 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987 and section 808(e)(6) of the Fair Housing Act.

(e) *Environmental requirements.* Support services, including the operating and administrative expenses described in section 1944.115(a), are categorically excluded from the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. These actions, however, are not excluded from individual compliance requirements of other environmental statutes, Executive Orders, and agency regulations where appropriate. When the responsible official determines that any action under this subpart may have an environmental effect because of extraordinary circumstances, the requirements of NEPA shall apply.

Subparts G–H [Reserved]

Subpart I—Self-Help Technical Assistance Grants

SOURCE: 55 FR 41833, Oct. 16, 1990, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1944.401 Objective.

This subpart sets forth the policies and procedures and delegates authority

for providing Technical Assistance (TA) funds to eligible applicants to finance programs of technical and supervisory assistance for self-help housing, as authorized under section 523 of the Housing Act of 1949. Any processing or servicing activity conducted pursuant to this subpart involving authorized assistance to FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 employees, members of their families, known close relatives, or business or close personal associates, is subject to the provisions of subpart D of part 1900 of this chapter. Applicants for this assistance are required to identify any known relationship or association with an FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 employee. This financial assistance may pay part or all of the cost of developing, administering, or coordinating programs of technical and supervisory assistance to aid needy very low- and low-income families in carrying out self-help housing efforts in rural areas. Very low-income families must receive a priority for recruitment and participation and may not comprise less than the percentage stated in subpart L of part 1940 of this chapter of those assisted in any grant. The primary purpose is to fund organizations that are willing to locate and work with families that otherwise do not qualify as homeowners. Generally, these are families below 50 percent of median incomes, living in substandard housing, and/or lacking the skills to be good homeowners. Grantees will comply with the nondiscrimination regulation subpart E of part 1901 of this chapter which states that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, marital status, mental or physical handicap, or age, be excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination in connection with the use of grant funds and all provisions of the Fair Housing Act of 1988.

[55 FR 41833, Oct. 16, 1990, as amended at 58 FR 227, Jan. 5, 1993]

§ 1944.402 Grant purposes.

Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 may contract or make a grant to an organization to:

(a) Give technical and supervisory assistance to eligible very low- and low-income families as defined in Appendix 9 of HB-1-3550 (available in any Rural Development office), in carrying out self-help housing efforts.

(b) Assist other organizations to provide technical and supervisory assistance to eligible families.

(c) Develop a final application, recruit families and related activities necessary to participate under paragraph (a) of this section.

[55 FR 41833, Oct. 16, 1990, as amended at 67 FR 78328, Dec. 24, 2002]

§ 1944.403 Definitions.

(a) *Agreement.* The Self-Help Technical Assistance Agreement, which is a document signed by FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 and the grantee, sets forth the terms and conditions under which TA funds will be made available. (Exhibit A of this subpart).

(b) *Agreement period (or grant period).* The period of time for which an agreement is in force. Generally, the period will not exceed 24 months.

(c) *Date of completion.* The date when all work under a grant is completed or the date in the TA grant agreement, or any supplement or amendment to it, when Federal assistance ends.

(d) *Direct costs.* Those costs that are specifically identified with a particular project or activity. Grantees receiving funds from a single grant source would consider all costs as direct costs.

(e) *Disallowed costs.* Those charges to a grant which FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 determines cannot be authorized.

(f) *Equivalent units.* Equivalent units represent the "theoretical number of units" arrived at by adding the equivalent percentage of completion figure for each family in the self-help program (pre-construction and actual construction) together at any given date during program operations. The sum of the percentage of completion figures for all participant families represent the total number of "theoretical units" completed at any point in time. Equivalent units are useful in measuring progress during the period of the grant and are not a measurement of actual accomplishments. The number of

equivalent units for any group can never exceed the number of planned or completed houses for that group.

(g) *Equivalent value of a modest house.* The equivalent value of a modest house is the typical cost of a recent contractor-built FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 financed home in the area plus the actual or projected costs of an acceptable site and site development. If FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 has not financed a contractor-built house during the last twelve months, the value will be established by use of the Marshall and Swift cost handbook or a similar type of handbook. Equivalent value of a modest house is established by FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354.

(h) *Indirect costs.* Those costs that are incurred for common or joint objectives and therefore, cannot be readily and specifically identified with a particular project or activity, e.g., self-help.

(i) *Mutual self-help.* The construction method by which participating families organized in groups generally of 4 to 10 families utilize their own labor to reduce the total construction cost of their homes. Participating families complete construction work on their homes by an exchange of labor with one another. The mutual self-help method must be used for new construction.

(j) *Organization.* (1) A State, political subdivision, or public nonprofit corporation (including Indian tribes or Tribal corporations); or

(2) A private nonprofit corporation that is owned and controlled by private persons or interests and is organized and operated for purposes other than making gains or profits for the corporation and is legally precluded from distributing any gains or profits to its members.

(k) *Participating family.* Individuals and/or their families who agree to build homes by the mutual self-help method and rehabilitate homes by the self-help method. Participants are families with very low- or low-incomes who have the ability to furnish their share of the required labor input regardless of the