

§ 1944.677

7 CFR Ch. XVIII (1-1-08 Edition)

§ 1944.677 [Reserved]

§ 1944.678 Preapplication submission deadline.

Dates governing the invitation and review of HPG preapplications will be published annually in the FEDERAL REGISTER and may be obtained from FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 offices processing HPG preapplications. Preapplications received after the date specified in the FEDERAL REGISTER will not be considered for funding in that fiscal year and will be returned.

§ 1944.679 Project selection criteria.

(a) Applicants must meet all of the following threshold criteria:

(1) Provide a financially feasible program of housing preservation assistance. *Financially feasible* is defined as proposed assistance which will be affordable to the intended recipient or result in affordable housing for very low- and low-income persons;

(2) Serve eligible rural areas with a concentration of substandard housing for households with very low- and low-income;

(3) Be an eligible applicant entity as defined in §1944.658 of this subpart;

(4) Meet the requirements of consultation and public comment in accordance with §1944.674 of this subpart; and

(5) Submit a complete preapplication as outlined in §1944.676 of this subpart.

(b) For applicants meeting all of the requirements listed in paragraph (a) of this section, FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 will use the weighted criteria in this paragraph (b) in the selection of grant recipients. Each preapplication and its accompanying statement of activities will be evaluated and, based solely on the information contained in the preapplication, the applicant's proposal will be numerically rated on each criteria within the range provided. The highest ranking applicant(s) will be selected based on allocation of funds available to the State. Exhibit D of this subpart (available in any FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 office) will be used to document the rating.

(1) Points are awarded based on the percentage of very low-income persons that the applicant proposes to assist, using the following scale:

- (i) More than 80%: 20 points.
- (ii) 61% to 80%: 15 points.
- (iii) 41% to 60%: 10 points.
- (iv) 20% to 40%: 5 points.
- (v) Less than 20%: 0 points.

(2) The applicant's proposal may be expected to result in the following percentage of HPG fund use (excluding administrative costs) to total cost of unit preservation. This percentage reflects maximum repair or rehabilitation with the least possible HPG funds due to leveraging, innovative financial assistance, owner's contribution or other specified approaches. Points are awarded based on the following percentage of HPG funds (excluding administrative costs) to total funds:

- (i) 50% or less: 20 points.
- (ii) 51% to 65%: 15 points.
- (iii) 66% to 80%: 10 points.
- (iv) 81% to 95%: 5 points.
- (v) 96% to 100%: 0 points.

(3) The applicant has demonstrated its administrative capacity in assisting very low- and low-income persons to obtain adequate housing based on the following:

(i) The organization or a member of its staff has 2 or more years experience successfully managing and operating a rehabilitation or weatherization type program, including FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354's HPG program: 10 points.

(ii) The organization or a member of its staff has 2 or more years experience successfully managing and operating a program assisting very low- and low-income persons obtain housing assistance: 10 points.

(iii) If the organization has administered grant programs, there are no outstanding or unresolved audit or investigative findings which might impair carrying out the proposal: 10 points.

(4) The proposed program will be undertaken entirely in rural areas outside MSAs identified by FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 as having populations below 10,000 or in remote parts of other rural areas (i.e., rural areas contained in MSAs