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make NP property a program property, if economically feasible.

[53 FR 27839, July 25, 1988]

§ 1955.146 Advertising.

(a) *General.* When property is being sold by FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 or through real estate brokers, it is the servicing official's responsibility to ensure adequate advertising of property to achieve a timely sale. The primary means of advertisements are newspaper advertisements in accordance with FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 Instruction 2024-F (available in any FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 office), public notice using Form FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 1955-41, "Notice of Sale," and notification of known interested parties. Other innovative means are encouraged, such as the use of a bulletin board to display photographs of inventory properties for sale with a brief synopsis of the property attached; posting Forms FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 1955-40 or FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 1955-43, as appropriate, in the reception area to attract applicant and broker interest; posting notices of sale at employment centers; door-to-door distribution of sales notices at apartment complexes; radio and/or television spots; group meetings with potential applicants/investors/real estate brokers; and advertisements in magazines and other periodicals. If FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 personnel are not available to perform these services, FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 may contract for such services in accordance with FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 Instruction 2024-A (available in any FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 office).

(b) *Large-value and complex properties.* Advertising for MFH, B&I and other large-value or complex properties should also be placed in appropriate newspapers and publications designed to reach the type of particular purchasers most likely to be interested in the inventory property. The State Di-

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rector will assist the District Director in determining the scope of advertising necessary to adequately market these properties. Advertising for MFH and other complex properties must also include appropriate language stressing the need to obtain and submit complete application materials for the type program involved.

(c) *MFH restrictive-use provisions.* Advertisements for multi-family housing projects will advise prospective purchasers of any restrictive-use requirements that will be attached to the project and added to the title of the property.

(d) *Racial and socio-economic considerations.* In accordance with the policies set forth in §1901.203(c) of subpart E of part 1901 of this chapter, the approval official will make a special effort to insure that those prospective purchasers in the marketing area who traditionally would not be expected to apply for housing assistance because of existing racial or socio-economic patterns are reached.

(e) *Rejected application for SFH loan.* If an application for a SFH loan is being rejected because income is too high, a statement should be included in the rejection letter that inventory properties may be available for which they may apply.

[50 FR 23904, June 7, 1985, as amended at 53 FR 27839, July 25, 1988; 58 FR 38928, July 21, 1993]

§ 1955.147 Sealed bid sales.

This section provides guidance on the sale of all FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 inventory property, except suitable FP real property which will not be sold by sealed bid. Before a sealed bid sale, the State Director will determine and document the minimum sale price acceptable. In determining a minimum sale price, the State Director will consider the length of time the property has been in inventory, previous marketing efforts, the type property involved, and potential purchasers. Program financing will be offered on sales of program and suitable property. For NP or surplus property, credit may be extended to facilitate the sale. When a group of properties is to be sold at one time, advertising may indicate that FmHA or its

successor agency under Public Law 103-354 will consider bids on an individual property or a group of properties and FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 will accept the bid or bids which are in the best financial interest of the Government. Credit, however, may not exceed the market value of the property nor may the term exceed the period for which the property will serve as adequate security. Sealed bids will be made on Form FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 1955-46 with any accompanying deposit in the form of cashier's check, certified check, postal or bank money order or bank draft payable to FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354. For program and suitable property, the minimum deposit will be the same as outlined in §1955.130(e)(1) of this subpart. For NP or surplus property, the minimum deposit will be ten percent (10%). The bid will be considered delivered when actually received at the FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 office. All bids will be date and time stamped. Advertisements and notices will request bidders to submit their bid in a sealed envelope marked as follows:

SEALED BID OFFER _____ * _____."
 (*Insert "PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION
 NUMBER _____").

(a) *Opening bids.* Sealed bids will be held in a secured file before bid opening which will be at the place and time specified in the notice. The bid opening will be public and usually held at the FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 office. The County Supervisor, District Director, or State Director or his/her designee will open the bids with at least one other FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 employee present. Each bid received will be tabulated showing the name and address of the bidder, the amount of the bid, the amount and form of the deposit, and any conditions of the bid. The tabulation will be signed by the County Supervisor, District Director or State Director or his/her designee and retained in the inventory file.

(b) *Successful bids.* The highest complying bid meeting the minimum established price will be accepted by the

approval official; however, it will be subject to loan approval by the appropriate official when a credit sale is involved. For SFH and FP (surplus property) sales, preference will be given to a cash offer on NP or surplus property sales which is at least _____* percent of the highest offer requiring credit [*Refer to Exhibit B of FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 Instruction 440.1 (available in any FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 office) for the current percentage.] Otherwise, equal bids will be accepted by public lot drawing. For program or suitable property sales, no preference will be given to program purchasers unless two identical high bids are received, in which case the bid from the program purchaser will receive preference. If a bid is received from any purchaser with a request for credit that (considering any deposit) exceeds the market value of the property or requests a term which exceeds the period for which the property will serve as adequate security, the bidder will be given the opportunity to reduce the credit request and/or term with *no* accompanying change in the offered price.

(c) *Unsuccessful bids.* Deposits of unsuccessful bidders will be returned by certified mail with letter of explanation, return receipt requested. If there were no acceptable bids, the letter will advise each bidder of any anticipated negotiations for the sale of the property and deposits will be returned.

(d) *Disqualified bids.* Any bid that does not comply with the terms of the offer will be disqualified. Minor deviations and defects in bid submission may be waived by the FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 official approving the sale.

(e) *Failure to close.* If a successful bidder fails to perform under the terms of the offer, the bid deposit will be retained as full liquidated damages. However, if a credit sale complying with the FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 notice is an element of the offer and FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 disapproves the credit application, then the bid deposit will be returned to the otherwise successful bidder. Upon

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determination that the successful bidder will not close, the State Director may authorize either another sealed bid or auction sale of direct negotiations with the next highest bidder, all available unsuccessful bidders, or other interested parties.

(f) *No acceptable bid.* Where no acceptable bid is received although adequate competition is evident, the State Director may authorize a negotiated sale in accordance with §1955.108(d) of this subpart.

[50 FR 23904, June 7, 1985, as amended at 53 FR 27839, July 25, 1988; 54 FR 6875, Feb. 15, 1989; 55 FR 3943, Feb. 6, 1990; 68 FR 61332, Oct. 28, 2003]

§ 1955.148 Auction sales.

This section provides guidance on the sale of all inventory property by auction, except FSA real property. Before an auction, the State Director, with the advice of the National Office for organizational property, will determine and document the minimum sale price acceptable. In determining a minimum sale price, the State Director will consider the length of time the property has been in inventory, previous marketing efforts, the type property involved, and potential purchasers. Program financing will be offered on sales of program and property. For NP property, credit may be offered to facilitate the sale. Credit, however, may not exceed the market value of the property nor may the term exceed the period for which the property will serve as adequate security. For program property sales, no preference will be given to program purchasers. The State Director will also consider whether an Agency employee will conduct an auction or whether the services of a professional auctioneer are necessary due to the complexity of the sale. When the services of a professional auctioneer are advisable, the services will be procured by contract in accordance with RD Instruction 2024-A (available in any Agency Office). Chattel property may be sold at public auction that is widely advertised and held on a regularly scheduled basis without solicitation. Form RD 1955-46 will be used for auction sales. At the auction, successful bidders will be required to make a bid deposit. For program and suitable

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property, the bid deposit will be the same as outlined in §1955.130(e)(1) of this subpart. For NP property sales, a bid deposit of 10 percent is required. Deposits will be in the form of cashier's check, certified check, postal or bank money order or bank draft payable to the Agency, cash or personal checks may be accepted when deemed necessary for a successful auction by the person conducting the auction. Where credit sales are authorized, all notices and publicity should provide for a method of prior approval of credit and the credit limit for potential purchasers. This may include submission of letters of credit or financial statements prior to the auction. The auctioneer should not accept a bid which requests credit in excess of the market value. When the highest bid is lower than the minimum amount acceptable to the Agency, negotiations should be conducted with the highest bidder or in turn, the next highest bidder or other persons to obtain an executed bid at the predetermined minimum.

[62 FR 44404, Aug. 21, 1997, as amended at 68 FR 61332, Oct. 28, 2003]

§ 1955.149 Exception authority.

(a) The Administrator may, in individual cases, make an exception to any requirement or provision of this subpart or address any omission of this subpart which is not inconsistent with the authorizing statute or other applicable law if the Administrator determines that the Government's interest would be adversely affected or the immediate health and/or safety of tenants or the community are endangered if there is no adverse effect on the Government's interest. The Administrator will exercise this authority upon request of the State Director with recommendation of the appropriate program Assistant Administrator or upon request initiated by the appropriate program Assistant Administrator. Requests for exceptions must be made in writing and supported with documentation to explain the adverse effect, propose alternative courses of action, and show how the adverse effect will be eliminated or minimized if the exception is granted.