

§§ 25.608–25.619 [Reserved]

§ 25.620 Eligible grant purposes.

Eligible grant purposes are:

- (a) Services directed at the goals of—
 - (1) Achieving or maintaining economic self-support to prevent, reduce, or eliminate dependency;
 - (2) Achieving or maintaining self sufficiency, including reduction or prevention of dependency;
 - (3) Preventing or remedying neglect, abuse, or exploitation of children and adults unable to protect their own interests, or preserving, rehabilitating or reuniting families;
- (b) Projects and activities identified in the strategic plan for the area; and
- (c) Activities that benefit residents of the area for which the grant is made.

§ 25.621 Ineligible grant purposes.

Grant funds may not be used:

- (a) As a source of local matching funds required for other federal grants;
- (b) To fund political activities;
- (c) To duplicate current services or replace or substitute for financial support provided from other sources. If the current service is inadequate, however, grant funds may be used to augment financial support or service levels beyond what is currently provided;
- (d) To pay costs of preparing the application package for designation under this program;
- (e) To pay costs of a project which were incurred prior to the execution date of the applicable memorandum of agreement;
- (f) To pay for assistance to any private business enterprise which does not have at least 51 percent ownership by those who are either citizens of the United States or reside in the United States after being legally admitted for permanent residence;
- (g) To pay any judgment or debt owed to the United States;
- (h) To assist in the relocation of businesses;
- (i) To support or promote gambling; or
- (j) For political lobbying.

§ 25.622 Other considerations.

(a) *Civil rights compliance requirements.* All grants made under this subpart are subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights

Act of 1964 and 7 CFR part 1901, subpart E.

(b) *Environmental review.* All grants made under this subpart are subject to the environmental requirements in effect for the water and environmental programs of the Rural Utilities Service at 7 CFR part 1794. The threshold levels of environmental review, for projects funded by the USDA EZ/EC grant program (or EZ/EC SSBG funds where the Secretary is authorized to execute the responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969), which projects, by their nature, would qualify for assistance under any program administered by the Rural Housing Service or Rural Business Service within USDA, shall be determined in accordance with 7 CFR part 1940, subpart G as follows:

- (1) Projects meeting the descriptions found at 7 CFR 1940.310(b), (c), (d) and (e) shall be considered categorically excluded (without an environmental report) for purposes of 7 CFR 1794.21.
- (2) Projects meeting the descriptions found at 7 CFR 1940.311 shall be considered categorically excluded (with an environmental report) for purposes of 7 CFR 1794.22.
- (3) Projects meeting the description found at 7 CFR 1940.312 shall require the preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) for purposes of 7 CFR 1794.23.
- (4) Projects which would normally require the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) for purposes of 7 CFR 1940.313 shall require an EIS for purposes of 7 CFR 1794.25.

(c) *Other USDA regulations.* This program is subject to the provisions of the following regulations, as applicable:

- (1) 7 CFR part 3015, “Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations”;
- (2) 7 CFR part 3016, “Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments”;
- (3) 7 CFR part 3017, “Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Non-procurement) and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants)”;
- (4) 7 CFR part 3018, “New Restrictions on Lobbying”;
- (5) 7 CFR part 3019, “Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and