

Rural Housing Service, USDA

§ 3550.118

by the amount of any required appraisal and tax monitoring fees, and the contributions to an escrow account for taxes and insurance.

(b) *Maximum loan based upon ability to pay.* The maximum loan is limited to the principal balance that can be supported given the amount the applicant has available, as determined by RHS, to repay a loan at 1 percent interest with a 20-year term.

(c) *Maximum grant.* The lifetime total of the grant assistance to any recipient is \$7,500. No grant can be awarded unless the maximum level of loans, as supported by a budget, have been obtained.

§ 3550.113 Rates and terms (loans only).

(a) *Interest rate.* The interest rate for all section 504 loans will be 1 percent.

(b) *Loan term.* The repayment period for the loan should generally be as short as possible based on the applicant's repayment ability, and may never exceed 20 years; however loans made in combination with grants must have a term of 20 years.

§ 3550.114 Repayment agreement (grants only).

Grant recipients are required to sign a repayment agreement which specifies that the full amount of the grant must be repaid if the property is sold in less than 3 years from the date the grant agreement was signed.

[61 FR 59779, Nov. 22, 1996, as amended at 67 FR 78331, Dec. 24, 2002]

§ 3550.115 WWD grant program objectives.

The objective of the WWD individual grant program is to facilitate the use of community water and waste disposal systems by the residents of colonias along the border between the U.S. and Mexico. WWD grants are processed the same as Section 504 grants, except as specified in this subpart.

[67 FR 78331, Dec. 24, 2002]

§ 3550.116 Definitions applicable to WWD grants only.

(a) *Colonia.* Any identifiable community designated in writing by the State or county in which it is located; deter-

mined to be a colonia on the basis of objective criteria including lack of a potable water supply, lack of adequate sewage systems, and lack of decent, safe, and sanitary housing, inadequate roads, and drainage; and existed and was generally recognized as a colonia before October 1, 1989.

(b) *Individual.* Resident of a colonia located in a rural area.

(c) *Rural areas.* Includes unincorporated areas and any city or town with a population not in excess of 10,000 inhabitants according to the most recent decennial census of the United States.

(d) *System.* A community or central water supply or waste disposal system.

(e) *WWD.* Water and Waste Disposal grants to individuals.

[67 FR 78331, Dec. 24, 2002]

§ 3550.117 WWD grant purposes.

Grant funds may be used to pay the reasonable costs for individuals to:

(a) Extend service lines from the system to their residence.

(b) Connect service lines to residence's plumbing.

(c) Pay reasonable charges or fees for connecting to a system.

(d) Pay for necessary installation of plumbing and related fixtures within dwellings lacking such facilities. This is limited to one bathtub, sink, commode, kitchen sink, water heater, and outside spigot.

(e) Construction and/or partitioning off a portion of the dwelling for a bathroom, not to exceed 4.6 square meters (48 square feet) in size.

(f) Pay reasonable costs for closing abandoned septic tanks and water wells when necessary to protect the health and safety of recipients of a grant for a purpose provided in paragraph (a) or (b) of this section and is required by local or State law.

(g) Make improvements to individual's residence when needed to allow the use of the water and/or waste disposal system.

[67 FR 78331, Dec. 24, 2002]

§ 3550.118 Grant restrictions.

(a) *Maximum grant.* Lifetime assistance to any individual for initial or subsequent Section 306C WWD grants