

§ 1709.113

§ 1709.113 Limitations on grant awards.

(a) The Administrator may establish minimum or maximum amount of funds that may be awarded in a single grant application within in any grant cycle in order to distribute available grant funds as broadly as possible. If the Administrator elects to impose a minimum or maximum grant amount, the limitations will be published in the grant announcement.

(b) The Administrator may restrict eligible applicants to a single award of grant funds or to a monetary cap on grant awards within a grant cycle in order to assure that the available grant funds are distributed as broadly as possible. If the Administrator elects to impose a limit or cap on grant awards, the terms will be established in the grant announcement.

§ 1709.114 Application process.

The RUS will request applications for high energy cost grants on a competitive basis by publication of a grant announcement as a Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) or Notice of Funding Opportunity. The grant announcement will establish the amount of funds available, the application package contents and additional requirements, the availability of application materials, high energy cost community eligibility benchmarks, selection criteria and weights, priority considerations, and deadlines and procedures for submitting applications.

§ 1709.115 Availability of application materials.

Application materials, including copies of the grant announcement and all required forms and certifications will be available by request from the Agency and by such other means as the Agency may determine. In addition, the Agency may make available an application guide and other materials that may be of assistance to prospective applicants.

§ 1709.116 Application package.

The requirements for the application package will be established in the grant announcement. A complete application package will consist of the standard application for federal assist-

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ance (SF-424 series), as applicable, a narrative project proposal prepared in accordance with the grant announcement, an RUS environmental profile, and such other supporting documentation, forms, and certifications as required in the grant announcement and this part.

§ 1709.117 Application requirements.

(a) *Required forms.* The forms required for application and where to obtain them will be specified in the announcement. All required forms must be completed, signed and submitted by a person authorized to submit the proposal on behalf of the applicant. For applications and forms that are submitted electronically, the application must be authenticated as provided in the grant announcement. In the case of grant applications submitted electronically, the applicant may be required to provide signed originals of required forms prior to and as a condition of the grant award.

(b) *Narrative proposal.* Each application must include a narrative proposal describing the proposed project and addressing eligibility and selection criteria. The grant announcement will specify the contents, order, and format for the narrative proposal. The proposal must include all the required elements identified in this subsection. The grant announcement may establish additional required elements that must be addressed in the narrative project proposal.

(1) *Executive summary.* A summary of the proposal should briefly describe the project including target community, goals, tasks to be completed and other relevant information that provides a general overview of the project. The applicant must clearly state the amount of grant funds requested and identify any priority ratings for which the applicant believes it is qualified.

(2) *Applicant eligibility.* The narrative and supporting documentation must describe the applicant and establish its eligibility.

(3) *Community eligibility.* This section must describe the target area and communities to be served by the project and demonstrate eligibility. The applicant must clearly identify the: