

(a)(1) of that section, as determined solely by the Secretary;

(3) Has a viable business plan reasonably projecting profitable operations; and

(4) Has a reasonable timetable for achieving Regulatory Capital in an amount that satisfies the requirements of § 4290.210(a) of this part.

(c) *Comprehensive business plan.* The Applicant must submit a comprehensive business plan covering at least a five-year period, addressing the specific items described in § 4290.320, and which demonstrates that the Applicant has the capacity to operate successfully as a RBIC.

**§ 4290.320 Contents of comprehensive business plan.**

(a) *Plan for Developmental Venture Capital investing.* The Applicant must describe its plans and strategies for how it proposes to make successful Developmental Venture Capital investments in identified Rural Areas.

(b) *Working with Rural Area community-based organizations.* The Applicant must describe how it intends to work with community-based organizations and local entities (including local economic development companies, local lenders, and local investors) in order to facilitate its Developmental Venture Capital investments.

(c) *Market analysis.* The Applicant must provide an analysis of the Rural Areas in which it intends to focus its Developmental Venture Capital investments and Operational Assistance to Smaller Enterprises, demonstrating that the Applicant understands the market and the unmet Equity Capital needs in such areas and how its activities will meet these unmet needs and will have a positive economic impact on those areas. The Applicant also must analyze the extent of the demand in such areas for Developmental Venture Capital investments and any factors or trends that may affect the Applicant's ability to make effective Developmental Venture Capital investments.

(d) *Operational capacity and investment strategies.* The Applicant must submit information concerning its policies and procedures for underwriting and approving its Develop-

mental Venture Capital investments, monitoring its portfolio, and maintaining internal controls and operations.

(e) *Plan to raise Regulatory Capital.* The Applicant must include a detailed description of how it plans to raise its Regulatory Capital if it has not yet done so at the time of application. The Applicant must discuss its potential sources of Regulatory Capital, the estimated timing for raising such funds, and the extent of the expressions of interest to commit such funds to the Applicant.

(f) *Plan for providing Operational Assistance.* The Applicant must describe how it plans to use its grant funds to provide Operational Assistance to Smaller Enterprises in which it makes or expects to make Developmental Venture Capital investments. Its plan must address the types of Operational Assistance it proposes to provide, and how it plans to provide the Operational Assistance through the use of licensed professionals, when necessary, either from its own staff or from outside entities.

(g) *Projected amount of investment in Rural Areas.* The Applicant must describe how it proposes to meet the requirements set forth in § 4290.700. An Applicant must project the amount of its total Regulatory Capital and Leverage that it proposes to invest in Smaller Enterprises and in Rural Business Concerns that are not Smaller Enterprises. The Applicant also must describe the amount of its total Regulatory Capital and Leverage that it proposes to invest in Urban Area Investments.

(h) *Projected impact.* The Applicant must describe the criteria and economic measurements to be used to evaluate whether and to what extent it has met the objectives of the RBIC program. It must include:

(1) A description of the extent to which it will concentrate its Developmental Venture Capital investments and Operational Assistance activities in identified Rural Areas;

(2) An estimate of the economic development benefits to be created within identified Rural Areas over the next five years or more as a result of its activities;

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(3) A description of the criteria to be used to measure the benefits created as a result of its activities;

(4) A discussion about the amount of such benefits created that it will consider to constitute successfully meeting the objectives of the RBIC program.

(i) *Affiliates and business relationships.* The Applicant must submit information describing the management and financial strength of any parent or holding entity, affiliated firm or entity, or any other firm or entity essential to the success of the Applicant's business plan.

### **§ 4290.330 Grant issuance fee.**

The Applicant must pay to the Secretary a grant issuance fee of \$5,000. An Applicant must submit this fee in advance, at the time of application submission.

## **Subpart E—Evaluation and Selection of RBICs**

### **§ 4290.340 Evaluation and selection—general.**

The Secretary on behalf of USDA and the Administrator on behalf of SBA, in their sole discretion, will evaluate and select an Applicant to participate in the RBIC program based on a review of the Applicant's application materials, interviews or site visits with the Applicant (if any), and background investigations conducted by the Secretary and other Federal agencies. The Secretary's evaluation and selection process is intended to—

(a) Ensure that Applicants are evaluated on a competitive basis and in a fair and consistent manner;

(b) Take into consideration the unique proposals presented by Applicants;

(c) Ensure that each Applicant licensed as a RBIC can fulfill successfully the goals of its comprehensive business plan; and

(d) Ensure that the Secretary selects Applicants in such a way as to promote nationwide geographic distribution of Developmental Venture Capital investments.

### **§ 4290.350 Eligibility and completeness.**

The Secretary will not consider any application that is not complete or that is submitted by an Applicant that does not meet the eligibility criteria described in subpart C of this part. The Secretary at his or her sole discretion, may request from an Applicant additional information concerning eligibility criteria or easily completed portions of the application in order to facilitate consideration of its application.

### **§ 4290.360 Initial review of Applicant's management team's qualifications.**

The Secretary will review the information submitted by the Applicant concerning the qualifications of the Applicant's management team to determine in his or her sole discretion whether the team meets the minimum requirements deemed by the Secretary to be critical to successful venture capital investing. In making this determination, the Secretary will consider, among other things, the general business reputation of the owners and managers of the Applicant. Only those Applicants considered to have a management team qualified for venture capital investing will be further considered for selection as a RBIC.

### **§ 4290.370 Evaluation criteria.**

Of those Applicants whose management team is considered qualified for venture capital investing and who have submitted an eligible and complete application, the Secretary on behalf of USDA and the Administrator on behalf of SBA, in their sole discretion, will evaluate and select an Applicant for participation in the RBIC program by considering the following criteria—

(a) Whether the Applicant's management team has the knowledge, experience, and capability necessary to manage a sound, economically viable RBIC and to comply with the Act;

(b) The quality of the Applicant's comprehensive business plan in terms of meeting the objectives of the RBIC program;

(c) The likelihood that the Applicant will achieve the goals described in its comprehensive business plan;