

**PART 573—LOAN GUARANTEE  
RECOVERY FUND**

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SOURCE: 61 FR 47405, Sept. 6, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 573.1 Authority and purpose.**

Section 4 of the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-155, approved July 3, 1996) authorizes HUD to guarantee loans made by financial institutions to certain nonprofit organizations to finance activities designed to remedy the damage and destruction to real and personal property caused by acts of arson or terrorism. This part establishes the general procedures and requirements that apply to HUD's guarantee of these loans.

**§ 573.2 Definitions.**

The following definitions are only applicable to loan guarantees under this part, and are not criminal definitions.

*Act* means "The Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996" (Pub. L. 104-155, approved July 3, 1996).

*Arson* means a fire or explosion causing damage to (or destruction of) real or personal property that a Qualified Certification Official determines, or reasonably believes, to be deliberately set.

*Borrower* means an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, whose property has been damaged or destroyed as a result of an act of arson or terrorism and that incurs a debt obligation to a financial institution for the purpose of carrying out activities eligible under his part.

*Financial Institution* means a lender which may be a bank, trust company,

savings and loan association, credit union, mortgage company, or other issuer regulated by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Office of Thrift Supervision, the Credit Union Administration, or the U.S. Comptroller of the Currency. A Financial Institution may also be a Pension Fund.

*Guarantee* means an obligation of the United States Government guaranteeing payment of the outstanding principal loan amount, in whole or in part, plus interest thereon, on a debt obligation of the Borrower to a Financial Institution upon failure of the Borrower to repay the debt.

*Guaranteed Loan Funds* means funds received by the borrower from the Financial Institution to finance eligible activities under this part, the repayment of which is guaranteed by HUD.

*Loan Guarantee Agreement* means an agreement between a Financial Institution and the Secretary detailing the rights, responsibilities, procedures, terms, and conditions under which a loan provided by a Financial Institution to a Borrower may be guaranteed under section 4 of the Act.

*Qualified Certification Official (QCO)*—  
(1) *For the purpose of certifying an act of arson.* A State or local official authorized to investigate possible acts of arson. For the purposes of this definition, such an official is authorized to execute an Official Incident Report or its equivalent and may be an official or employee of such agencies as the local fire department, the local police department, or the State Fire Marshall Office or its equivalent. The term "Qualified Certification Official" also includes HUD, which will consult with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms of the Department of the Treasury in making its determinations.

(2) *For the purpose of certifying an act of terrorism.* The Secretary or his designee, in consultation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, shall determine whether an act of violence is a terrorist act or is reasonably believed to be a terrorist act.

*Section 4 Guaranteed Loan* means a HUD guaranteed loan made by a Financial Institution to a Borrower for the

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purpose of carrying out eligible activities to address damage or destruction caused by acts of arson or terrorism.

*Terrorism* means an act of violence causing damage to (or destruction of) real or personal property that the Secretary or his designee, in consultation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, determines to be, or reasonably believes to be, a terrorist act, as defined by applicable Federal law or guidelines.

### § 573.3 Eligible activities.

Guaranteed Loan Funds may be used by a Borrower for the following activities when it is certified in accordance with § 573.6(e) that the activity is necessary to address damage caused by an act or acts of arson or terrorism as certified in accordance with § 573.6(f):

- (a) Acquisition of improved or unimproved real property in fee or under long term lease.
- (b) Acquisition and installation of personal property.
- (c) Rehabilitation of real property owner, acquired, or leased by the Borrower.
- (d) Construction, reconstruction, or replacement of real property improvement.
- (e) Clearance, demolition, and removal, including movement of structures to other sites, of buildings, fixtures and improvements on real property.
- (f) Site preparation, including construction, reconstruction, or installation of site improvements, utilities, or facilities, which is related to the activities described in paragraph (a), (c), or (d) of this section.
- (g) Architectural, engineering, and similar services necessary to develop plans in connection with activities financed under paragraph (a), (b), (c), or (d) of this section.
- (h) Acquisition, installation and restoration of security systems.
- (i) Loans for refinancing existing indebtedness secured by a property which has been or will be acquired, constructed, rehabilitated or reconstructed, if such financing is determined to be appropriate to achieve the objectives of the Act and this part.
- (j) Other necessary project costs such as insurance, bonding, legal fees, ap-

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praisals, surveys, relocation, closing costs, etc., paid or incurred by the Borrower in connection with the completion of the above activities.

[61 FR 47405, Sept. 6, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 24574, May 6, 1997]

### § 573.4 Loan term.

The term of the loan to be guaranteed by HUD under this part may not exceed 20 years.

### § 573.5 Underwriting standards and availability of loan guarantee assistance.

(a) HUD may, in its discretion, accept the underwriting standards of the Financial Institution making a loan to a Borrower.

(b) HUD will not make the loan guarantee unless it determines that the guaranteed loan is an acceptable financial risk under HUD's generally applicable loan underwriting standards based on the following:

- (1) The Borrower's ability to pay debt service; and
- (2) The value of the collateral assigned or pledged as security for the repayment of the loan.

(c) The provision of a loan guarantee to a Financial Institution and the amount of the guarantee do not depend in any way on the purpose, function, or identity of the organization to which the Financial Institution has made, or intends to make, a Section 4 Guaranteed Loan.

(d) HUD may disapprove a request for loan guarantee assistance based on the availability of funding.

(e) HUD may decline any Financial Institution's participation if its underwriting criteria are insufficient to make the guarantee an acceptable financial risk, or if the proposed interest rates or fees are unacceptable. HUD expects the proposed interest rates to take into account the value of the Federal guarantee.

(f) HUD may limit the availability of Guaranteed Loan Funds to geographic areas having the greatest need, as determined by a needs analysis of the most current available data conducted by HUD.

(g) Other requirements associated with the underwriting standards and

guidelines shall be contained in the Loan Guarantee Agreement.

**§ 573.6 Submission requirements.**

A Financial Institution seeking a Section 4 Guaranteed Loan must submit to HUD the following documentation:

(a) A statement that the institution is a Financial Institution as defined at § 573.2.

(b) A statement that the Borrower is eligible as defined at § 573.2.

(c) A description of each eligible activity for which the loan is requested.

(d) A statement of other available funds to be used to finance the eligible activities (e.g., insurance proceeds).

(e) A certification by the Borrower that the activities to be assisted resulted from an act of arson or terrorism which is the subject of the certification described in paragraph (f) of this section.

(f) A certification by a QCO that the damage or destruction to be remedied by the use of the Guaranteed Loan Funds resulted from an act of arson or terrorism.

(g) The environmental documentation required by § 573.8.

(h) A narrative of the institution's underwriting standards used in reviewing the Borrower's loan request.

(i) The interest rate on the loan and fees the lender intends to use in connection with the loan; and

(j) The percentage of the loan for which a guarantee is requested.

**§ 573.7 Loan guarantee agreement.**

(a) The rights and responsibilities with respect to the guaranteed loan shall be substantially described in an agreement entered into between the Financial Institution, as the lender, and the Secretary, as the guarantor, which agreement shall provide that:

(1) The lender has submitted or will submit a request for loan guarantee assistance that is accompanied by the Borrower's request for a loan to carry out eligible activities described in § 573.3;

(2) The lender will require the Borrower to execute a promissory note promising to repay the guaranteed loan in accordance with the terms thereof;

(3) The lender will require the Borrower to provide collateral security, to an extent and in a form, acceptable to HUD;

(4) HUD reserves the right to limit loan guarantees to loans financing the replacement of damaged property with comparable new property;

(5) The lender will follow certain claim procedures to be specified by HUD in connection with any defaults, including appropriate notification of default as required by HUD;

(6) The lender will follow procedures for payment under the guarantee whereby the lender will be paid (up to the amount of guarantee) the amount owed to the lender less any amount recovered from the underlying collateral security for the loan; and

(7) The lender will act as the fiscal agent for the loan, servicing the guaranteed loan, maintaining loan documents, and receiving the Borrower's payments of principal and interest. The Borrower and the lender may be required to execute a fiscal agency agreement.

(b) In addition, the agreement shall contain other requirements, terms, and conditions required or approved by HUD.

**§ 573.8 Environmental procedures and standards.**

The environmental review requirements at 24 CFR part 50 are applicable to this part.

(a) *Environmental procedures.* Before any lender's submission requesting a loan guarantee for the acquisition, rehabilitation, or construction of real property can be selected for a loan guarantee, HUD shall determine whether any environmental thresholds are exceeded in accordance with 24 CFR part 50, which implements the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the related Federal environmental laws and authorities listed under 24 CFR 50.4. To assist in complying with environmental requirements, Borrowers are encouraged to select sites that are free of environmental hazards and are to provide HUD with environmental data needed to make a determination of compliance. For successful Borrowers,

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the costs for preparing the environmental data are eligible as project costs.

(1) If HUD determines that one or more of the thresholds are exceeded, HUD shall conduct a compliance review of the issue and, if appropriate, establish mitigating measures that the applicant shall carry out for the property.

(2) The lender's submissions under §573.6 shall provide HUD with:

(i) Documentation for environmental threshold review; and

(ii) Any previously issued environmental reviews prepared by local, State, or other Federal agencies for the proposed property.

(3) In providing the above information, the Borrower is encouraged to contact the local community development agency to obtain any previously issued environmental reviews for the proposed property as well as for other relevant information that can be used in the applicant documentation for the environmental threshold review.

(4) HUD reserves the right to disqualify any request where one or more environmental thresholds are exceeded if HUD determines that the compliance review cannot be satisfactorily completed.

(5) If Guaranteed Loan Funds are requested for acquisition, rehabilitation, or construction, Borrowers and Financial Institutions are prohibited from committing or expending State, local, or other funds to undertake property acquisition, rehabilitation or construction under this part until HUD issues a letter of commitment notifying the lender of HUD approval of the loan guarantee.

(b) *Environmental thresholds.* HUD shall determine whether a NEPA environmental assessment is required. Also, HUD shall determine whether the proposed property triggers thresholds for the applicable Federal environmental laws and authorities listed under 24 CFR 50.4 as follows:

(1) For minor rehabilitation of a building and acquisition of any property, Federal environmental laws and authorities may apply when the property is:

(i) Located within designated coastal barrier resources;

(ii) Contaminated by toxic chemicals or radioactive materials;

(iii) Located within a floodplain;

(iv) A building for which flood insurance protection is required;

(v) Located within a runway clear zone at a civil airport or within a clear zone or accident potential zone at a military airfield; or

(vi) Listed on, or eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places; located within, or adjacent to, an historic district, or is a property whose area of potential effects includes a historic district or property.

(2) For major rehabilitation of a building or for new construction or rebuilding, and environmental assessment under NEPA is required and, in addition to paragraph (b)(1)(i) through (vi) of this section, other Federal environmental laws and authorities may apply when the property:

(i) Affects coastal zone management;

(ii) Is located near hazardous industrial operations handling fuels or chemicals of an explosive or flammable nature;

(iii) Affects a sole source aquifer;

(iv) Affects endangered species;

(v) Is located within a designated wetland; or

(vi) Is located in a high noise area.

(c) *Qualified data sources.* The environmental threshold information provided by applicants must be from qualified data sources. A qualified data source means any Federal, State, or local agency with expertise or experience in environmental protection (e.g., the local community development agency; the local planning agency; the State environmental protection agency; or the State Historic Preservation Officer) or any other source qualified to provide reliable information on the particular property.

(d) *Definition.* Minor rehabilitation means proposed fixing and repairs:

(1) Whose estimated cost is less than 75 percent of the estimated cost of replacement after completion;

(2) That does not involve changes in land use from residential to nonresidential, or from nonresidential to residential; and

(3) In the case of residential properties, that does not increase density more than 20 percent.

(e) *Project consultants.* In achieving compliance with these procedures, Borrower's architectural and engineering consultants shall consider these environmental factors and provide information in their plan narratives as to how their construction plans conform with the above environmental factors. To facilitate HUD's compliance with part 50, the Borrower is required to submit the consultant's information and plan narrative discussing the pertinent environmental factors under this section.

#### § 573.9 Other requirements.

(a) *Nondiscrimination and equal opportunity.* The nondiscrimination and equal opportunity requirements described in 24 CFR part 5, subpart A apply to this part.

(b) *2 CFR part 200.* The provisions of 2 CFR part 200 apply to guaranteed loans under this part.

(c) *Lead-based paint.* Housing assisted under this part is subject to the lead-based paint requirements described in part 35, subparts A, B, E, G, and R of this title.

(d) *Labor standards—(1) Davis-Bacon.* All laborers and mechanics employed by contractors or subcontractors in the performance of construction work financed in whole or in part with Guaranteed Loan Funds under this part shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar construction in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act, as amended (40 U.S.C. 276a-276a-5). This paragraph shall apply to the rehabilitation of residential property only if such property contains not less than 8 units.

(2) *Volunteers.* The provisions of paragraph (d)(1) of this section shall not apply to volunteers under the conditions set forth in 24 CFR part 70. In applying part 70, loan guarantees under this part shall be treated as a program for which there is a statutory exemption for volunteers.

(3) *Labor standards.* Any contract, subcontract, or building loan agreement executed for a project subject to Davis-Bacon wage rates under paragraph (d)(1) of this section shall comply with all labor standards and provisions of 29 CFR parts 1, 3 and 5 that would be applicable to a loan guarantee program

to which Davis-Bacon wage rates are made applicable by statute.

[61 FR 47405, Sept. 6, 1996, as amended at 64 FR 50226, Sept. 15, 1999; 80 FR 75938, Dec. 7, 2015]

#### § 573.10 Fees for guaranteed loans.

(a) No fees will be assessed by HUD for its guaranty of a loan under this part.

(b) The lender may assess the Borrower loan origination fees or other charges provided that such fees and charges are those charged by the lender to its other customers for similar transactions, and are no higher than those charged by the lender for similar transactions.

#### § 573.11 Record access and record-keeping.

Records pertaining to the loans made by the Financial Institution shall be held for the life of the loan. A lender with a Section 4 Guaranteed Loan shall allow HUD, the Comptroller General of the United States, and their authorized representatives access from time to time to any documents, papers or files which are pertinent to the guaranteed loan, and to inspect and make copies of such records which relate to any Section 4 Loan. Any inspection will be made during the lender's regular business hours or any other mutually convenient time.

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