

amended section 204 of PWEDA to require that EDA's federal grant rate for projects that meet PWEDA's eligibility requirements not exceed 60 percent. From this 60 percent federal grant rate, EDA is permitted to increase the federal grant rate up to 30 percent based on relative needs, and up to 100 percent in certain circumstances. Thus, prior to the Act, EDA had a maximum federal grant rate that ranged from 50 percent to 80 percent based on distress with some exceptions to get to 100 percent. Since the enactment of the Act, EDA's maximum federal grant rate ranges from 60 percent to 90 percent based on distress with some additional exceptions to get to 100 percent.

In this rule-making, EDA is taking a conservative approach and only updating the parts of its regulations that are explicitly contradicted by the Act and are necessary for ongoing EDA operations. EDA anticipates additional rule-makings to fully implement the Act, including at least one that would solicit notice and comment on a comprehensive update to EDA's distress criteria and grant rates.

## Classification

### Administrative Procedure Act and Regulatory Flexibility Act

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2), prior notice and opportunity for public comment are not required for rules concerning public property, loans, grants, benefits, and contracts. This rule conforms EDA's grant regulations with a statutory change directed by Congress.

Because prior notice and an opportunity for public comment are not

required pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553, or any other law, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) are inapplicable. Therefore, a regulatory flexibility analysis has not been prepared.

### Executive Orders No. 12866, 13563, and 14192

This final rule was drafted in accordance with Executive Orders 12866, 13563, and 14192. OMB has determined that this rule is a significant regulatory action for purposes of Executive Orders 12866, as defined in section 3(f), and 13563. This rule is not an E.O. 14192 regulatory action because it is does not impose any more than de minimis regulatory costs.

### Congressional Review Act

This final rule is not major under the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*).

### Executive Order No. 13132

This final rule does not contain policies that have federalism implications.

### Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) ("PRA") requires that a Federal agency consider the impact of paperwork and other information collection burdens imposed on the public and, under the provisions of PRA section 3507(d), obtain approval from OMB for each collection of information it conducts, sponsors, or requires through regulations. This final

rule does not require the collection of any information and is therefore not subject to the PRA.

### List of Subjects in 13 CFR Part 301

Applicant and application requirements, Economic distress levels, Eligibility requirements, Grant administration, Grant programs, Investment rates.

For the reasons discussed above, EDA is amending title 13, chapter III of the Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

## PART 301—ELIGIBILITY, INVESTMENT RATE AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- 1. The authority citation for part 301 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 42 U.S.C. 3121; 42 U.S.C. 3141–3147; 42 U.S.C. 3149; 42 U.S.C. 3161; 42 U.S.C. 3175; 42 U.S.C. 3192; 42 U.S.C. 3194; 42 U.S.C. 3211; 42 U.S.C. 3233; Department of Commerce Delegation Order 10–4.

- 2. Amend § 301.4 by:
  - a. In paragraph (b)(1), removing the number "50" and adding in its place the number "60";
  - b. Revising Table 1 to paragraph (b)(1)(ii); and
  - c. In paragraph (b)(3)(i), removing the number "50" and adding in its place the number "60".

The revision reads as follows:

### § 301.4 Investment rates.

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) \* \* \*

(1) \* \* \*

(ii) \* \* \*

TABLE 1

| Projects located in regions in which:   | Maximum allowable investment rates (percentage) |
|---|---|
| (A) The 24-month unemployment rate is at least 225% of the national average; or .....                           | 80  |
| (B) The per capita income is not more than 50% of the national average .....                                    | 80  |
| (C) The 24-month unemployment rate is at least 200% of the national average; or .....                           | 70  |
| (D) The per capita income is not more than 60% of the national average .....                                    | 70  |
| (E) The 24-month unemployment rate is at least one percentage point greater than the national average; or ..... | 60  |
| (F) The per capita income is not more than 80% of the national average .....                                    | 60  |

\* \* \* \* \*

Dated: November 17, 2025.

**Benjamin Page,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary and Chief Operating Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2025-20307 Filed 11-18-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-24-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

### 24 CFR Part 570

[Docket No. FR-6561-N-01]

### Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program: Announcement of Fee To Cover Credit Subsidy Costs for FY 2026

**AGENCY:** Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, HUD.

**ACTION:** Announcement of fee.

**SUMMARY:** This document announces the fee that HUD will collect from borrowers of loans guaranteed under HUD's Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program (Section 108 Program) to offset the credit subsidy costs of the guaranteed loans pursuant to commitments awarded in Fiscal Year 2026 in the event HUD is required or authorized by statute to do so, notwithstanding subsection (m) of

section 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The fee to offset credit subsidy costs is changing from 0.82 percent in Fiscal Year 2025 to 0.58 percent in Fiscal Year 2026.

**DATES:** *Applicability date:* October 1, 2025.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Scott Laliberte, Acting Deputy Director, Financial Management Division, Office of Block Grant Assistance, Office of Community Planning and Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Room 7282, Washington, DC 20410; telephone number 202-402-3956 (this is not a toll-free number). Individuals with speech or hearing impairments may access this number through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. FAX inquiries (but not comments) may be sent to Mr. Laliberte at 202-402-3956 (this is not a toll-free number).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Background**

The Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (division K of Pub. L. 113-235, approved December 16, 2014) (2015 Appropriations Act) provided that “the Secretary shall collect fees from borrowers, notwithstanding subsection (m) of such section 108, to result in a credit subsidy cost of zero for guaranteeing” Section 108 loans. This language overrode section 108(m) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, which states that “No fee or charge may be imposed by the Secretary or any other Federal agency on or with respect to a guarantee made by the Secretary under this section after February 5, 1988.” Identical language was continued or included in the Department’s continuing resolutions and appropriations acts authorizing HUD to issue Section 108 loan guarantees during Fiscal Years (FYs) 2016 to 2025.<sup>1</sup>

On November 3, 2015, HUD published a final rule (80 FR 67626) that amended the Section 108 Program regulations at 24 CFR part 570 to add 24 CFR 570.712. Section 24 CFR 570.712 established additional procedures for

charging borrowers a fee, including procedures for announcing the amount of the fee each fiscal year when HUD is required to offset the credit subsidy costs to the Federal Government to guarantee Section 108 loans. For FYs 2016 to 2025, HUD published notifications to set the fees in accordance with 24 CFR 570.712.<sup>2</sup>

**II. FY 2026 Fee: 0.58 Percent of the Principal Amount of the Loan**

If authorized by statute, this document sets the fee for Section 108 loan disbursements under loan guarantee commitments awarded for FY 2026 at 0.58 percent of the principal amount of the loan. HUD will collect this fee from borrowers of loans guaranteed under the Section 108 Program to offset the credit subsidy costs of the guaranteed loans pursuant to commitments awarded in FY 2026 if language authorizing the collection of fees in the FY 2026 HUD appropriations bills under consideration are enacted, or if HUD is otherwise required or authorized by statute to collect fees from borrowers to offset the credit subsidy costs of the guaranteed loans, notwithstanding subsection (m) of section 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5308(m)). The calculation of the FY 2026 fee uses a similar calculation model as the FY 2016 to FY 2024 fee<sup>3</sup> notifications but incorporates updated information regarding the composition of the Section 108 portfolio and the timing of the estimated future cash flows for defaults and recoveries. The calculation of the fee is also affected by the discount rates required to be used by HUD when calculating the present value of the future cash flows as part of the Federal budget process.

As described in 24 CFR 570.712(b), HUD’s credit subsidy calculation is based on the amount required to reduce the credit subsidy cost to the Federal Government associated with making a Section 108 loan guarantee to the amount established by applicable appropriation acts. As a result, HUD’s credit subsidy cost calculations incorporated assumptions based on: (1) data on default frequency for municipal debt where such debt is comparable to

loans in the Section 108 loan portfolio; (2) data on recovery rates on collateral security for comparable municipal debt; (3) the expected composition of the Section 108 portfolio by end users of the guaranteed loan funds (*e.g.*, third-party borrowers and public entities); and (4) other factors that HUD determined were relevant to this calculation (*e.g.*, assumptions as to loan disbursement and repayment patterns).

Taking these factors into consideration, HUD determined that the fee for disbursements made under loan guarantee commitments awarded in FY 2026 will be 0.58 percent, which will be applied only at the time of loan disbursements. Note that future notifications may provide for a combination of upfront and periodic fees for loan guarantee commitments awarded in future fiscal years but, if so, HUD will provide the public with an opportunity to comment if appropriate under 24 CFR 570.712(b)(2).

The expected cost of a Section 108 loan guarantee is difficult to estimate using historical program data because there have been no defaults in the history of the program that required HUD to pay a note holder in accordance with its full faith and credit guarantee or use the credit subsidy reserved each year for future losses.<sup>4</sup> This is due to a variety of factors, including the availability of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds as security for HUD’s guarantee as provided in 24 CFR 570.705(b). As authorized by Section 108(c) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5308(c)), borrowers may make payments on Section 108 loans using CDBG grant funds. Borrowers may also make Section 108 loan payments from other anticipated sources but continue to have CDBG funds available should they encounter shortfalls in the anticipated repayment source. Despite the program’s history of no defaults, Federal credit budgeting principles require that the availability of CDBG funds to repay the guaranteed loans cannot be assumed in the development of the credit subsidy cost estimate (see 80 FR 67629, November 3, 2015). Thus, the estimate must incorporate the risk that alternative sources are used to repay the guaranteed loan in lieu of CDBG funds, and that those sources may be insufficient. Based on the rate that CDBG funds are used annually for

<sup>1</sup> There are two Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 HUD appropriations bills currently under consideration (Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026 (H.R. 4552 and S. 2465)). Both bills have identical language suspending the prohibition against charging fees for loans issued with Section 108 guarantees after February 5, 1988, and requiring that the Secretary collect fees from borrowers to result in a credit subsidy cost of zero for the Section 108 Program.

<sup>2</sup> 80 FR 67634 (November 3, 2015), 81 FR 68297 (October 4, 2016), 82 FR 44518 (September 25, 2017), 83 FR 50257 (October 5, 2018), 84 FR 35299 (July 23, 2019), 85 FR 52479 (August 26, 2020), 86 FR 59302 (October 27, 2021), 87 FR 53662 (September 1, 2022), 88 FR 73532 (October 26, 2023), and 89 FR 78239 (September 25, 2024) respectively.

<sup>3</sup> The methodology for FY 2025 was changed to increase portfolio composition components and repayment timing due to a special initiative undertaken in the fiscal year.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *Study of HUD’s Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program*, (prepared by Econometrica, Inc. and The Urban Institute), September 2012, at pp. 73-74. This fact has not changed since the issuance of this report.

repayment of loan guarantees, HUD's calculation of the credit subsidy cost must acknowledge the possibility of future defaults if those CDBG funds were not available. The fee of 0.58 percent of the principal amount of the loan will offset the expected cost to the Federal Government due to default, financing costs, and other relevant factors. To arrive at this measure, HUD analyzed data on comparable municipal debt over an extended period. The estimated rate is based on the default and recovery rates for general purpose municipal debt and industrial development bonds. The cumulative default rates on industrial development bonds were higher than the default rates on general purpose municipal debt during the period from which the data were taken. These two subsectors of municipal debt were chosen because their purposes and loan terms most closely resemble those of Section 108 guaranteed loans.

In this regard, Section 108 guaranteed loans can be broken down into two categories: (1) loans that finance public infrastructure and activities to support subsidized housing (other than financing new construction) and (2) other development projects (e.g., retail, commercial, industrial). The 0.58 percent fee was derived by combining the default and recovery data for general purpose municipal debt and the data for industrial development bonds according to the expected composition of the Section 108 portfolio by corresponding project type. Based on the dollar amount of Section 108 loan guarantee commitments awarded from FY 2020 through FY 2024, HUD expects that 61.2 percent of the Section 108 portfolio will be similar to general purpose municipal debt and 38.8 percent of the portfolio will be similar to industrial development bonds. In setting the fee at 0.58 percent of the principal amount of the guaranteed loan, HUD expects that the amount generated will fully offset the cost to the Federal Government associated with making guarantee commitments awarded in FY 2026. Note that the fee decreased from 0.82 percent in FY 2025 to 0.58 percent in FY 2026, a decrease of 0.24 percent in the level of fee charged.

This document establishes a statutorily required fiscal requirement in the form of a fee based on rate and cost determinations that does not constitute a development decision that affects the physical condition of specific project areas or building sites. Accordingly, under 24 CFR 50.19(c)(6), this document is categorically excluded from environmental review under the

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321).

**Bryan W. Horn,**

*Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development.*

[FR Doc. 2025-20345 Filed 11-18-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4210-67-P**

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**POSTAL SERVICE**

**39 CFR Part 601**

**Purchasing of Property and Services**

**AGENCY:** Postal Service.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Postal Service is revising its purchasing regulations governing debarment, suspension, and ineligibility from contracting to provide improved organization and clarity, updates to definitions and processes to better reflect actual practice, and alternatives in lieu of suspension and debarment.

**DATES:** Effective November 19, 2025.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Robert Dietz at 202-268-6088 or Susan Witt at 202-268-4833

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following updates to 39 CFR 601.113 are being included:

- Section 601.113 is now titled *“Debarment, Suspension, and Ineligibility from Contracting.”*

- *Paragraph (a): General* was augmented to further describe the purpose of the Postal Service's suspension and debarment process, and clarify that suspension and debarment are separate from the procedures under § 601.105;

- *Paragraph (b): Definitions* was revised to clarify all prior definitions, and add the following new definitions: Administrative Compliance Agreement, concurrence, contract, Debarment Official, excluded party, party, and voluntary exclusion;

- *Paragraph (c): Debarment* now consolidates the procedures and grounds for debarment, which were previously included in paragraphs (h) through (k);

- *Paragraph (c)(1): Procedures* (previously located at paragraph (k)) was expanded to more clearly define the processes and standards used to initiate and conduct debarment proceedings;

- *Paragraph (c)(2): Grounds* (previously titled *“Causes for debarment”* and located at paragraph (h)) was revised for clarity, including confirming that a violation of federal ethics law or principles is grounds for debarment;

- *Paragraph (c)(3): Mitigation* (previously located at paragraph (i)) received minor modifications for clarity;

- *Paragraph (c)(4): Period of Debarment* (previously located at paragraph (j)) was revised to increase the standard period of debarment from 3 years to 5 years, confirm that the Debarment Official may debar a party for longer than 5 years, and clarify the process for a party to later seek a reduction of the debarment period;

- *Paragraph (c)(5): Alternative remedies* is a new paragraph confirming the ability of a party to enter into an Administrative Compliance Agreement or agree to a voluntary exclusion in lieu of debarment;

- *Paragraph (d): Suspension* consolidated the procedures for suspension, grounds for suspension, and period of suspension, which were previously located at paragraphs (e) through (g);

- *Paragraph (e): Imputation of Conduct* was restructured as a stand-alone paragraph (previously located at paragraph (h)(4) and (h)(5)) and revised to confirm that the conduct of a party's affiliate may be imputed to that party;

- *Paragraph (f): Suspension, debarment, and ineligible list* (previously located at paragraph (c)) was revised to clarify the Postal Service's use of the General Services Administration's System for Award Management (SAM.gov) in reporting debarments and suspensions, and confirm that contracting officers must review the database before making any contract award;

- *Paragraph (g): Treatment of debarred, suspended, or ineligible parties* (previously titled *“Treatment of suppliers included in the SAM Exclusions database”* and located at paragraph (d)) was augmented to further define how debarred, suspended, or ineligible parties will be treated with regards to contracting with or performing any services for the Postal Service; and

- *Paragraph (h): Notices* was added to identify how all notices from the Debarment Official under this section must be sent.

**List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 601**

Administrative practice and procedure, Government procurement, Postal Service.

Accordingly, the Postal Service amends 39 CFR part 601 as follows:

**PART 601—PURCHASING OF PROPERTY AND SERVICES**

■ 1. The authority citation for 39 CFR part 601 continues to read as follows: