

a Director designated by the Secretary of Agriculture.

(b) Purposes

The purposes of the Office are:

(1) to review and process applications under section 1472(c) of this title and section 1485(t) of this title related to the preservation of rural rental housing;

(2) to provide technical or financial assistance to any other projects needing such assistance;

(3) to coordinate and direct all other activities related to the preservation of rural housing; and

(4) to monitor compliance of projects prepaid or receiving incentives under the Housing Act of 1949.

(July 15, 1949, ch. 338, title V, § 537, as added Pub. L. 102-550, title VII, § 712(c), Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 3841.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Housing Act of 1949, referred to in subsec. (b)(4), is act July 15, 1949, ch. 338, 63 Stat. 413, as amended, which is classified principally to this chapter (§1441 et seq.). For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1441 of this title and Tables.

§ 1490p-2. Loan guarantees for multifamily rental housing in rural areas

(a) Authority

The Secretary may make commitments to guarantee eligible loans for the development costs of eligible housing and related facilities, and may guarantee such eligible loans, in accordance with this section.

(b) Extent of guarantee

A guarantee made under this section shall guarantee repayment of an amount not exceeding the total of the amount of the unpaid principal and interest of the loan for which the guarantee is made. The liability of the United States under any guarantee under this section shall decrease or increase pro rata with any decrease or increase of the amount of the unpaid portion of the obligation.

(c) Eligible borrowers

A loan guaranteed under this section may be made to a nonprofit organization, an agency or body of any State government or political subdivision thereof, an Indian tribe, or a private entity.

(d) Eligible housing

A loan may be guaranteed under this section only if the loan is used for the development costs of housing and related facilities (as such terms are defined in section 1485(e) of this title) that—

(1) consists of 5 or more adequate dwellings;

(2) is available for occupancy only by low or moderate income¹ families or persons, whose incomes at the time of initial occupancy do

¹So in original. Probably should be “low- or moderate-income”.

not exceed 115 percent of the median income of the area, as determined by the Secretary;

(3) will remain available as provided in paragraph (2), according to such binding commitments as the Secretary may require, for the period of the original term of the loan guaranteed, unless the housing is acquired by foreclosure (or instrument in lieu of foreclosure) or the Secretary waives the applicability of such requirement for the loan only after determining, based on objective information, that—

(A) there is no longer a need for low- and moderate-income housing in the market area in which the housing is located;

(B) housing opportunities for low-income households and minorities will not be reduced as a result of the waiver; and

(C) additional Federal assistance will not be necessary as a result of the waiver; and

(4) is located in a rural area.

(e) Eligible lenders

(1) Requirement

A loan may be guaranteed under this section only if the loan is made by a lender that the Secretary determines—

(A) meets the qualifications, and has been approved by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, to make loans for multifamily housing that are to be insured under the National Housing Act [12 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.];

(B) meets the qualifications, and has been approved by the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, to make loans for multifamily housing that are to be sold to such corporations; or

(C) meets any qualifications that the Secretary may, by regulation, establish for participation of lenders in the loan guarantee program under this section.

(2) Eligibility list and annual audit

The Secretary shall establish a list of eligible lenders and shall annually conduct an audit of each lender included in the list for purposes of determining whether such lender continues to be an eligible lender.

(f) Loan terms

Each loan guaranteed pursuant to this section shall—

(1) be made for a period of not less than 25 nor greater than 40 years from the date the loan was made and may provide for amortization of the loan over a period of not to exceed 40 years with a final payment of the balance due at the end of the loan term;

(2) involve a rate of interest agreed upon by the borrower and the lender that does not exceed the maximum allowable rate established by the Secretary for purposes of this section and is fixed over the term of the loan;

(3) involve a principal obligation (including initial service charges, appraisal, inspection, and other fees as the Secretary may approve) not to exceed—

(A) in the case of a borrower that is a nonprofit organization or an agency or body of any State or local government, 97 percent of

the development costs of the housing and related facilities or the value of the housing and facilities, whichever is less;

(B) in the case of a borrower that is a for-profit entity not referred to in subparagraph (A), 90 percent of the development costs of the housing and related facilities or the value of the housing and facilities, whichever is less; and

(C) in the case of any borrower, for such part of the property as may be attributable to dwelling use, the applicable maximum per unit dollar amount limitations under section 207(c) of the National Housing Act [12 U.S.C. 1713(c)];

(4) be secured by a first mortgage on the housing and related facilities for which the loan is made, or otherwise, as the Secretary may determine necessary to ensure repayment of the obligation; and

(5) for at least 20 percent of the loans made under this section, the Secretary shall provide the borrower with assistance in the form of credits pursuant to section 1490a(a)(1)(B) of this title to the extent necessary to reduce the rate of interest under paragraph (2) to the applicable Federal rate, as such term is used in section 42(i)(2)(D)² of title 26.

(g) Guarantee fee

At the time of issuance of a loan guaranteed under this section, the Secretary may collect from the lender a fee equal to not more than 1 percent of the principal obligation of the loan.

(h) Authority for lenders to issue certificates of guarantee

The Secretary may authorize certain eligible lenders to determine whether a loan meets the requirements for guarantee under this section and, subject to the availability of authority to enter into guarantees under this section, execute a firm commitment for a guarantee binding upon the Secretary and issue a certificate of guarantee evidencing a guarantee, without review and approval by the Secretary of the specific loan. The Secretary may establish standards for approving eligible lenders for a delegation of authority under this subsection.

(i) Payment under guarantee

(1) Notice of default

In the event of default by the borrower on a loan guaranteed under this section, the holder of the guarantee certificate for the loan shall provide written notice of the default to the Secretary.

(2) Foreclosure

After receiving notice under paragraph (1) and providing written notice of action under this paragraph to the Secretary, the holder of the guarantee certificate for the loan may initiate foreclosure proceedings for the loan in a court of competent jurisdiction, in accordance with regulations issued by the Secretary, to obtain possession of the security property. After the court issues a final order authorizing foreclosure on the property, the holder of the

certificate shall be entitled to payment by the Secretary under the guarantee (in the amount provided under subsection (b)) upon (A) submission to the Secretary of a claim for payment under the guarantee, and (B) assignment to the Secretary of all the claims of the holder of the guarantee against the borrower or others arising out of the loan transaction or foreclosure proceedings, except claims released with the consent of the Secretary.

(3) Assignment by Secretary

After receiving notice under paragraph (1), the Secretary may accept assignment of the loan if the Secretary determines that the assignment is in the best interests of the United States. Assignment of a loan under this paragraph shall include conveyance to the Secretary of title to the security property, assignment to the Secretary of all rights and interests arising under the loan, and assignment to the Secretary of all claims against the borrower or others arising out of the loan transaction. Upon assignment of a loan under this paragraph, the holder of a guarantee certificate for the loan shall be entitled to payment by the Secretary under the guarantee (in the amount provided under subsection (b)).

(4) Requirements

Before any payment under a guarantee is made under paragraph (2) or (3), the holder of the guarantee certificate shall exhaust all reasonable possibilities of collection on the loan guaranteed. Upon payment, in whole or in part, to the holder, the note or judgment evidencing the debt shall be assigned to the United States and the holder shall have no further claim against the borrower or the United States. The Secretary shall then take such action to collect as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(j) Violation of guarantee requirements by lenders issuing guarantees

(1) Indemnification

If the Secretary determines that a loan guaranteed by an eligible lender pursuant to delegation of authority under subsection (h) was not originated in accordance with the requirements under this section and the Secretary pays a claim under the guarantee for the loan, the Secretary may require the eligible lender authorized under subsection (h) to issue the guarantee certificate for the loan—

(A) to indemnify the Secretary for the loss, if the payment under the guarantee was made within a reasonable period specified by the Secretary; or

(B) to indemnify the Secretary for the loss regardless of when payment under the guarantee was made, if the Secretary determines that fraud or misrepresentation was involved in connection with the origination of the loan.

(2) Termination of authority to issue guarantees

The Secretary may cancel a delegation of authority under subsection (h) to an eligible lender if the Secretary determines that the lender has violated the requirements and pro-

² See References in Text note below.

cedures for guaranteed loans under this section or for other good cause. Any such cancellation shall be made by giving notice to the eligible lender and shall take effect upon receipt of the notice by the mortgagee or at a later date, as the Secretary may provide. A decision by the Secretary to cancel a delegation shall be final and conclusive and shall not be subject to judicial review.

(k) Refinancing

Any loan guaranteed under this section may be refinanced and extended in accordance with terms and conditions that the Secretary shall prescribe, but in no event for an additional amount or term that exceeds the limitations under subsection (f).

(l) Geographical targeting

(1) Study

The Secretary shall provide for an independent entity to conduct a study to determine the extent to which borrowers in the United States will utilize loan guarantees under this section, the rural areas in the United States in which borrowers can best utilize and most need loans guaranteed under this section, and the rural areas in the United States in which housing of the type eligible for a loan guarantee under this section is most needed by low- and moderate-income families. The Secretary shall require the independent entity conducting the study to submit a report to the Secretary and to the Congress describing the results of the study not later than the expiration of the 90-day period beginning on March 28, 1996.

(2) Targeting

In providing loan guarantees under this section, the Secretary shall establish standards to target and give priority to rural areas in which borrowers can best utilize and most need loans guaranteed under this section, as determined by the Secretary based on the results of the study under paragraph (1) and any other information the Secretary considers appropriate.

(m) Inapplicability of credit-elsewhere test

Section 1471(c) of this title shall not apply to guarantees, or loans guaranteed, under this section.

(n) Tenant protections

The Secretary shall establish standards for the treatment of tenants of housing developed using amounts from a loan guaranteed under this section, which shall incorporate, to the extent applicable, existing standards applicable to tenants of housing developed with loans made under section 1485 of this title. Such standards shall include standards for fair housing and equal opportunity, lease and grievance procedures, and tenant appeals of adverse actions.

(o) Housing standards

The standards established under section 1485(m) of this title for housing and related facilities assisted under section 1485 of this title shall apply to housing and related facilities the development costs of which are financed in whole or in part with a loan guaranteed under this section.

(p) Limitation on commitments to guarantee loans

(1) Requirement of appropriations for cost subsidy

The authority of the Secretary to enter into commitments to guarantee loans under this section, and to guarantee loans, shall be effective for each fiscal year only to the extent that appropriations of budget authority to cover the costs (as such term is defined in section 661a of title 2) of the guarantees are made in advance for such fiscal year.

(2) Annual limitation on amount of loan guarantee

In each fiscal year, the Secretary may enter into commitments to guarantee loans under this section only to the extent that the costs of the guarantees entered into in such fiscal year do not exceed such amount as may be provided in appropriation Acts for such fiscal year.

(q) Report

(1) In general

The Secretary shall submit a report to the Congress, not later than the expiration of the 2-year period beginning on March 28, 1996, describing the program under this section for guaranteeing loans.

(2) Contents

The report shall—

(A) describe the types of borrowers providing housing with loans guaranteed under this section, the areas served by the housing provided and the geographical distribution of the housing, the levels of income of the residents of the housing, the number of dwelling units provided, the extent to which borrowers under such loans have obtained other financial assistance for development costs of housing provided with the loans, and the extent to which borrowers under such loans have used low-income housing tax credits provided under section 42 of title 26 in connection with the housing provided with the loans;

(B) analyze the financial viability of the housing provided with loans guaranteed under this section and the need for project-based rental assistance for such housing;

(C) include any recommendations of the Secretary for expanding or improving the program under this section for guaranteeing loans; and

(D) include any other information regarding the program for guaranteeing loans under this section that the Secretary considers appropriate.

(r) Definitions

For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) The term “development cost” has the meaning given the term in section 1485(e) of this title.

(2) The term “eligible lender” means a lender determined by the Secretary to meet the requirements of subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of subsection (e)(1).

(3) The terms “housing” and “related facilities” have the meanings given such terms in section 1485(e) of this title.

(4) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe” means—

(A) any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community of Indians, including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation, as defined by or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), that is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.);² or

(B) any entity established by the governing body of an Indian tribe described in subparagraph (A) for the purpose of financing economic development.

(s) Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated for each fiscal year for costs (as such term is defined in section 661a of title 2) of loan guarantees made under this section such sums as may be necessary for such fiscal year to provide guarantees under this section for eligible loans having an aggregate principal amount of \$500,000,000.

(t) Tax-exempt financing

The Secretary may not deny a guarantee under this section on the basis that the interest on the loan or on an obligation supporting the loan for which a guarantee is sought is exempt from inclusion in gross income for purposes of chapter I³ of title 26.

(u) Fee authority

Any amounts collected by the Secretary pursuant to the fees charged to lenders for loan guarantees issued under this section shall be used to offset costs (as defined by section 661a of title 2) of loan guarantees made under this section.

(v) Defaults of loans secured by reservation lands

In the event of a default involving a loan to an Indian tribe or tribal corporation made under this section which is secured by an interest in land within such tribe’s reservation (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior), including a community in Alaska incorporated by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act (25 U.S.C. 461 et seq.),² the lender shall only pursue liquidation after offering to transfer the account to an eligible tribal member, the tribe, or the Indian housing authority serving the tribe. If the lender subsequently proceeds to liquidate the account, the lender shall not sell, transfer, or otherwise dispose of or alienate the property except to one of the entities described in the preceding sentence.

(July 15, 1949, ch. 338, title V, § 538, as added and amended Pub. L. 104-120, § 5, Mar. 28, 1996, 110 Stat. 835; Pub. L. 105-86, title VII, § 735(c), Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 2111; Pub. L. 105-276, title V,

§ 599C(c), Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2661; Pub. L. 106-569, title VII, § 707, Dec. 27, 2000, 114 Stat. 3015.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The National Housing Act, referred to in subsec. (e)(1)(A), is act June 27, 1934, ch. 847, 48 Stat. 1246, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 13 (§ 1701 et seq.) of Title 12, Banks and Banking. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1701 of Title 12 and Tables.

Subpar. (D) of section 42(i)(2) of title 26, referred to in subsec. (f)(5), was repealed by Pub. L. 110-289, div. C, title I, § 3002(b)(2)(C), July 30, 2008, 122 Stat. 2880.

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, referred to in subsec. (r)(4)(A), is Pub. L. 92-203, Dec. 18, 1971, 85 Stat. 688, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 33 (§ 1601 et seq.) of Title 43, Public Lands. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1601 of Title 43 and Tables.

The Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.), referred to in subsec. (r)(4)(A), probably means the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, Pub. L. 93-638, Jan. 4, 1975, 88 Stat. 2203, which was classified principally to subchapter II (§ 450 et seq.) of chapter 14 of Title 25, Indians, prior to editorial reclassification as chapter 46 (§ 5301 et seq.) of Title 25. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 5301 of Title 25 and Tables.

The Indian Reorganization Act (25 U.S.C. 461 et seq.), referred to in subsec. (v), is act June 18, 1934, ch. 576, 48 Stat. 984, which was classified generally to subchapter V (§ 461 et seq.) of chapter 14 of Title 25, Indians, prior to editorial reclassification as chapter 45 (§ 5101 et seq.) of Title 25. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 5101 of Title 25 and Tables.

CODIFICATION

Section is based on section 5(a) of H.R. 1691, One Hundred Fourth Congress, as passed by the House of Representatives on Oct. 30, 1995, which was enacted into law by Pub. L. 104-120.

AMENDMENTS

2000—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 106-569, § 707(1), inserted “an Indian tribe,” after “political subdivision thereof.”

Subsec. (f)(1). Pub. L. 106-569, § 707(2), added par. (1) and struck out former par. (1) which read as follows: “provide for complete amortization by periodic payments to be made for a term not to exceed 40 years.”

Subsec. (i)(2). Pub. L. 106-569, § 707(3), substituted “(A) submission to the Secretary of a claim for payment under the guarantee, and (B) assignment” for “(A) conveyance to the Secretary of title to the security property, (B) submission to the Secretary of a claim for payment under the guarantee, and (C) assignment”.

Subsec. (l). Pub. L. 106-569, § 707(6), (7), redesignated subsec. (m) as (l) and struck out heading and text of former subsec. (l). Text read as follows: “The borrower under a loan that is guaranteed under this section and under which any portion of the principal obligation or interest remains outstanding may not be relieved of liability with respect to the loan, notwithstanding the transfer of property for which the loan was made.”

Subsecs. (m) to (r). Pub. L. 106-569, § 707(7), redesignated subsecs. (n) to (s) as (m) to (r), respectively. Former subsec. (m) redesignated (l).

Subsec. (s). Pub. L. 106-569, § 707(7), redesignated subsec. (t) as (s). Former subsec. (s) redesignated (r).

Subsec. (s)(4). Pub. L. 106-569, § 707(4), added par. (4).

Subsec. (t). Pub. L. 106-569, § 707(7), redesignated subsec. (u) as (t). Former subsec. (t) redesignated (s).

Pub. L. 106-569, § 707(5), inserted before period at end “to provide guarantees under this section for eligible

³ So in original. Probably should be chapter “1”.

loans having an aggregate principal amount of \$500,000,000”.

Subsec. (u). Pub. L. 106-569, §707(8), added subsec. (u). Former subsec. (u) redesignated (t).

Subsec. (v). Pub. L. 106-569, §707(8), added subsec. (v). 1998—Subsec. (t). Pub. L. 105-276, §599C(c)(1), substituted “each fiscal year” for “fiscal year 1998”.

Subsec. (u). Pub. L. 105-276, §599C(c)(2), added subsec. (u) and struck out heading and text of former subsec. (u). Text read as follows: “A loan may not be guaranteed under this section after September 30, 1998.”

1997—Subsec. (q)(2). Pub. L. 105-86, §735(c)(1), added par. (2) and struck out heading and text of former par. (2). Text read as follows: “In fiscal year 1996, the Secretary may enter into commitments to guarantee loans under this section only to the extent that the costs of the guarantees entered into in such fiscal year do not exceed \$1,000,000.”

Subsec. (t). Pub. L. 105-86, §735(c)(2), added subsec. (t) and struck out text of former subsec. (t). Text read as follows: “There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 1996 \$1,000,000 for costs (as such term is defined in section 661a of title 2) of loan guarantees made under this section.”

Subsec. (u). Pub. L. 105-86, §735(c)(3), substituted “1998” for “1996”.

1996—Subsecs. (m)(1), (r)(1). Pub. L. 104-120, §5(b), made technical amendment to reference in original act which appears in text as reference to March 28, 1996.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section to be construed to have become effective Oct. 1, 1995, see section 13(a) of Pub. L. 104-120, set out as an Effective and Termination Dates of 1996 Amendments note under section 1437d of this title.

§ 1490q. Disaster assistance

(a) Authority

(1) In general

Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, in the event of a natural disaster, so declared by the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act [42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.], the Secretary shall allocate, for assistance under this section to the States affected for use in the counties designated as disaster areas and the counties contiguous to such counties, amounts made available to the Secretary by an appropriations Act for such purpose. Allocations under this section may be made for each of the fiscal years ending during the 3-year period beginning on the declaration of the disaster by the President.

(2) Amount

Subject to the availability of amounts pursuant to appropriations Acts, assistance under paragraph (1) shall be made in an amount equal to the product of—

(A) the sum of the official State estimate of the number of dwelling units in the counties described in paragraph (1) within the eligible service area of the Farmers Home Administration (or otherwise if the Secretary provides for a waiver under subsection (d)) that are destroyed or seriously damaged; and

(B) 20 percent of the average cost of all dwelling units assisted by the Secretary in the State during the previous 3 years.

(b) Use

The assistance made available under this section may be used for the housing purposes au-

thorized under this subchapter, and the Secretary shall issue such regulations as may be necessary to carry out this section to assure the prompt and expeditious use of such funds for the restoration of decent, safe, and sanitary housing within the areas described in subsection (a)(1). In implementing this section, the Secretary shall evaluate the natural hazards to which any permanent replacement housing is exposed and shall take appropriate action to mitigate such hazards.

(c) Eligibility

Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, assistance allocated under this section shall be available to units of general local government and their agencies and to local non-profit organizations, agencies, and corporations for the construction or rehabilitation of housing for agricultural employees and their families.

(d) Waiver of rural area requirements

The Secretary may waive the application of the provisions of section 1490 of this title with respect to assistance under this section, as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(e) Rural Housing Insurance Fund

The Secretary is authorized to advance from the Rural Housing Insurance Fund such sums as may be necessary to meet the requirements of subsection (a)(1), subject to limits previously approved in appropriations Acts.

(July 15, 1949, ch. 338, title V, §541, as added Pub. L. 101-625, title IX, §934, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4404; amended Pub. L. 102-550, title VII, §713, Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 3842.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, referred to in subsec. (a)(1), is Pub. L. 93-288, May 22, 1974, 88 Stat. 143, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 68 (§5121 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 5121 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

1992—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 102-550 substituted “amounts made available to the Secretary by an appropriations Act for such purpose” for “amounts available under this subchapter”.

§ 1490r. Rural housing voucher program

(a) In general

To such extent or in such amounts as are approved in appropriation Acts, the Secretary shall carry out a rural housing voucher program to assist very low-income families and persons to reside in rental housing in rural areas. For such purposes, the Secretary may provide assistance using a payment standard based on the fair market rental rate established by the Secretary for the area. The monthly assistance payment for any family shall be the amount by which the payment standard for the area exceeds 30 per centum of the family's monthly adjusted income, except that such monthly assistance payment shall not exceed the amount which the rent for the dwelling unit (including the amount