

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

---



---

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Business-Cooperative Service

#### Fiscal Year 1997 Funding Opportunity for Cooperative Services

**AGENCY:** Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) announces the availability of \$1,700,000 that was allocated from the Fund for Rural America for Fiscal Year 1997 to the Cooperative Services program, which is administered by RBS. RBS hereby requests proposals from Federal, State, or local agencies or other units of government, institutions of higher education, or nonprofit development organizations interested in applying for competitively awarded cooperative agreements pursuant to section 607(b) of the Rural Development Act of 1972. The intent of the program is to assist small and emerging cooperatives.

**DATES:** Comments regarding the information collection requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 must be received on or before July 21, 1997 to be assured of consideration. Completed proposals must be received no later than July 31, 1997. Proposals received after July 31, 1997, will not be considered for funding.

**ADDRESSES:** Send Proposals and other required materials to Dr. Randall E. Torgerson, Deputy Administrator for Cooperative Services, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, Stop 3250, Rm 4016-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3250.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. John H. Wells, Director, Cooperative Development Division, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, Stop 3254, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-3254. Telephone: (202) 720-3350.

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### General Information

The Fund for Rural America (The Fund), authorized under section 793 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (1996 Act) (7 U.S.C. 2204(f)), is established as an account in the Treasury of the United States, to provide funds for rural development programs and a competitive grant program to support research, education, and extension activities. The Fund will provide \$100 million in each of fiscal years 1997, 1998, 1999 for rural development programs and a competitive grant program for research, education, and extension activities. Between one-third and two-thirds will be available for the Department's rural development programs, and the remainder will be allocated for research, education and extension activities. This notice pertains to \$1,700,000 designated for Cooperative Services as part of the Rural Development programs. Rural Business-Cooperative Service will administer the program through the use of cooperative agreements. The program is a matching fund program designed to stimulate value-added product development by agricultural cooperative organizations located in rural communities. Cooperative Agreements are to be awarded on the basis of merit, quality, and relevance to advancing the purposes of federally supported rural development programs which increase economic opportunities in farming and rural communities through expanding locally-owned, value-added processing and product development. To obtain program materials, please contact the Cooperative Services Program; USDA/RBS at (202) 720-3350. When calling the Cooperative Services, please indicate you are requesting background information on Cooperative Value-Added Program (CVAP). These materials may also be requested via Internet by sending a message with your name, mailing address (not e-mail) and phone number to [jwells@rurdev.usda.gov](mailto:jwells@rurdev.usda.gov) which requests a copy of the materials for Fiscal Year 1997 Cooperative Value-Added Program. The materials will be mailed to you (not e-mailed) as quickly as possible.

### Eligible Applicants

Federal, State, or local agencies or other units of government, non-profit development organizations, or institutions of higher education are eligible to apply. Under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, an organization described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 501(c)(4)) which engages in lobbying activities, is not eligible to apply.

### Use of Funds

Funds may be used to pay up to 75 percent of the costs for carrying out relevant projects. Applicant's contribution may be in cash or in-kind contribution and must be from nonfederal funds. Use of funds should directly benefit proposed or existing cooperative marketing organizations by focusing on, but not limited to, technical assistance in development of market feasibility analysis or market identification opportunities for value-added products.

Funds may not be used to: (a) Pay more than 75 percent of relevant project or administrative costs; (b) pay costs of preparing the application package; (c) fund political activities; or (d) pay costs incurred prior to the effective date of the cooperative agreement.

### Funding Availability

\$1.7 million in first year funding will be available for Fiscal Year 1997. The actual number of cooperative agreements funded will depend on the quality of proposals received and the amount of funding requested. Out year funding beyond the first year is contingent on the approval of future appropriations and satisfactory project performance.

### Selection Criteria

RBS will initially determine whether the organization is eligible and whether the application contains the information required in the applications materials. After this initial screening, RBS will use the following criteria to rate and rank proposals received in response to this notice of funding availability. The criteria and maximum points for each criteria are provided below. The maximum number of points is 100. Zero points on any criteria will disqualify the proposal. Each proposal will be judged

on its own merits using the following criteria:

1. Focuses on an agricultural value-added activity (maximum 25 points);
2. Identifies the beneficiary cooperatives or producer groups and their level of benefit (maximum 20 points);
3. Shows capacity for an immediate positive economic impact (maximum 15 points);
4. Documents the need for the project (maximum 10 points);
5. Outlines an adequate approach to obtaining a practical solution (maximum 10 points);
6. Demonstrates cost effectiveness of the project (maximum 10 points);
7. Identifies qualified resources and personnel (maximum 10 points); and

#### Selection Process

Applications for funding will be evaluated competitively and points will be awarded as specified in the Evaluation Criteria section described above. After assigning points based upon the criteria, all applications will be listed in rank order. Applications will then be funded in rank order until all available funds have been expended. RBS reserves the right to make selections out of rank order to provide for a geographic distribution of funded projects.

#### Proposal Preparation

All proposals are to be submitted on standard 8½"×11" paper with typing on one side of the page only. In addition, margins must be at least 1", type must be 12 characters per inch (12 pitch or 10 point) or larger, no more than 6 lines per inch, and there should be no page reductions. If applicable, proposals should include original illustrations (photographs, color prints, etc.) in all copies to prevent loss of meaning through poor quality reproduction.

#### Content of a Proposal

A proposal should contain the following:

1. *Form SF-424* "Application for Federal Assistance."
2. *Form SF-424A* "Budget Information-Non Construction Programs."
3. *Form SF-424B* "Assurances-Non Construction Programs."
4. *Table of Contents*: For ease of locating information, each proposal must contain a detailed Table of Contents immediately following the required forms. The Table of Contents should include page numbers for each component of the proposal. Pagination should begin immediately following the Table of Contents.

5. *Project Summary*: The proposal must contain a project summary of 250 words or less on a separate page. This page must include the title of the project and the names of the primary project contacts and the applicant organization, followed by the summary. The summary should be self-contained and should describe the overall goals and relevance of the project. The summary should also contain a listing of all organizations involved in the project. The Project Summary should immediately follow the Table of Contents.

6. *Project Narrative*: The narrative portion of the Project Proposal is limited to 20 pages of text and should contain the following:

a. *Introduction*. A clear statement of the goals and objectives of the project. The problem should be set in context of the present-day situation. Summarize the body of knowledge which substantiates the need for the proposed project.

b. *Rationale and Significance*. Substantiate the need for the proposed project. Describe the impact of the project on the end user. Describe the project's specific relationship to the expansion of locally-owned valued-added processing and to the problem addressed.

c. *Objectives and Approach*. Discuss the specific objectives to be accomplished under the project. A detailed description of the approach must include: (1) Techniques or procedures used to carry out the proposed activities and for accomplishing the objectives;

(2) The results expected.

d. *Time Table*. Tentative schedule for conducting the major steps of the project.

e. *Evaluation*. Provide a plan for assessing and evaluating the accomplishments of the stated objectives during the project and describe ways to determine the effectiveness (impact) of the end results upon conclusion of the project. Awardees will be required to submit written project performance reports on a quarterly basis.

f. *Coordination and Management Plan*. Describe how the project will be coordinated among various participants and the nature of the collaborations. Describe plans for management of the project to ensure its proper and efficient administration.

#### What To Submit

An original and 1 copy must be submitted. Each copy must be stapled in the upper left-hand corner. (DO NOT BIND). All copies of the proposal must be submitted in one package.

#### When and Where To Submit

Proposals must be received by close of business on July 31, 1997. Proposals must be sent to the following address: Dr. Randall E. Torgerson, Deputy Administrator for Cooperative Services, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, Stop 3250, Rm 4016-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3250.

#### Other Federal Statutes and Regulations That Apply

Several other Federal statutes and regulations apply to proposals considered for review and to cooperative agreements awarded under this program. These include but are not limited to:

7 CFR part 1.1—USDA implementation of the Freedom of Information Act.

7 CFR part 15, subpart A—USDA implementation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended.

7 CFR part 3015—USDA Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations.

7 CFR part 3016—Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grant Agreements and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments.

7 CFR part 3019—Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grant Agreements With Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Nonprofit Organizations.

7 CFR part 3051—Audits of Institutions of Higher Education and Other Nonprofit Institutions.

#### Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Agency announces its intention to seek Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of new reporting and record keeping requirements. These requirements have been approved by emergency clearance by OMB under OMB Control Number 0570-0019.

Section 793 of the 1996 Act established The Fund to provide funds for rural development programs and a competitive grant program to support research, education, and extension activities. The Fund will provide \$100 million in each of fiscal years 1997, 1998, and 1999 for these purposes. Between one-third and two-thirds will be available for the United States Department of Agriculture's rural development programs, and one-third will be allocated for research, education, and extension activities.

The Secretary has allocated \$1.7 million to the Rural Business-Cooperative Service's (RBS) Cooperative

Services Program for the funding of programs that will encourage value-added activities to enhance the economic sustainability of rural communities. Use of the funds should directly benefit proposed or existing cooperative marketing organizations by focusing on, but not limited to, technical assistance in the development of market feasibility analyses or market identification opportunities for value-added products. A cooperative is a user-owned and controlled business from which the benefits are derived and distributed equitably on the basis of use. Value-added activities refer to operations in which raw products are processed or otherwise modified and then marketed to provide a greater return to the cooperative members than if the product had been marketed in its raw state.

The funds will be awarded on a competitive basis using specific selection criteria. Funding priority will be given to those applicants whose projects demonstrate the ability to produce immediate results and which contribute the most to the economic conditions of rural areas.

#### Public Burden in this Notice

At this time, the Agency is requesting OMB clearance of the following burden:

*Form SF-424, "Application for Federal Assistance"*

This form is used by applicants as a required face sheet for applications for Federal assistance.

*Form SF-424A, "Budget Information-Non Construction Programs"*

This form must be completed by applicants to show the project's budget breakdown, both as to expense categories and the division between Federal and non-Federal sources.

*Form SF-424B, "Assurances-Non Construction Programs"*

This form must be completed by the applicant to give the Federal government certain assurances that the applicant has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance and the financial capability to pay the non-Federal share of project costs. The applicant also gives assurance it will comply with various legal and regulatory requirements as described in the form.

#### Project Proposal

The applicant must submit a project proposal containing the elements described in the notice and in the format prescribed. The elements of the proposal are: (1) Table of Contents

providing page numbers for each component of the proposal; (2) A Project Summary of no more than 250 words on a separate page that includes the title of the project, primary contacts, a description of the goals and relevance of the project, and other organizations involved in the project; (3) A Project Narrative of no more than 20 pages of text that discusses the rationale and significance of the project, its objectives and the approach to be used, a time table for the major steps, how the project's accomplishments will be evaluated, and how the project will be coordinated among various participants.

#### Reporting Requirements

Awardees will be required to submit written project performance reports on a quarterly basis. The project performance report shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) A comparison of actual accomplishments to the objectives; (2) Reasons why established objectives were not met; (3) Problems, delays, or adverse conditions which will materially affect attainment of planned project objectives; (4) Objectives established for the next reporting period; and (5) Status of compliance with any special conditions on the use of awarded funds.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to range from 15 minutes to 16 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Federal Government; State, Local, or Tribal Government; and not-for-profit institutions.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 75.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 1578 hours.

*Comments are invited on:* (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden to collect the required information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All responses to this notice will be summarized, included in the request for OMB approval, and will become a

matter of public record. Comments should be submitted to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503, and to Sam Spencer, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Housing Service, Stop 0743, Rm. 6345-S, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, D.C. 20250-0743. A comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication of this Notice.

Dated: May 14, 1997.

**Dayton J. Watkins,**

*Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-13310 Filed 5-20-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-0

---

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

*Agency:* National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

*Title:* Northwest Region Logbook Family of Forms.

*Agency Form Number:* None assigned.  
*OMB Approval Number:* 0648-0271.

*Type of Request:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Burden:* 1,796 hours.

*Avg. Hours Per Response:* Ranges between approximately 1 and 30 minutes depending on the requirement.

*Number of Respondents:* 86 respondents (6,816 responses).

*Needs and Uses:* This data collection requires the preparation and submission of logbooks and reports by processing vessels larger than 125 feet in length and from catcher vessels that deliver to them in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery. The information is necessary to monitor catch, effort, and production in the fishery and to analyze the impact of fishery management actions.

*Affected Public:* Businesses or other for-profit organizations; state, local and tribal government.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Mandatory.  
*OMB Desk Officer:* Brett Hauber (202) 395-6466.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by