to the agricultural industry for pollinating numerous food crops for the world’s population. Concern for honey bee colony mortality has risen since the introduction of Varroa mites in the United States in the late 1980s and the appearance of Colony Collapse Disorder in the past decade.

In the Pollinator Research Action Plan, the President’s Pollinator Health Task Force identified nearly 200 tasks that need to be conducted and coordinated from across the government to research all aspects of pollinator health and to come up with suggestions for improving this vital part of our food system. The Task Force’s plan will involve conducting research and collecting data for the following categories: Status & Trends, Habitats, Nutrition, Pesticides, Native Plants, Collections, Genetics, Pathogens, Decision Tools, and Economics. The pollinators have been classified into Honey Bee, Native Bee, Wasp, Moth/ Butterfly, Fly, and Vertebrate. The departments that will conduct the bulk of the research are the Department of the Interior (DOI), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Smithsonian Institute (SI), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

NASS has been given the tasks of collecting economic data related to honey bees and quantifying the number of colonies that were lost or reduced. NASS was approved to conduct the Quarterly and Annual Colony Loss Surveys under OMB approval number 0535–0255. NASS plans to also collect the economic data under this new collection. NASS collects data from crop farmers who rely on pollinators for their crops (fruits, nuts, vegetables, etc.). Data relating to the targeted crops will be collected for the total number of acres that rely on honey bee pollination, the number of honey bee colonies that were used on those acres, and any cash fees associated with honey bee pollination. Crop Farmers will also be asked if beekeepers who were hired to bring their bees to their farm were notified of pesticides used on the target acres, how many acres they were being hired to pollinate, and how much they were being paid to pollinate the targeted crops.

Authority: These data will be collected under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a). Individually identifiable data collected under this authority are governed by Section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985 as amended, 7 U.S.C.2276, which requires USDA to afford strict confidentiality to non-aggregated data provided by respondents. This Notice is submitted in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–113) and the Office of Management and Budget regulations at 5 CFR part 1320.


Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response. Publicity materials and an instruction sheet for reporting via internet will account for 5 minutes of additional burden per respondent. Respondents who refuse to complete a survey will be allotted 2 minutes of burden per attempt to collect the data.

Once a year, NASS will contact approximately 53,000 crop farmers who rely on honey bees to pollinate their fruit, nut, vegetable, and other crops. NASS will conduct the annual survey initially using a mail and internet approach. This will be followed up with phone and personal enumeration for non-respondents. NASS will attempt to obtain at least an 80% response rate.

Respondents: Farmers.

Estimated Number of Respondents:
53,000.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: With an estimated response rate of approximately 80%, we estimate the burden to be 13,400 hours.

Comments: 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 of the proposed collection of 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, through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, technological, or other forms of information technology collection methods.

All responses to this notice will become a matter of public record and be summarized in the request for OMB approval.

Signed at Washington, DC, July 24, 2015.

Joseph T. Reilly,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2015–18975 Filed 7–31–15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–20–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Notice of Solicitation of Applications (NOSA) for the Multifamily Preservation and Revitalization (MPR) Demonstration Program Under Section 514, Section 515, and Section 516 for Fiscal Year 2015

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Housing Service (Agency) announces the timeframe to submit applications to participate in a demonstration program to preserve and revitalize existing Rural Rental Housing (RRH) projects under Section 514, Section 515, and Section 516 of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended. Under this demonstration program, existing Section 515 Multi-Family Housing (MFH) loans and Sections 514/516 Off-Farm Labor Housing (FLH) loans will be restructured to ensure sufficient resources are available to preserve the ability of rental projects to provide safe and affordable housing for very low-, low-, or moderate-income residents. Projects participating in this program will be expected to be revitalized to extend their affordable use without displacing tenants because of increased rents. No additional Agency Rental Assistance (RA) will be made available under this program.

DATES: For Fiscal Year 2015, the Agency will facilitate use of the Fiscal Year 2015 Multifamily Preservation and Revitalization (MPR) funding tools by holding a competitive application round for MPR applications requesting other MPR funding tools, in addition to the available MPR deferral assistance, and by adding a continuous open application process for any transfer applications that request only the MPR loan deferral assistance. Application deadlines for these opportunities are:
(1) For MPR applications requesting debt deferral of eligible Section 514 or Section 515 loans, plus other MPR funding tools, complete applications must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time,120 calendar days after August 3, 2015, and
(2) For any MPR applications requesting debt deferral only for eligible Section 514 or Section 515 loans, complete applications may be submitted on an ongoing basis through COB 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, December 31, 2015. The pre-application closing deadline is firm as to date and hour. The Agency will not consider any pre-application that is received after the closing deadline. Applicant’s intending to mail
pre-applications must allow sufficient
time to permit delivery on or before the
closing deadline. Acceptance by a post
office or private mailer does not
constitute delivery. Facsimile (FAX) and
postage-due pre-applications will not be
accepted.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Dean Greenwalt, dean.greenwalt@
wdc.usda.gov, (314) 457–5933, and/or
Abby Boggs abby.boggs@wdc.usda.gov,
(615) 783 1382, Finance and Loan
Analyst, Multi-Family Housing
Preservation and Direct Loan Division,
STOP 0782, (Room 1263–S) U.S.
Department of Agriculture, Rural
Development, 1400 Independence
Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250–
0782. All hard copy pre-applications
and required documents (attachments)
must be submitted to this address.
(Please note these telephone numbers
are not a toll-free numbers.)
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This
Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 funding for the
MPR demonstration program will be
posted on the Rural Development Web
site, www.rd.usda.gov/newsroom/
notices-solicitation-applications-nosas.
The commitment of program dollars
will be made to applicants of selected
applications that have fulfilled the
necessary requirements for obligation, to
the extent an appropriation act provides
funding for the MPR demonstration
program.
Expenses incurred in applying for this
Notice will be borne by and be at the
applicant’s risk.
Of particular note this year, the Rural
Housing Service (the Agency) will
assign additional points to pre-
applications for projects based in or
serving census tracts with poverty rates
greater than or equal to 20 percent. This
emphasis will support Rural
Development’s (RD) mission of
improving the quality of life for Rural
Americans and commitment to directing
resources to those most in need.
A synopsis of this program and the
pre-application’s universal resource
locator will be listed by Catalog of
Federal Domestic Assistance Number
and at Federal Grants Wire at http://

Paperwork Reduction Act
The information collection
requirements contained in this Notice
have received approval from the Office
of Management and Budget (OMB)
under Control Number 0570–0190.
Overview
Federal Agency Name: Rural Housing
Service, USDA.
Funding Opportunity Title:
Multifamily Preservation and
Revitalization Demonstration Program—
Section 514, Section 515, and Section
516 for Fiscal Year 2015.
Announcement Type: Inviting
responses in the form of pre-
applications from interested applicants.
Catalog of Federal Domestic
Assistance Number (CFDA): 10.447.

I. Funding Opportunity Description
The Consolidated and Further
Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015,
Public Law 113–235, signed December
16, 2014, authorized the Agency to
conduct a demonstration program for
the preservation and revitalization of the
Section 515 MFH portfolio and Sections
514/516 Off-FLH portfolio.
Section 514, Section 515 and Section
516 MFH programs are authorized by the
Housing Act of 1949, as amended
(42 U.S.C. 1484, 1485 and 1486) and
provide Rural Development with the
authority to provide financial assistance
for low-income MFH and FLH and
related facilities, as described in 7 CFR
part 3560.
This Notice solicits pre-applications
from interested borrowers/applicants to
restructure existing MFH projects
already participating in the Agency’s
Section 515 MFH portfolio and Sections
514/516 FLH portfolio for the purpose of
revitalization and preservation.
Eligible borrowers are sometimes
referred to in this Notice as
“applicants,” “borrowers,” “applicant/
borrowers,” or “owners” as seems most
appropriate for the context of the
relevant Notice provision. The MPR
demonstration program shall be referred
to in this Notice as the Multifamily
Preservation and Revitalization
demonstration program. Agency
regulations for the Section 515 MFH
program and the Sections 514/516 FLH
program are published at 7 CFR part
3560.
The intent of the MPR demonstration
program is to ensure that existing rental
projects will continue to deliver decent,
safe and sanitary affordable rental
housing for 20 years, the remaining
term of any Agency loan, or the remaining
term of any existing Restrictive-Use
Provisions (RUP) or prohibition,
whichever ends later.
Note: All pre-applications will be selected
by the Agency using the process described in
this Notice, and the selected applicants will
be invited to participate in the MPR
demonstration program. Upon written
notification to the Agency from the selected
applicant of their acceptance to participate,
an independent third-party Capital Needs
Assessment (CNA) will be conducted to
provide a fair and objective review of
projected capital needs. The Agency shall
implement any restructuring proposal that
may be offered under this Notice through an
MPR Conditional Commitment (MPRCC)
with the eligible borrower/applicant, which
will include all the terms and conditions
offered by the Agency.
One of the MPR tools to be used in
this program is debt deferral for up to
20 years of the existing Section 514 or
Section 515 loans obligated prior to
October 1, 1991. The cash flow from the
deferral payment will be deposited,
as directed by the Agency, to the reserve
account to help meet the future physical
needs of the project, support new debt or
to reduce rents, as determined by the
Agency.
A. Debt deferral is described as follows:
1. MPR Debt Deferral. A deferral of the
existing Section 514 or Section 515
Agency loan(s), obligated prior to
October 1, 1991, for 20 years. If the term
of any existing Section 514 or Section
515 loans is less than 20 years, the
Agency will offer a re-amortization of
the existing loans extending the term to
a minimum of 20 years. Section 514 or
Section 515 loans obligated prior to
October 1, 1991, and subsequently
transferred on new rates and terms may
not be eligible for deferral. Any
questions on whether or not a loan is
eligible for deferral should be directed to
the local RD State Office at: http://
teamard.usda.gov/rd/emp_services/
directory/states/combined.doc.
All terms and conditions of the deferral will
be described in the MPR Debt Deferral
Agreement. A balloon payment of
principal and accrued interest will be
due at the end of the deferral period.
Interest will accrue at the promissory
note rate and, if applicable, the subsidy
will be applied as set out in the
Agency’s “Multiple Family Housing
Interest Credit Agreement” Form RD
3560–9, which is available at http://
forms.scegov.usda.gov/efc/common/
eFileServices/eForms/RD3560-9.PDF.
B. Other Agency MPR funding tools
are as follows:
1. MPR Grant. A grant limited to non-
profit applicants/borrowers only. The
grant will be limited to the cost of
correcting health and safety violations of
a project identified by a CNA
accepted by the Agency. The grant
administration will be in accordance
with applicable provisions of 2 CFR
parts 200 and 400.
2. MPR Zero Percent Loan. A loan at
zero percent interest. The loan’s
maximum term and amortization will be
as authorized by the respective program
authority.
(a) For Section 515 RRH projects, the
maximum loan term is 30 years
amortized over a maximum term of 50
years.
(b) For Sections 514/516 projects, the loan will be amortized over a maximum term of 33 years.

3. **MPR Soft-Second Loan.** A loan with a one percent interest rate that will have its accrued interest and principal deferred to a balloon payment. The balloon payment will be due at the same time the latest maturing Section 514 or Section 515 loan already in place at the time of closing, or the maturity date of any current loan being re-amortized as part of the restructuring, is due.

MPR funds cannot be used to build community rooms, add additional parking areas, playgrounds, laundry rooms or additional new units, unless the additional unit(s) are needed for the project to meet the 5 percent fully accessible requirement as defined by Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS), and the Agency concurs. However, other funding sources as outlined below in (a) through (f) can be used either for such revitalization and/or improvements:

4. **Other Sources of Funds**

(a) Rural Development Section 515 Rehabilitation loan funds;

(b) Rural Development Sections 514/516 Off-Farm rehabilitation loan/grant funds;

c) Rural Development Section 538 Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing (GRRH) program financing;

d) Rural Development Multi-Family Housing Preservation Revolving Loan Funds program;

(e) Third-party loans, grants, tax credits and tax-exempt financing; and

(f) Owner-provided capital contributions in the form of a cash infusion. A cash infusion cannot be a loan.

Transfers, subordinations, and consolidations may be approved as part of an MPR transaction in accordance with 7 CFR part 3560. If a transfer is part of the MPR transaction, and the transfer includes a seller payment and/or increase in the allowable Return to Owner (RTO), the transfer must first be underwritten to meet the requirements of 7 CFR 3560.406. The transfer underwriting may assume the deferral of all eligible Sections 514/516 or Section 515 loans. After the transfer has been underwritten and concurred with by the Agency’s Multifamily Housing Preservation and Direct Loan Division, the MPR transaction may be underwritten.

For the purposes of the MPR demonstration program, the restructuring transactions will be identified by the Agency in three categories:

- **Simple Transactions:** These involve no change in ownership.
- **Complex Transactions:** These may consist of a project transfer to a new ownership, processed in accordance with 7 CFR 3560.406, with or without a consolidation, or transactions requiring a subordination agreement as a result of third-party funds. The applicant will submit one pre-application. If a consolidation is proposed, all projects to be consolidated must be submitted on one pre-application and be located in the same market area.

To be considered in the same market area, projects must be in a neighborhood or similar area where the property competes for tenants; managed under one management plan and one management agreement; and, in sufficiently close proximity to permit convenient and efficient management of the property.

Applicants should discuss proposed consolidations with the Rural Development State Office in the State(s) where the projects are located prior to filing their MPR pre-application to ensure Rural Development concurs with the applicant’s market area estimation. If either the Agency or the owner chooses to remove one or more projects from the proposal, this may be done without affecting the eligibility of the complex transaction. To be a complex transaction, the Agency assumes only one project remains at the MPR closing.

- **Portfolio transactions:** These include two or more projects with one stay-in owner, or two or more projects with multiple project sale transactions to a common purchaser all located in one State. A stay-in owner is defined as an existing Section 515 or Sections 514/516 borrower who owns two or more properties either as a single ownership entity or as separate legal entities with at least one common general partner/managing member. Each project included in the portfolio will be submitted on a separate pre-application form unless some projects are located in the same market area, as defined above, and are being consolidated. Any projects in the portfolio proposed to be consolidated should be listed on the same pre-application form. Each pre-application must have the same portfolio name. If the owner chooses to remove one or more projects from the proposal, at least two projects must remain in order to be classified as a portfolio transaction. At the end of the transaction, the Agency assumes there will be two or more projects. The projects of the stay-in owner or common purchaser must have at least one general partner/managing member in common.

Transactions within each category may utilize any or all MPR funding tools described above in paragraph 1 “Funding Opportunity Description.” MPR tools available through the MPR demonstration program will be used to address preservation and rehabilitation needs identified in the Agency accepted CNA.

Liens against the project, with the exception of Agency deferred debt, cannot exceed the Agency-approved security value of the project. All Agency debt, either in first lien position or a subordinated lien position, must be secured by the project, except deferred debt, which is not included in the Agency’s total lien position for computation of the Agency’s security value. Payment of any deferred debt will not be required from normal project operations income. Payment of any deferred debt will be required from excess cash generated from project operations after all other secured debts are satisfied or as directed by the Agency.

**Maturing Mortgage Applications**

The Agency recognizes that a number of Section 515 and Sections 514/516 properties are financed through mortgages scheduled to mature through calendar year 2018. The Agency will make an MPR debt deferral available to properties with all Agency mortgages maturing before December 31, 2018, in order to extend the affordable use of the housing and continue its eligibility for Section 521 Rental Assistance. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Notice, applicants applying for a deferral of their eligible mortgage debt will be required to meet the eligibility requirements in either 7 CFR 3560.55 or 3560.555, as determined applicable by the Agency. Applicants applying solely for deferral of eligible maturing mortgages will only be required to submit the MPR pre-application within the established deadlines set out in the **DATES** section of this Notice; no additional supporting documentation is required.

The applicant will complete the MPR pre-application documenting the date the Agency loans will mature. The Agency reserves the right to approve an MPR debt deferral under this paragraph in its sole discretion, based on factors including but not limited to: The preceding 12-month average physical vacancy; analysis of current ownership; evidence the property is financially solvent; the current physical condition of the property; assistance needed to meet immediate and long term physical needs of the property; and
the availability of other subsidized housing within the community.
If other MPR tools are needed, in addition to debt deferral, the Agency will require selected applicants to submit an approved Capital Needs Assessment to provide a fair and objective review of the property’s projected physical needs.

II. Award Information
All Agency funding of pre-applications selected under this Notice will carry over to the next fiscal year and be considered for funding. However, pre-applications selected under this Notice must be approved by the Agency no later than December 31, 2017. Any pre-applications selected under this Notice, not approved by the Agency prior to December 31, 2017, will be considered automatically withdrawn. Applicants may reapply for funding under future Notices.

Applicants are alerted the Agency has unfunded applications carried over from prior Notices that will receive priority consideration for funding approval in FY 2015 based on the terms of those Notices. If fiscal year funds available for the MPR demonstration program are fully committed before all eligible pre-applications selected for further processing under this Notice are funded, the Agency may suspend further processing of the pre-applications at that time.

MPR funding tools will be used in accordance with 7 CFR part 3560. The program will be administered within the resources available to the Agency through Public Law 113–235 and any future appropriations for the preservation and revitalization of Sections 514/516 and Section 515-financed projects. In the event that any provisions of 7 CFR part 3560 conflict with this Notice, the provisions of this Notice will take precedence.

III. Eligibility Information
A. Applicants (and the principals associated with each applicant) must meet the following requirements:
1. All applicants must meet the eligibility requirements included in 7 CFR 3560.55 or 3560.555, as determined appropriate by the Agency. This Notice requires selected applicants to make the required equity contribution as outlined in 3560.63(c) for any new Section 515 loan offered as part of the MPR. Funds committed under Section I may be used to fund all or a portion of the required equity contribution. Loan applicants will not be given consideration for any increase beyond the property may have since the initial loan was made. Eligibility also includes the continued ability of the borrower/applicant to provide acceptable management and will include an evaluation of any current outstanding deficiencies. Any outstanding violations or extended open findings as defined in Section V, and recorded in the Agency’s automated Multi-Family Information System (MFIS), will preclude further processing of any MPR applications associated with the applicant/borrower as well as any affiliated entity having a 10 percent or more ownership interest unless there is a current, approved workout plan in place and the plan has been satisfactorily followed for a minimum of 6 consecutive months, as determined by the Agency.
2. For Section 515 RH projects, the average physical vacancy rate for the 12 months preceding this Notice’s publication date can be no more than 10 percent for projects consisting of 16 or more revenue units and no more than 15 percent for projects less than 16 revenue units unless an exception applies under section VI paragraph (1) of this Notice. If a project consolidation is involved, the consolidation will remain eligible so long as the average vacancy rate for each individual project meets the occupancy standard noted in this paragraph. Projects that do not meet the occupancy threshold at the time of filing the application, regardless of reason, may be withdrawn by the owner or the Agency without jeopardizing the application.
3. For Sections 514/516 FLH projects, rather than an average physical vacancy rate as noted in section (ii) above, a positive cash flow for the previous full 3 years of operation is required unless an exception applies as described section III(A)(2), above.
4. Ownership of and ability to operate the project after the transaction is completed. In the event of a transfer, the proposed transferee must submit evidence of site control. Evidence may include a Purchase Agreement, Letter of Intent, or other documentation acceptable to the Agency.
5. An Agency approved CNA (for guidance refer to http://www.ry.usda.gov/programs-services/housing-preservation-revitalization-demonstration-loans-grants) and an Agency financial evaluation must be conducted to ensure that utilization of the restructuring tools of the MPR demonstration program is financially feasible and necessary for the revitalization and preservation of the project for affordable housing. Initial eligibility for processing will be determined as of the date of the pre-application described. The Agency reserves the right to discontinue processing any application due to material changes in the applicant’s status occurring at any time after the initial eligibility determination.
6. All grant-eligible applicants must obtain a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and register in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) prior to submitting a pre-application pursuant to 2 CFR 25.200. In addition, an entity applicant must maintain registration in the CCR database at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by the Agency. Similarly, all recipients of Federal Financial Assistance are required to report information about first-tier, sub-awards and executive compensation, in accordance with 2 CFR part 170. So long as an entity applicant does not have an exception under 2 CFR 170.110(b), the applicant must have the necessary processes and systems in place to comply with the reporting requirements should the applicant receive funding. See 2 CFR 170.200(b).

IV. Application and Submission Information
A. The general steps of the MPR application process are as follows:
1. Pre-application: Applicants submit a pre-application described in Section IV below along with any supporting documentation as outlined in the Notice. Failure to timely submit all required documentation will result in an incomplete pre-application. This pre-application process is designed to lessen the cost burden on all applicants, including those who may not be eligible or whose proposals may not be feasible.

Note: If you receive a loan or grant award under this Notice, USDA reserves the right to post all information submitted as part of the pre-application/application package, which is not protected under the Privacy Act, on a public Web site with free and open access to any member of the public.

2. Eligible Projects: Using criteria described below in Section III, the Agency will conduct an initial screening for eligibility. As described in Section VI, the Agency will conduct an additionaleligibility screening later in the application process.
3. Scoring and Ranking: All complete, eligible and timely-filed pre-applications will be scored, ranked and put in potential funding categories as discussed in Sections VI and VII below.
4. Formal Applications: Top ranked pre-applicants will receive a letter from the Agency inviting them to submit a formal application. As discussed in Section III of this Notice, the Agency will require the owner to provide a CNA, completed in accordance with
Agency’s published guidance (available at http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/housing-preservation-
revitalization-demonstration-loans-grants) to underwrite the proposal to determine financial feasibility.
Applicants will be informed of any proposals that are determined to be incomplete, ineligible or financially
infeasible. Any proposal denied by the Agency will be returned to the applicant, and the applicant will be
given appeal rights pursuant to 7 CFR part 11.
5. Financial Feasibility: The Agency will use the results of the CNA to help identify the need for resources and
applicant provided information regarding anticipated or available third-party financing, in order to determine
the financial feasibility of each potential transaction, using restructuring tools available either through existing
regulatory authorities or specifically authorized through the MPR demonstration program. A project is
financially feasible when it can provide affordable, decent, safe, and sanitary
housing for 20 years or the remaining
term of any Agency loan, whichever ends later, by using the authorities of this program while minimizing the cost
to the Agency, and without increasing rents for eligible tenants or farm
laborers, except when necessary to meet normal and necessary operating
expenses, as determined by the Agency.
If the transaction is determined financially feasible by the Agency, the
borrower will be offered a restructuring proposal, subject to available funding.
This will include a requirement that the
borrower execute, for recordation, an
Agency-approved Restrictive-Use
Covenant (RUC) for a period of 20 years, the remaining term of any loans, or the
remaining term of any existing RUPs,
whichever ends later. The restructuring
proposal will be established in the
MPRCC.
6. MPR Agreements: If the offer is
accepted by the applicant, the applicant
must sign and return the MPRCC. By
signing the offer, the applicant agrees to
the terms of the MPRCC. Any third-
party lender will be required to
subordinate to the Agency’s RUC unless
the Agency determines, on a case-by-
case basis, that the lender’s refusal to
subordinate will not compromise the
purpose of the MPR demonstration
program.
7. General Requirements: The MPR
transactions may be conducted with a
stay-in owner (simple) or may involve a
change in ownership (complex or
portfolio). Any restructuring or related
facilities that are constructed or repaired
must meet the Agency design and
construction standards and the
development standards contained in 7
CFR part 1924, subparts A and C,
respectively. Once constructed or
rehabbed, Section 515 MFH and
Sections 514/516 FLH projects must be
managed in accordance with 7 CFR part
3560. Tenant eligibility will be limited
to persons who qualify as an eligible
household under Agency regulations.
Tenant eligibility requirements are
contained in 7 CFR 3560.152.
B. The application submission and
scoring process will be completed in
phases in order to avoid unnecessary effort and expense on the
part of applicants, are as follows:
1. Phase I—The first phase is the pre-
application process. Applicants must
submit a complete pre-application by
the deadline listed under the DATES
section of this Notice. The applicant’s
submission will be classified as
“complete” when the MPR pre-
application is received in the correct
format and place as described in this
Notice for each property the
applicant wishes to be considered in the
demonstration program. In the event the
MPR proposal involves a project
consolidation, it will be completed in
accordance with 7 CFR 3560.410. One
pre-application for the proposed
consolidated project is required and
must identify each project included in the
consolidation. If the MPR proposal
involves a portfolio transaction (sale or
stay-in owner), one pre-application for
each project in the portfolio is required
and each pre-application must identify
each project included in the portfolio
transaction. In order for the pre-
application to be considered complete,
all applicable information requested on
the pre-application form must be
provided. Additional information that
must be provided with the pre-
application to be considered complete,
when applicable, includes:
(a) For all transfers of ownership,
evidence of site control must be
provided.
(b) Current market data (defined as no
more than 6 months old at time of filing)
for any project not meeting the
occupancy standards cited in sections
III(2) and III(3) above. The market
data must demonstrate there is need for
the project evidenced by waiting lists and
a housing shortage confirmed by local
housing agencies and realtors and
accepted by the Agency. The market
data must show a clear need and
demand for the project once a
restructuring transaction is completed.
The results of the survey of existing or
proposed rental or labor housing,
including complex name, location,
number of units, bedroom mix, family
or elderly type, year built, and rent
charges must be provided, as well as the
existing vacancy rate of all available
rental units in the community, their
waiting lists and amenities, and the
availability of RA or other subsidies.
The Agency will determine whether or
not the proposal has market feasibility
based on the data provided by the
applicant. Any costs associated with
the completion of the market data is not an
eligible program project expense.
(c) For a property that has been sold
to a non-profit entity under the Sale to
Non-Profit process defined in 3560,
Subpart N, a copy of the recorded Deed.
Unless an exception under this
section applies, the requirements stated
in Section III, paragraphs (2) and (3) of
this Notice must be met.
Note: All documents must be received on
or before the pre-application closing deadline
to be considered complete and timely filed.
Pre-applications that do not include evidence
of site control for transfer proposals or
current market data for projects that do not
meet the occupancy standards of Section III
paragraphs (2) and (3) of this Notice, will be
considered incomplete and will be returned to
the applicant.
2. Phase II—The second phase of the
application process will be completed by
the Agency based on Agency records
and the pre-application information
submitted. All complete, eligible, and
timely-filed pre-applications will be
scored and ranked based on points
received during this two-phase
application process. Further, the Agency
will categorize each MPR proposal as
being a Simple, Complex, or Portfolio
transaction based on the information
submitted on the pre-application, in
accordance with the category
descriptions provided in Section I of
this Notice.
Pre-applications can be submitted
either electronically or in hard copy.
The Agency will record pre-applications
received electronically by the actual
date and time received in the MPR Web
site mail box. This date may impact
ranking of the pre-application as
discussed under section VI. For all hard
copy pre-applications received, the
recorded receipt time will be the close
of business time for the day received,
for the location to which the pre-
applications are sent. Assistance for
filing electronic and hard copy pre-
applications can be obtained from any
Rural Development State Office. USDA
Rural Development MFH State Office
contacts can be found at http://
teamrd.usda.gov/rd/emp_services/
directory/states/Combined.doc
(Note: Telephone numbers listed in the
Web site are not toll-free.)
The pre-application is in Adobe Acrobat format and may be completed as a fillable form. The form contains a button labeled “Submit by Email.” Clicking on the button will result in an email containing a completed pre-application being sent to the MPR Web site mail box for consideration. If a purchase agreement or market data is required, these additional documents are to be attached to the resulting email prior to submission.

Pre-applications may be downloaded from the Agency’s Web site at http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/housing-preservation-revitalization-demonstration-loans-grants or obtained by contacting the State Office in the State the project is located. Hard copy pre-applications and additional materials can be mailed to the attention of Dean Greenwalt or Abby Boggs, Finance and Loan Analyst, Multi-Family Housing Preservation and Direct Loan Division, STOP 0782, (Room 1263–S), U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250–0782.

V. Application Review Information

A. Pre-application ranking points will be based on information provided during the submission process, and in Agency records. Only timely, complete pre-applications requesting debt deferral of eligible Section 514 or Section 515 loans plus other MPR funding tools will be ranked. Points will be awarded as follows:

1. Contribution of other sources of funds. Other funds are those discussed in Section I.B., “Other Sources of Funds” paragraph, items (a) through (f), above. Points will be awarded based on documented written evidence that the funds are committed, as determined by the Agency. “Commitment” means an actual award of funds, or another contractual agreement between a third-party funder and the borrower/applicant entity to provide funds.) Commitments that include the terms such as ‘may’ or ‘intend’ will not be acceptable for scoring purposes. The maximum points awarded for this criterion is 25 points. These points will be awarded in the following manner:
   (a) Evidence of a commitment of at least $3,000 to $5,000 per unit per project from other sources—15 points, or
   (b) Evidence of a commitment greater than $5,000 per unit per project from other sources—25 points.

2. Owner contribution. Points will be awarded if the owner agrees to make a contribution of at least $10,000 per project to pay transaction costs. These funds cannot be from the project’s reserve, operating funds, tax credit equity or be in the form of donated services provided by the applicant.

Transaction costs are defined as those Agency-approved costs required to complete the transaction under this Notice and include, but are not limited to the CNA, legal and closing costs, appraisal costs and filing/ recording fees. This contribution must be deposited into the respective project reserve account prior to closing the MPR transaction from the owner’s non-project resources. 20 points

3. Owner contribution for the hard costs of construction. (These funds cannot be from the project’s reserve account or project’s general operating account or in the form of a loan.) Hard costs of construction are defined as those costs for materials equipment, property or machinery required to complete the proposal under this Notice. Hard costs must be itemized on Form RD 1924–13, “Estimate and Certificate of Actual Cost”. Form RD 1924–13 can be found at: http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/eForms/RD1924-13.PDF.

The minimum contribution required to receive these points is $1,000 per unit per project, which will be required to be deposited in the project reserve account or supervised/construction account, as directed by Rural Development, prior to closing. An increased RTO may be allowed for funds committed in accordance with 7 CFR 3560.406(d)(14)(ii).

4. Maturing Mortgages. Points will be awarded to properties where all existing RD loans will mature (make their final loan payment) on or before December 31, 2018. 10 Points.

5. Persistent poverty counties. Points will be awarded to projects located in persistent poverty counties. A persistent poverty county is a classification for counties in the United States that have had a relatively high rate of poverty over a long period. The USDA’s Economic Research Service (ERS) (http://ers.usda.gov) is the main source of economic information and research for USDA and a principal agency of the U.S. Federal Statistical System located in Washington, DC. ERS has defined counties as being persistently poor if 20 percent or more of their populations were living in poverty over the last 30 years (measured by the 1980, 1990, and 2000 decennial censuses and 2006–2010 American Community Survey 5-year estimates). 10 points

6. Maturing Properties. Points may be awarded to projects that have been adversely impacted by an event that, as determined by the Agency, directly and exclusively results from the occurrence of natural causes that could not have been prevented by the exercise of foresight or caution over the previous 24 months, or other unavoidable accident causing physical property damage or failure that is not reimbursable by property, casualty or liability insurance any other form of third-party compensation, such as disaster loans and grants from other agencies. 25 points

7. Age of project. For a project consolidation (including portfolio transactions) proposal, the project with the earliest operational date (operational date is the date the project initially placed in service and documented in MFIS) will be used in determining the age of the project. Since the age of the project and the date the project placed in service are generally directly related to physical needs, a maximum of 30 points will be awarded based on the following criteria:
   (a) Projects with initial operational dates prior to December 21, 1979—30 points.
   (b) Projects with initial operational dates on or after December 21, 1979, but before December 15, 1989—20 points.
   (c) Projects with initial operational dates on or after December 15, 1989, but before October 1, 1991—10 points.
   (d) Projects with initial operational dates on or after October 1, 1991—0 Points.

8. Projects with Open Physical Findings. An “Open Physical Finding” is a condition at the property, identified by the Agency that is not in compliance with the Agency standards published in 7 CFR 3560.103. Projects with Open Physical Findings classified “B”, “C,” or “D”, as defined below, will be awarded points in the following manner:

   Class “D” Projects

Class “D” projects are those projects that are in default and may be taken into inventory, be lost to the program, or cause the displacement of tenants. Defaults can be monetary or non-monetary. Projects in default are those where the Agency has notified the borrower of a violation using the Agency’s servicing letter process, and the borrower has not addressed the violation to the Agency’s satisfaction.

   Class “C” Projects

Class “C” projects are projects with Open Physical or Financial findings or violations, which are not associated to an approved workout and/or transition plan. This can include projects with violations where a servicing letter has been issued but 60 calendar days have
not passed since the issuance of the first servicing letter.

Class "B" Projects

Class "B" projects indicate the Agency has taken servicing steps and the borrower is cooperating to resolve identified findings or violations by associating an approved workout plan and/or transition plan.

For transfer proposals:
(a) For projects classified as a “C” or “D” for 24 months or more, 20 points
(b) For projects classified as a “C” or “D” for less than 24 months, 15 points

Stay-in owner proposals:
(a) For projects classified as a “B” as a result of a workout and/or transition plan approved by the Agency prior to April 1, 2015, 25 points
(b) Projects with an Agency “C” classification for 24 months or longer with Open Findings at the time the MPR pre-application is filed, will not be eligible to participate in the MPR demonstration program.

1. Closed Sale of Section 515 projects to non-profit/Public Housing Authority. The Agency will award 20 points for projects that have been sold to non-profit organizations under the prepayment process as explained in 7 CFR part 3560, subpart N. To receive points, the borrower/applicant must provide a copy of the filed deed with their pre-application. 20 points.

2. Prior approved Capital Needs Assessments (CNAs). In the interest of ensuring timely application processing and underwriting, the Agency will award up to 20 points for projects with CNAs already approved by the Agency. “Approved” means the date the CNA or an updated CNA was approved by the Agency. CNAs or updates before October 1, 2013, may not be used for MPR underwriting without an update approved by the Agency. Points will be awarded for:
(a) CNAs approved on or after October 1, 2014, but prior to the publication of this Notice 20 points
(b) CNAs approved on or after October 1, 2013, but prior to October 1, 2014, 10 points

2. Tenant service provision. The Agency will award 5 points for applications that include new services provided by either a for-profit or a non-profit organization, which may include a faith-based organization, or by another Government agency. Such services shall be provided at no cost to the project and shall be made available to all tenants. Examples of such services may include transportation for the elderly, after-school day care services or after-school tutoring. 5 points.

3. For portfolio sales and project consolidations, the Agency will award the following points:
(a) Proposal does not involve a consolidation of properties 0 points;
(b) Proposal involves a consolidation of 2–4 properties 5 points;
(c) Proposal involves a consolidation of 5 or more properties 10 points.


(a) Energy Conservation 30 Points

Pre-applications for rehabilitation and preservation of projects may be eligible to receive a maximum of 30 points for the following energy conservation measures.

1. Participation in the Green Communities program by the Enterprise Community Partners, http://www.enterprisecommunity.com/solutions-and-innovation/enterprise-green-communities, will be awarded 30 points for any project that qualifies for the program. At least 30 percent of the points needed to qualify for the Green Communities program must be earned under the Energy Efficiency section of the Green Communities program. Green Communities has an initial checklist indicating prerequisites for participation. Each applicant must provide a checklist establishing that the prerequisites for each program’s participation will be met. Additional points will be awarded for checklists that achieve higher levels of energy efficiency certification as set forth in paragraph 2 below. All checklists must be accompanied by a signed affidavit by the project architect or engineer stating that the goals are achievable.

(2) If you are not enrolling in the Green Communities program, then points can be accumulated for each of the following items up to a total of 20 points. Provide documentation to substantiate your answers below:
Documentation may include a signed statement agreeing to replace the items, when needed, with Energy Star rated items.
(i) This proposal includes the replacement of heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment with Energy Star qualified heating, ventilation, and air conditioning equipment. 3 points
(ii) This proposal includes the replacement of windows and doors with Energy Star qualified windows and doors. 3 points
(iii) This proposal includes additional attic and wall insulation that exceeds the required R-Value of these building elements for your areas as per the International Energy Conservation Code 2012. Two points will be awarded if all exterior walls exceed insulation code, and 1 point will be awarded if attic insulation exceeds code for a maximum of 3 points.
(iv) This proposal includes the reduction in building shell air leakage by at least 15 percent as determined by pre- and post-rehab blower door testing on a sample of units. Building shell air leakage may be reduced through materials such as caulking, spray foam, gaskets and house-wrap. Sealing of duct work with mastic, foil-backed tape, or aerosolized duct sealants can also help reduce air leakage. 3 points
(v) This proposal includes 100 percent of installed appliances and exhaust fans that are Energy Star qualified. 2 points
(vi) This proposal includes 100 percent of installed water heaters that are Energy Star qualified. 2 points
(vii) This proposal included replacement of 100 percent of toilets with flush capacity of more than 1.6 gallon flush capacity with new toilets having a smaller flush capacity. 1 point
(viii) This proposal included replacement of 100 percent of toilets with flush capacity of more than 1.6 gallon flush capacity with new toilets having a smaller flush capacity. 1 point
(ix) This proposal included 100 percent energy-efficient lighting including, but not limited to, Energy Star qualified fixtures, compact fluorescent replacement bulbs in standard incandescent fixtures and Energy Star ceiling fans. 1 point

(3) Participation in local green/energy efficient building standards. Applicants who participate in a city, county, or municipality program will receive an additional 2 points. The applicant should be aware and look for additional requirements that are sometimes embedded in the third-party program’s rating and verification systems. 2 points

5. Energy Generation (Maximum 5 Points)

Pre-applications which participate in the Green Communities program by the Enterprise Community Partners, or receive at least 20 points for Energy Conservation measures, are eligible to earn additional points for installation of on-site renewable energy sources. Renewable, on-site energy generation
will complement a weather-tight, well-insulated building envelope with highly efficient mechanical systems. Possible renewable energy generation technologies include, but are not limited to: Wind turbines and micro-turbines, micro-hydro power, photovoltaic (capable of producing a voltage when exposed to radiant energy, especially light), solar hot water systems and biomass/biofuel systems that do not use fossil fuels in production. Geo-exchange systems are highly encouraged as they lessen the total demand for energy and, if supplemented with other renewable energy sources, can achieve zero energy consumption more easily.

Points under this paragraph will be awarded as follows. Projects with preliminary or rehabilitation building plans and energy analysis that propose a 10 percent to 100 percent energy generation commitment (where generation is considered to be the total amount of energy needed to be generated on-site to make the building a net-zero consumer of energy) may be awarded points corresponding to their percent of commitment as follows:

- (a) 0 to 9 percent commitment to energy generation receives 0 points;
- (b) 10 to 20 percent commitment to energy generation receives 1 point;
- (c) 21 to 40 percent commitment to energy generation receives 2 points;
- (d) 41 to 60 percent commitment to energy generation receives 3 points;
- (e) 61 to 80 percent commitment to energy generation receives 4 points;
- (f) 81 to 100 percent or more commitment to energy generation receives 5 points.

In order to receive more than 1 point for this energy generation paragraph, an accurate energy analysis prepared by an engineer will need to be submitted with the pre-application. Energy analysis of preliminary building plans using industry-recognized simulation software must document the projected total energy consumption of the building, the portion of building consumption which will be satisfied through on-site generation, and the building’s Home Energy Rating System (HERS) score.

6. Green Property Management Credentials 5 Points

Pre-applications may be awarded an additional 5 points if the designated property management company or individuals that will assume maintenance and operations responsibilities upon completion of construction work have a Credential for Green Property Management. Credentials are obtained from the National Apartment Association (NAA), National Affordable Housing Management Association, the Institute for Real Estate Management, or the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Operations and Maintenance (LEED OM). Credentialing must be illustrated in the resume(s) of the property management team and included with the pre-application.

For pre-applications submitted under Round 1 of this Notice requesting debt deferral only of the eligible Section 515 or Section 514 loans, the Agency will conduct eligibility determinations on an ongoing basis, and eligible applicants will be authorized to proceed, subject to the availability of appropriated funds under the MPR program.

For pre-applications submitted under Round 2 of this Notice, Eligibility will be confirmed after ranking is completed on the highest-scoring pre-applications in each State. If one or more of the highest-scoring pre-applications is determined ineligible, (i.e. the applicant is a borrower that is not in good standing with the Agency or has been debarred or suspended by the Agency, etc.), then the next highest-scoring pre-application will be confirmed for eligibility.

If one or more of the highest ranking pre-applications is a portfolio transaction, eligibility determinations will be conducted on each pre-application associated with the portfolio. Should any of the pre-applications associated with the portfolio be determined ineligible, those ineligible pre-application(s) will be rejected, but the overall eligibility of the portfolio will not be affected as long as the requirements in Section I and other provisions of this Notice are met, as determined by the Agency.

If there are insufficient funds for all projects selected under any step, the Agency may suspend further selections. This demonstration project is subject to the availability of funds. Any selected eligible pre-applications from this Notice or prior NOFAs will be carried over to the next fiscal year for consideration. Any such unfunded pre-applications not approved by the Agency prior to December 31, 2017, will automatically be considered withdrawn by the Agency. Applicants, however, may...
reapply for funding under future Notices.

B. Pre-Application Selection

Those eligible pre-applications that are ranked and then selected for further processing will be invited to submit a formal application on SF 424, “Application for Federal Assistance.” Applications (SF 424s) can be obtained and completed online. An electronic version of this form may be found at: http://www.epa.gov/ogd/AppKit/index.htm. A hard copy may be obtained by contacting the State Office in the State where the project is located and can be submitted either electronically or in hard copy. Refer to Section VIII of this Notice, below, for a link to all Rural Development State Offices.

Those eligible pre-applications that are not selected for further processing will be retained by the Agency unless they are withdrawn according to this Notice. Applicants rejected will be notified that their pre-applications were not selected and advised of their appeal rights under 7 CFR part 11. In the event a pre-application is selected for further processing and the applicant declines, the next highest ranked pre-application of the same transaction type in that State will be selected provided there is no change in the preliminary eligibility of the pre-applicant. If there are no other pre-applications of the same transaction type, then the next highest-ranked pre-application, regardless of transaction type, will be selected.

Awards made under this Notice are subject to the provisions contained in the Agriculture, Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015, Public Law 113–235, Division E, Title 1, sections 744 and 745, regarding corporate felony convictions and corporate federal tax delinquencies. In accordance with these provisions, only selected applicants that are or propose to be corporations need submit the following form as part of their MPR application: such applicants must submit an executed form AD–3030, which can be found online at: http://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad3030.

If a pre-application is accepted for further processing, the applicant must submit additional information needed to demonstrate eligibility and feasibility (such as a CNA), consistent with this Notice and 7 CFR part 3560, prior to the issuance of any restructuring offer. The Agency will provide additional guidance to the applicant and request information and documents necessary to complete the application and review process. Since the character of each application may vary substantially depending on the type of transaction proposed, information requirements will be provided as appropriate. Complete project information must be submitted as soon as possible, but in no case later than 45 calendar days from the date of Agency notification of the applicant’s selection for further processing. Failure to submit the required information in a timely manner may result in the Agency discontinuing the processing of the request.

The Agency will work with the applicants selected for further processing in accordance with the following:

(a) Based on the feasibility of the type of transaction that will best suit the project and the availability of funds, further eligibility confirmation determinations will be conducted by the Agency.

(b) If an Agency-approved CNA has not already been submitted to the Agency, an Agency-approved CNA will be required (see 7 CFR 3560.103(c) and the Agency’s published “Guidance on the Capital Needs Assessment Process” available at http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/housing-preservation-revitalization-demonstration-loans-grants and the CNA Statement of Work together with any non-conflicting amendments). Agency-approved CNAs must be prepared by a qualified independent contractor, and are obtained to determine needed repairs and any necessary adjustments to the reserve account for long-term project viability.

(c) Underwriting will be conducted by the Agency. The feasibility and structure of each revitalization proposal will be based on the Agency’s underwriting and determination of the MPR funding tools that will minimize the cost to the Government consistent with the purposes of this Notice.

C. MPR Offers

Approved MPR offers will be presented to successful applicants who will then have up to 15 calendar days to accept or reject the offer in writing. If no offer is accepted, the application will be rejected and appeal rights will be given. Closing of MPR offers will occur within six months of the obligation of MPR tools unless extended in writing by the Agency.

VII. Non-Discrimination Statement

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. All borrowers and applicants will comply with the provisions of 7 CFR 3560.2. All housing must meet the accessibility requirements found at 7 CFR 3560.60(d). All MPR participants must submit or have on file a valid Form RD 400–1, “Equal Opportunity Agreement” and Form RD 400–4, “Assurance Agreement.”

The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, all or part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file an employment complaint, you must contact your Agency’s EEO Counselor within 45 days of the date of the alleged discriminatory act, or in the case of a personnel action. Additional information can be found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_file.html.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (PDF), found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, any USDA office, or call (866) 632–9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250–9410, by fax (202) 720–7442 or email at: program.intake@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities and you wish to file either an EEO or program complaint please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877–8339 or (800) 845–6136 (in Spanish).

Persons with disabilities, who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail directly or by email. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) please contact USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720–2600 (voice and TDD).

VIII. Award Agency Contacts

USDA Rural Development MFH State Office contacts can be found at http://teamrd.usda.gov/rd/emp_services/
ARCTIC RESEARCH COMMISSION

104th Commission Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Arctic Research Commission will hold its 104th meeting in Anchorage and Nome, Alaska, on August 24–26, 2015. The business sessions, open to the public, will convene at 9 a.m. in Anchorage and 8:30 a.m. in Nome.

The Agenda items include:

1. Call to order and approval of the agenda
2. Approval of the minutes of the 103rd meeting
3. Commissioners and staff reports
4. Discussion and presentations concerning Arctic research activities

The focus of the meeting will include reports and updates on programs and research projects affecting Alaska and the greater Arctic.

If you plan to attend this meeting, please notify us via the contact information below. Any person planning to attend who requires special accessibility features and/or auxiliary aids, such as sign language interpreters, must inform the Commission of those needs in advance of the meeting.

Contact person for further information: John Farrell, Executive Director, U.S. Arctic Research Commission, 703–525–0111 or TDD 703–306–0090.

Kathy Farrow,
Communications Specialist.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Telecommunications and Information Administration

First Responder Network Authority

First Responder Network Authority Board Meeting

AGENCY: First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Public meeting notice.

SUMMARY: The Board of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) will hold a Special Meeting via telephone conference (teleconference) on August 17, 2015.

DATES: The Special Meeting of the FirstNet Board will be held on August 17, 2015, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

ADDRESS: The Special Meeting of the Board will be conducted via teleconference. Members of the public may listen to the meeting by dialing toll-free 1–888–997–9859 and using passcode 3572169. Due to the limited number of ports, attendance via teleconference will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Uzoma Onyeije, Secretary, FirstNet, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, M/S 243, Reston, VA 20192; telephone: (703) 648–4165; email: uzoma.oyeije@firstnet.gov. Please direct media inquiries to Ryan Oremland at (703) 648–4114.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Act), Public Law 112–96, 126 Stat. 156 (2012), created FirstNet as an independent authority within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The Act directs FirstNet to ensure the establishment of a single nationwide, interoperable public safety broadband network. The FirstNet Board is responsible for making strategic decisions regarding FirstNet’s operations. As provided in section 4.08 of the FirstNet Bylaws, the Board through this Notice provides at least two days notice of a Special Meeting of the Board to be held August 17, 2015, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. The Board may, by a majority vote, close a portion of the Special Meeting as necessary to preserve the confidentiality of commercial or financial information that is proprietary or confidential, to discuss personnel matters, or to discuss legal matters affecting FirstNet, including pending or potential litigation. See 47 U.S.C. 1424(e)(2).

Matters to be Considered: FirstNet will post a detailed agenda for the Special Meeting on its Web site, http://www.firstnet.gov, prior to the meeting. The agenda topics are subject to change.

Time and Date of Meeting: The open public meeting of the full FirstNet Board will be held via teleconference on August 17, 2015, between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. The times and dates are subject to change. Please refer to FirstNet’s Web site at www.firstnet.gov for the most up-to-date information.

Other Information: The teleconference for the Special Meeting is open to the public. On the date and time of the Special Meeting, members of the public may call toll-free 1–888–997–9859 and use passcode 3572169 to listen to the meeting. To view the slide presentation, the public may visit https://www.mymeetings.com/join and enter Conference number: 276507910 and audience passcode: Board. As an alternative, members of the public may view the slide presentations by visiting: http://www.mymeetings.com/join.php?sigKey=mymeetings&i=276507910&p=Board&et=c. If you experience technical difficulty, please contact Eli Veenendaal by telephone at (703) 648–4167 or via email at elijah.veenendaal@firstnet.gov. Public access will be limited to listen-only. Due to the limited number of ports, attendance via teleconference will be on a first-come, first-served basis. The Special Meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals requiring accommodations are asked to notify Mr. Onyeije, by telephone at (703) 648–4165 or email at uzoma.oyeije@firstnet.gov, at least two (2) business days before the meeting.

Records: FirstNet maintains records of all Board proceedings. Minutes of the meetings will be available at www.firstnet.gov.

DATED: July 29, 2015.

Eli Veenendaal,
Attorney Advisor, First Responder Network Authority.

BILLING CODE 3510–TL–P