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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Docket No. RHS-22-SFH-0017

60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Direct Single Family Housing Loans and

Grants HB-1-3550, and HB-2-3550; OMB Control No.: 0575-0172

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Housing Service (RHS or Agency) announces its’ intention to request a revision of a currently approved information collection and invites comments on this information collection.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER] to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted by the Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and, in the “Search Field” box, labeled “Search for Rules, Proposed Rules, Notices, or Supporting Documents,” enter the following docket number: **(RHS-22-SFH-0017)**. To submit or view public comments, click the “Search” button, select the “Documents” tab, then select the following document title: **(Direct Single Family Housing Loans and Grants**

29 **HB-1-3550, and HB-2-3550**) from the “Search Results,” and select the “Comment” button.
30 Before inputting your comments, you may also review the “Commenter’s Checklist” (optional).
31 Insert your comments under the “Comment” title, click “Browse” to attach files (if available).
32 Input your email address and select “Submit Comment.” Information on using Regulations.gov,
33 including instructions for accessing documents, submitting comments, and viewing the docket
34 after the close of the comment period, is available through the site’s “FAQ” link.

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37 **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** MaryPat Daskal, Chief, Branch 1, Rural

38 Development Innovation Center – Regulations Management Division, United States Department

39 of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522.

40 Telephone: (202) 720-7853. Email MaryPat.Daskla@usda.gov.

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43 **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

44 The Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) regulation (5 CFR part 1320)
45 implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13) requires that
46 interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on
47 information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice identifies
48 the following information collection that RHS is submitting to OMB as a revision to an existing
49 collection with Agency adjustment.

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51 *Title:* 7 CFR Part 3550, Direct Single Family Housing Loans and Grant Programs, HB-1-
52 3550, and HB-2-3550.

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OMB Control Number: 0572-0172.

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Expiration Date of Approval: February 28, 2025.

55 *Type of Request:* Revision of a currently approved information collection.
56 *Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to
57 average .5 hours per response.

58 *Respondents:* Individual applicants seeking direct single family housing loan and grants

59 *Estimated Number of Respondents:* 647,177

60 *Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1

61 *Estimated Total Number of Responses:* 647,177

62 *Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 310,496 hours.

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64 Abstract: Through its direct single family housing loan and grant programs (specifically
65 the Sections 502 and 504 programs), RHS provides eligible applicants with financial assistance
66 to own adequate but modest homes in rural areas. The financing and servicing are provided
67 directly by RHS. The Section 502 direct loan program provides 100 percent loan financing to
68 assist low- and very low-income applicants purchase modest homes in eligible rural areas by
69 providing payment assistance to increase an applicant’s repayment ability. The Section 504 loan
70 program provides one percent interest rate loans to very low-income homeowners in eligible
71 rural areas to repair, improve, or modernize their home or to remove health and safety hazards.
72 The Section 504 grant program provides grants to elderly very low-income homeowners in
73 eligible rural areas to remove health and safety hazards, or accessibility barriers from their home,
74 often in conjunction with a Section 504 loan.

75 This revision includes an increase in the number of burden hours from 305,646 hours to
76 310,496 hours. This change is attributed to the adding of a newly simplified Section 504-intake
77 form and prequalification process. This form is necessary and will increase program usage while
78 relieving applicant’s burden. The reporting burden covered by this collection of information

79 consists of forms, documents, and written burden to support a request for funding for a Direct
80 Single Family Housing Loan and Grant Program.

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82 Applicants must provide the Agency with a uniform residential loan application and
83 supporting documentation (e.g., verification of income, assets, liabilities, etc.) when applying for
84 assistance. The information requested regarding the applicant and the property is vital in order
85 for the Agency to make sound eligibility and underwriting decisions that comply with the laws
86 and regulations that govern the programs. The information requested is comparable to that
87 required by any public or private mortgage lender.

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89 When servicing loans, RHS offers servicing options that are standard to the industry. In
90 addition, RHS offers unique servicing options (e.g., payment subsidies and payment
91 moratoriums) and is required to take unique servicing actions (e.g., review borrowers for their
92 ability to refinance with private credit). Borrowers must provide the Agency with pertinent
93 information when a servicing option/action is requested/required in order for the Agency to make
94 sound servicing decisions that comply with the laws and regulations that govern the programs.

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96 Comments are invited on:

97 (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the
98 functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility.

99 (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information
100 including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.

101 (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

102 (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents,

103 including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other

104 technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. All responses to
105 this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will
106 become a matter of public record.

107 Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Arlette Mussington, Rural
108 Development Innovation Center – Regulations Management Division, at (202) 720-7853. Email:
109 arlette.mussington@usda.gov.

110 All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB
111 approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.
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117 Joaquin Altoro,

118 *Administrator,*

119 *Rural Housing Service.*

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