

LETTER OF INTENT TO MEET CONDITIONS

Date 07-18-2023

TO: United States Department of Agriculture

Rural Development

(Name of USDA Agency)

Attn: EJ Stacy
100 USDA Suite 108
Stillwater, OK 74074

(USDA Agency Office Address)

We have reviewed and understand the conditions set forth in your letter dated 07-18-2023 . It is our intent to meet all of them not later than 01-18-2024 .

Muskogee County Dist. 1.

(Name of Association)

BY _____

Ken Doke, County Commissioner

(Title)

27th day of July 2023
Chairman [Signature]
Member [Signature]
Member [Signature]
Attest [Signature] County Clerk



According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a persons is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0575-0015 and 0570-0062. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data. needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

REQUEST FOR OBLIGATION OF FUNDS

INSTRUCTIONS-TYPE IN CAPITALIZED ELITE TYPE IN SPACES MARKED () Complete Items 1 through 29 and applicable Items 30 through 34. See FMI.			
1. CASE NUMBER ST CO BORROWER ID 42-051-*****6395		LOAN NUMBER	FISCAL YEAR 2023
2. BORROWER NAME Muskogee County Dist. 1.		3. NUMBER NAME FIELDS 1 (1, 2, or 3 from Item 2)	
		4. STATE NAME Oklahoma	
		5. COUNTY NAME Muskogee	
GENERAL BORROWER/LOAN INFORMATION			
6. RACE/ETHNIC CLASSIFICATION 1 - WHITE 2 - BLACK 3 - AI/AN 4 - HISPANIC 5 - A/PI	7. TYPE OF APPLICANT 1 - INDIVIDUAL 2 - PARTNERSHIP 3 - CORPORATION 4 - PUBLIC BODY 5 - ASSOC. OF FARMERS 6 - ORG. OF FARMERS 7 - NONPROFIT-SECULAR 8 - NONPROFIT-FAITH BASED 9 - INDIAN TRIBE 10 - PUBLIC COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY 11 - OTHER		8. COLLATERAL CODE 1 - REAL ESTATE SECURED 2 - REAL ESTATE AND CHATTEL 3 - NOTE ONLY OR CHATTEL ONLY 4 - MACHINERY ONLY 5 - LIVESTOCK ONLY 6 - CROPS ONLY 7 - SECURED BY BONDS 8 - RLF ACCT
9. EMPLOYEE RELATIONSHIP CODE 1 - EMPLOYEE 2 - MEMBER OF FAMILY 3 - CLOSE RELATIVE 4 - ASSOC.	10. SEX CODE 1 - MALE 2 - FEMALE 3 - FAMILY UNIT 4 - ORGAN, MALE OWNED 5 - ORGAN FEMALE OWNED 6 - PUBLIC BODY	11. MARITAL STATUS 1 - MARRIED 2 - SEPARATED 3 - UNMARRIED (INCLUDES WIDOWED/DIVORCED)	12. VETERAN CODE 1 - YES 2 - NO
13. CREDIT REPORT 1 - YES 2 - NO	14. DIRECT PAYMENT (See FMI)	15. TYPE OF PAYMENT 1 - MONTHLY 2 - ANNUALLY 3 - SEMI-ANNUALLY 4 - QUARTERLY	16. FEE INSPECTION 1 - YES 2 - NO
17. COMMUNITY SIZE 1 - 10 000 OR LESS (FOR SFH AND HPG ONLY) 2 - OVER 10,000		18. USE OF FUNDS CODE (See FMI)	
COMPLETE FOR OBLIGATION OF FUNDS			
19. TYPE OF ASSISTANCE 237 (See FMI)	20. PURPOSE CODE 4	21. SOURCE OF FUNDS	22. TYPE OF ACTION 1 - OBLIGATION ONLY 2 - OBLIGATION/CHECK REQUEST 3 - CORRECTION OF OBLIGATION
23. TYPE OF SUBMISSION 1 - INITIAL 2 - SUBSEQUENT	24. AMOUNT OF LOAN	25. AMOUNT OF GRANT 50,000	
26. AMOUNT OF IMMEDIATE ADVANCE	27. DATE OF APPROVAL MO DAY YR	28. INTEREST RATE 0 %	29. REPAYMENT TERMS
COMPLETE FOR COMMUNITY PROGRAM AND CERTAIN MULTIPLE-FAMILY HOUSING LOANS			
30. PROFIT TYPE 1 - FULL PROFIT 2 - LIMITED PROFIT 3 - NONPROFIT			
COMPLETE FOR EM LOANS ONLY		COMPLETE FOR CREDIT SALE-ASSUMPTION	
31. DISASTER DESIGNATION NUMBER (See FMI)	32. TYPE OF SALE 1 - CREDIT SALE ONLY 2 - ASSUMPTION ONLY 3 - CREDIT SALE WITH SUBSEQUENT LOAN 4 - ASSUMPTION WITH SUBSEQUENT LOAN		
FINANCE OFFICE USE ONLY		COMPLETE FOR FP LOANS ONLY	
33. OBLIGATION DATE MO DA YR	34. BEGINNING FARMER/RANCHER (See FMI)		

If the decision contained above in this form results in denial, reduction or cancellation of USDA assistance, you may appeal this decision and have a hearing or you may request a review in lieu of a hearing. Please use the form we have included for this purpose.

Position 2

ORIGINAL - Borrower's Case Folder COPY 1 - Finance Office COPY 2 - Applicant/Lender COPY 3 - State Office

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CERTIFICATION APPROVAL

EM, OL, FO, and SW Loans

For All Farmers Programs

This loan is approved subject to the availability of funds. If this loan does not close for any reason within 90 days from the date of approval on this document, the approval official will request updated eligibility information. The undersigned loan applicant agrees that the approval official will have 14 working days to review any updated information prior to submitting this document for obligation of funds. If there have been significant changes that may affect eligibility, a decision as to eligibility and feasibility will be made within 30 days from the time the applicant provides the necessary information.

If this is a loan approval for which a lien and/or title search is necessary, the undersigned applicant agrees that the 15-working-day loan closing requirement may be exceeded for the purposes of the applicant's legal representative completing title work and completing loan closing.

35. COMMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS OF CERTIFYING OFFICIAL

Approval of financial assistance is subject to the terms of the Letter of Conditions dated July 18, 2023, with Exhibit A and any amendments thereto.

36. I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am unable to obtain sufficient credit elsewhere to finance my actual needs at reasonable rates and terms, taking into consideration prevailing private and cooperative rates and terms in or near my community for loans for similar purposes and periods of time. I agree to use the sum specified herein, subject to and in accordance with regulations applicable to the type of assistance indicated above, and request payment of such sum. I agree to report to USDA any material adverse changes, financial or otherwise, that occur prior to loan closing. I certify that no part of the sum specified herein has been received. I have reviewed the loan approval requirements and comments associated with this loan request and agree to comply with these provisions.

(For FP loans at eligible terms only) If this loan is approved, I elect the interest rate to be charged on my loan to be the lower of the interest rate in effect at the time of loan approval or loan closing. If I check "NO", the interest rate charged on my loan will be the rate specified in Item 28 of this form. YES NO

WARNING: Whoever, in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals or covers up by any trick, scheme, or device a material fact, or makes any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations, or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing the same to contain any false, fictitious or fraudulent statement or entry, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than five years, or both."

Date _____, 20 ____

Ken Doke, County Commissioner

(Signature of Applicant)

SIGN HERE

Date _____, 20 ____

(Signature of Co-Applicant)

37. I HEREBY CERTIFY that all of the committee and administrative determinations and certifications required by regulations prerequisite to providing assistance of the type indicated above have been made and that evidence thereof is in the docket, and that all requirements of pertinent regulations have been complied with. I hereby approve the above-described assistance in the amount set forth above, and by this document, subject to the availability of funds, the Government agrees to advance such amount to the applicant for the purpose of and subject to the availability prescribed by regulations applicable to this type of assistance.

(Signature of Approving Official)

Typed or Printed Name: Pamela Bensley

Date Approved: _____

Title: Community Programs Director

38. TO THE APPLICANT: As of this date _____, this is notice that your application for financial assistance from the USDA has been approved, as indicated above, subject to the availability of funds and other conditions required by the USDA. If you have any questions contact the appropriate USDA Servicing Office.

EXHIBIT A

The grantee understands the requirements for receipts of funds under the Community Facilities Grant Program. The grantee assures and certifies that it is in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, Executive Orders, and other applicable requirements, including those set forth in Form RD 3570-3, 7CFR parts 2015, 3016 or 3019 as subsequently modified, and the Letter of Conditions. The following conditions may apply if CFG funds were used to purchase equipment or obtain or improve real property:

The grantee understands that any property acquired or improved with Federal grant funds may have use and dispositions conditions which apply to the property as provided by 7 CFR parts 3015, 3016 or 3019 in effect at this time and as may be subsequently modified.

AND

The grantee understands that any sale or transfer of property is subject to interest of the United State Government in the market value in proportion to its participation in the project as provided by 7 CFR parts 3015, 3016 or 3019 in effect at this time and as may be subsequently modified.



United States Department of Agriculture

July 18, 2023

Muskogee County District 1
Summit Project
Ken Doke
3000 North St.
Muskogee, OK 74403

Subject: Letter of Conditions for a Community Facilities Program Grant to
Repair .8 miles of road with asphalt overlay

Dear Mr. Doke:

This letter, with attachments, establishes conditions that must be understood and agreed to by the applicant before further consideration may be given to their application. Any changes in project cost, source of funds, scope of services, or any other significant changes (this includes significant changes in the applicant's financial condition, operation, organizational structure or executive leadership) in the project or applicant must be reported to and approved by USDA Rural Development by written amendment to this letter. Any change not approved by USDA Rural Development will be cause for discontinuing processing of the application.

This letter is not to be considered as grant approval or as representation to the availability of funds. The application can be processed on the basis of a USDA Rural Development grant not to exceed \$50,000. Funds for this project are provided by the Rural Housing Service (RHS).

Please complete and return the attached Form RD 1942-46, "Letter of Intent to Meet Conditions," and Form RD 1940-1, "Request for Obligation of Funds," within the next ten (10) days, if you desire that we give further consideration to your application. The execution of these and all other documents required by USDA Rural Development must be authorized by appropriate resolutions of the applicant's governing body.

The grant will be considered approved on the date Form RD 1940-1, "Request for Obligation of Funds," is mailed by USDA Rural Development.

Rural Development Stillwater Office
100 USDA, Suite 108 Stillwater, OK 74074
Voice (405) 742-1070 • Fax (855) 423-4048 • TDD (405) 742-1007

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Project Budget—Based on Standard Form 424, “Application for Federal Assistance,” the project cost and funding will be as follows:

a. Project Cost:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>USDA Loan</u>	<u>USDA Grant</u>	<u>Applicant Contribution</u>
Renovations	\$159,439		\$50,000	\$109,439
TOTAL	\$159,439		\$50,000	\$109,439

b. The source of funds will be as follows:

USDA Grant	\$ 50,000
Applicant Contribution	\$ 109,439
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 159,439</u>

Any changes in funding sources following obligation of Agency funds must be reported to the processing official. Project feasibility and funding will be reassessed if there is a significant change in project costs after bids are received. If actual project costs exceed the project cost estimates, an additional contribution by the borrower may be necessary.

Section I of the attached conditions (Items 1—9) must be satisfied prior to grant closing or before construction begins, whichever occurs first, in either case not later than six (6) months from the date of this letter. **In the event the project has not advanced to the point of construction within twelve (12) months/six to nine months for equipment type purchases (6-9), USDA Rural Development reserves the right to discontinue the processing of the application.**

In addition to the conditions in Sections I-III, the applicant must fully comply with all requirements on Form RD 3570-3, Community Facilities Grant Agreement. The Agency reserves the right to cancel funds if the applicant does not fully comply with all requirements as presented or subsequently modified, as needed.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,

PAMELA
BENSLEY
PAMELA BENSLEY
Community Programs Director

Digitally signed by
PAMELA BENSLEY
Date: 2023.07.18
11:44:21 -05'00'

ATTACHMENT TO LETTER OF CONDITIONS

SECTION I. CONDITIONS TO BE SATISFIED PRIOR TO GRANT CLOSING OR BEFORE CONSTRUCTION BEGINS, WHICHEVER OCCURS FIRST

1. Disbursement of Funds

- a. The applicant will provide evidence that funds from other sources will be made available for the project cost in the amount of \$109,439. This evidence should include a copy of the loan/grant award that addresses how funds will be disbursed.
- b. The applicant's contribution of funds toward the project cost shall be considered the first funds expended and must be deposited in its project account before construction is started. After providing for all authorized costs, any remaining RHS project funds will be considered RHS grant funds and refunded to RHS.
- c. Agency funds will not be used to pre-finance funds committed to the project from other sources

2. Security Requirements

- a. The applicant will be required to complete and execute Form RD 3570-03, "Community Facilities Grant Agreement" prior to grant closing.
- b. Prior to any disbursement of funds, a Notice of Federal Interest must be recorded in the official real property records for the jurisdiction where the facility is or will be located. The applicant must provide evidence of the recording. Federal interest cannot be defeated by a grantee's failure to file a Notice of Federal Interest.
- c. The grantee understands that any property acquired or improved with Federal grant funds may have use and disposition conditions which apply to the property as provided by 2 CFR part 200 in effect at this time and as may be subsequently modified.
- d. The grantee understands that any sale or transfer of property is subject to the interest of the United States Government in the market value in proportion to its participation in the project as provided by 2 CFR part 200 in effect at this time and as may be subsequently modified.
- e. In accordance with 2 CFR 200.330, the grantee understands that it must submit regular reports on the status of real property in which the Federal Government retains an interest. Reports shall be submitted annually for the first three years of the award and every five years thereafter on SF-429 Real Property Status Report, or similar format.

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3. **Insurance and Bonding Requirements**—The applicant must provide evidence of adequate insurance and fidelity bond coverage by grant closing or start of construction, whichever occurs first. Adequate coverage, in accordance with USDA Rural Development's regulations, must then be maintained for the life of the grant. It is the responsibility of the applicant and not that of USDA Rural Development to assure that adequate insurance and fidelity bond coverage is maintained. Applicants are encouraged to review coverage amounts and deductible provisions with their attorney, consulting engineer, and/or insurance provider(s).
- a. **Property Insurance**—Fire and extended coverage will be required on all above-ground structures, including applicant-owned equipment and machinery housed therein. Provide USDA Rural Development with proof of coverage.
 - b. **Workers' Compensation Insurance**—The applicant will be required to carry workers' compensation insurance for all employees in accordance with California law. Provide USDA Rural Development with proof of coverage.
 - c. **General liability and vehicular coverage must be maintained**—Provide USDA Rural Development with proof of coverage.
 - d. **National Flood Insurance (if applicable)**—If the project involves acquisition or construction in designated special flood or mudslide prone areas, you must purchase a flood insurance policy at the time of loan closing.
 - e. **Earthquake Insurance (if applicable)**—If the project involves acquisition or construction in earthquake prone areas, you must purchase an earthquake insurance policy at the time of loan closing.
4. **Civil Rights & Equal Opportunity**— The grantee has received an award of Federal funding and is required to comply with U.S. statutory and public policy requirements, including but not limited to:
- a. **Age Discrimination Act of 1975** – This Act (42 U.S.C. 6101 *et seq.*) provides that no person in the United States shall on the basis of age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.
 - b. **Controlled Substances Act** - Even though state law may allow some activities, as a recipient of Federal funding, you are subject to the Controlled Substances Act. Specific questions about the Controlled Substances Act should be directed to the Servicing Official who will contact the Office of General Counsel, as appropriate.
 - c. Agency financial programs must be extended without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, marital status, age, or physical or mental handicap. The recipient must display posters (provided by the Agency) informing users of these requirements,

and the Agency will monitor the recipient's compliance with these requirements during regular compliance reviews.

- d. The applicant is subject to a pre-grant closing civil rights compliance review by USDA Rural Development.
- e. As a recipient of Rural Development funding, you are required to post a copy of the Non-Discrimination Statement listed below in your office and include in full, on all materials produced for public information, public education, and public distribution both print and non-print.

Non-Discrimination Statement

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at <https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad-3027>, or at 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, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

If the material is too small to permit the full statement to be included, the material at a minimum includes the statement in print size no smaller than the text that "This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

5. Architectural and Construction (if applicable)

- a. USDA Rural Development must approve any agreements or modifications to agreements for professional planning and design services. AIA Document "Standard Form of Agreement Between owner and Architect," may be used when appropriate or other Agency approved forms of agreement.
- b. All construction will be completed under contract. The planning, bidding, contracting, and construction must comply with RD Instruction 1942 Subpart A, and any additional requirements of California law and the requirements of other County, State, or Federal agencies.
- c. The following must be reviewed and approved by USDA Rural Development in the sequence indicated:
 - i. Preliminary Architectural Report
 - ii. Agreement for Architectural Services
 - iii. Final Plans and Specifications for the project

- iv. Draft/Construction Bid Documents, prior to Going Out to Bid
 - v. Bid Award Information.
 - vi. Executed Contract Documents
- d. Affirmative steps should be taken to assure that small, minority and/or women-owned businesses are utilized as source of supplies, equipment, construction, and services.
 - e. The Plans & Specifications must be reviewed and approved, when applicable, by any regulatory or other agencies that are required to review these documents.
 - f. A representative of USDA Rural Development will attend all pre-construction conferences in connection with this project. These conferences must be held prior to the issuance of the Notice to Proceed to the contractors. The applicant's architect will conduct the conference and document the discussions and agreements.
6. **BUILD AMERICA, BUY AMERICA ACT (BABAA)** (include if applicable following assessment of entity and project consideration of current agency-wide public interest waivers, see Implementation Guide, Attachment A)

The recipient must comply with the provisions of the Build America, Buy America Act (the "Act"). Pub. L. No. 117-58, §§ 70901-52, enacted on November 15, 2021. The Act requires that "none of the funds made available for a Federal financial assistance program for infrastructure may be obligated for a project unless all of the iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States." Recipients of an award of Federal financial assistance from a program for infrastructure are hereby notified that none of the funds provided under this award may be used for a project for infrastructure unless:

- a. All iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States. This means all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States;
- b. All manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States. This means the manufactured product was manufactured in the United States, and the cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States is greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product, unless another standard for determining the minimum amount of domestic content of the manufactured product has been established under applicable law or regulation; and
- c. All construction materials are manufactured in the United States. This means that all manufacturing processes for the construction material occurred in the United States.

The BABAA requirement applies to the entirety of an infrastructure project, even if only a portion of the project is funded by Federal funds. The requirement applies to each product, manufactured good, or construction material incorporated in the project.

6.1. Definitions (as applied in this condition only)

Construction Materials—include an article, material, or supply—other than an item of primarily iron or steel; a manufactured product; cement and cementitious materials; aggregates such as stone, sand, or gravel; or aggregate binding agents or additives—that is or consists primarily of:

- non-ferrous metals;
- plastic and polymer-based products (including polyvinylchloride, composite building materials, and polymers used in fiber optic cables);
- glass (including optic glass);
- lumber; or
- drywall.

Domestic Content Procurement Preference—means all iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States; the manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States; or the construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States.

Infrastructure—includes, at a minimum, the structures, facilities, and equipment for, in the United States, roads, highways, and bridges; public transportation; dams, ports, harbors, and other maritime facilities; intercity passenger and freight railroads; freight and intermodal facilities; airports; water systems, including drinking water and wastewater systems; electrical transmission facilities and systems; utilities; broadband infrastructure; and buildings and real property. Infrastructure also includes structures, facilities, and equipment that generate, transport, and distribute energy, including electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. “Infrastructure” has a broad interpretation and the definition provided is illustrative and not exhaustive.

Manufactured Product—Items assembled out of components, or otherwise made or processed from raw materials into finished products. Manufactured products must be manufactured (assembled) in the United States, and the cost of components that were mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States must be greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product, unless another standard for determining the minimum amount of domestic content of the manufactured product has been established under applicable law or regulation.

Manufacturer’s Certification—Documentation provided by a manufacturer, certifying that the items provided by manufacturer meet the domestic preference requirements of the Act.

Project—means the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of infrastructure in the United States.

6.2. Compliance

The recipient must comply with the provisions of the Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA). Pub. L. No. 117-58, §§ 70901-52, enacted on November 15, 2021. By accepting these conditions, the recipient attests that they or their designee(s) will maintain documentation for BABAA provisions to indicate compliance.

Minimum records include certifications from manufacturers, the architect/engineers, and the prime contractor. Supporting documentation includes purchasing records and notes and photos taken by the Resident Project Representative (RPR)/ Resident Inspector (RI). Documentation must be available and reviewable upon request.

6.3. Evidence Standards

Manufacturers

For each item to which BABAA applies (every item permanently installed on the project, except for aggregate and aggregate binding materials), a manufacturer's certification letter or other document demonstrating compliance is required. It must, at a minimum, identify the item being certified (short written description as well as part number, if applicable) and affirm that the item complies with BABAA. This document must be signed by an authorized company representative. The manufacturer may submit a letter on letterhead or provide other evidence acceptable to the Agency.

Architects and Engineers (A/E)

The need to comply with BABAA will be spelled out in agreements for A/E services, construction contracts, and procurement contracts. Generally, the A/E contract will include, as a basic service, obtaining and maintaining all BABAA documentation (particularly manufacturers' certifications) during construction, which shall be transferred to the recipient upon substantial completion of the project. The architect or engineer should certify in writing to the completeness and accuracy of the manufacturers' certifications.

Resident project representative (RPR) / Resident inspector (RI)

As part of their duties, RPR/RI will be instructed to verify items delivered to the site and installed are accompanied by documentation of compliance with BABAA. They will photograph items as appropriate. RPR/RI daily logs and photographs will become part of the construction record and can be used as supporting information during audits, providing evidence for items that are buried or otherwise inaccessible.

Contractors

The construction contract(s) will include a requirement to procure and install only items that comply with BABAA or are subject to a waiver approved by the Secretary of Agriculture or designee. The contractors are to provide manufacturers' certifications for all BABAA compliant items to the architect/engineer no later than

with applications for payment. At substantial completion, the contractor will be required to certify that all items used on the contract complied with BABAA and that all manufacturers' certifications were provided to the architect/engineer.

6.4. Obtaining Waivers under the BABA Act

The Secretary of Agriculture or a designee may grant waivers to the procurement requirements under the following conditions:

(1) *Nonavailability*. The Secretary of Agriculture or delegate determines that the iron, steel or relevant manufactured goods or construction materials are not produced or manufactured in sufficient and reasonably available commercial quantities of a satisfactory quality.

(2) *Unreasonable cost*. The Secretary of Agriculture or delegate determines that the inclusion of domestic iron, steel, or relevant manufactured goods will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25%.

(3) *Inconsistent with public interest*. The Secretary of Agriculture or delegate determines that the application of these restrictions would be inconsistent with the public interest.

6.5. BABAA Waivers for Rural Development

A waiver of the domestic procurement requirement for a specific product in a specific infrastructure project may be obtained upon a satisfactory showing of evidence that the waiver is warranted by a recipient and a recommendation by the Agency. Waivers of the procurement requirement are granted by the Secretary of Agriculture or by a designee of the Secretary. The requirements are posted publicly at the USDA OCFO website: USDA Buy America Waivers for Federal Financial Assistance | USDA located at <https://www.usda.gov/ocfo/federal-financial-assistance-policy/USDABuyAmericaWaiver>

Before submitting a request for waiver, recipient should determine whether they qualify for agency-wide public interest waivers that have already been approved by USDA. One such public interest waiver is referred to as the "*De Minimis*, Small Grants, and Minor Components" waiver, which has three parts. *De Minimis* is intended to prevent restrictions on the procurement of materials and products that represent a small portion of an infrastructure project, specifically no more than 5% of the project costs up to a maximum of \$1,000,000, from hindering the overall project. *Small Grants* exempts projects below the Federal Simplified Acquisition Threshold of \$250,000 (the grant section also applies to small loans and loan guarantees). The *Minor Components* provision of the waiver exempts miscellaneous components of iron and steel that make up no more than 5% of the total cost of an iron or steel product used in a project.

7. **Electronic Funds Transfer**—All grant funds will be transferred to grantees via Electronic Funds Transfer/Automated Clearinghouse Systems (EFT/ACH). Normal transfers will be ACH, with money being placed in the grantees account two business days after the USDA processing office approves the pay request. The applicant must submit the Electronic Funds Transfer Form containing the banking (ACH) information to the USDA Servicing Office at least 45 days prior to the date of grant closing. Failure to do so could delay grant closing.
8. **System for Award Management Registration and Unique Entity ID**—You as the recipient must maintain the currency of your information in the System for Award Management (SAM) until you submit the final financial report required under this award and all grant funds under this award have been disbursed or de-obligated, whichever is later. This requires that you review and update the information at least annually after the initial registration, and more frequently if required by changes in your information or another award term. Recipients can register on-line at (<https://www.sam.gov>) You as the recipient may not make a sub-award to an entity unless the entity has provided its Unique Entity ID from SAM.gov to you.
9. **Suspension and Debarment Screening** – You will be asked to provide information on the principals of your organization. Agency staff must conduct screening for suspension and debarment of the entity, as well as its principals through the Do Not Pay Portal.
 - 9.1. Principal –
 - 9.1.1. An officer, director, owner, partner, principal investigator, or other person within a participant with management or supervisory responsibilities related to a covered transaction; or
 - 9.1.2. A consultant or other person, whether or not employed by the participant or paid with federal funds, who –
 - 9.1.2.1. Is in a position to handle federal funds;
 - 9.1.2.2. Is in a position to influence or control the use of those funds; or,Occupies a technical or professional position capable of substantially influencing the development or outcome of an activity required to perform the covered transaction. (2 CFR §180.995)

SECTION II. GRANT CONDITIONS TO BE SATISFIED DURING CONSTRUCTION

1. **Disbursement of Grant Funds**—USDA Rural Development funds will be advanced as they are needed in the amount(s) necessary to cover the Rural Development proportionate share of obligation due and payable to the Grantee. Interest earned on grant funds in excess of \$250 for Nonprofits and \$100 for Public Bodies per year will be submitted to Rural Development at least quarterly, as required in 2 CFR part 200 as applicable.
2. **Inspections**— A full-time resident inspector/project manager is required during construction unless a written exception is made by the Agency upon your written request. This service is to be provided by the consulting architect or other arrangements as approved by the Agency. Prior to the pre- construction conference, a resume of

qualifications of the resident inspector(s) will be submitted to the owner and Agency for review and approval. The owner will provide a letter of acceptance for all proposed observers to the architect and Agency. The inspection reports must be available to USDA, Rural Development for review at any time. These reports must be kept at the project site or borrower's office, if nearby.

2. **Monthly Reporting**— The applicant must monitor and provide a monthly reports to USDA Rural Development on actual performance for each project financed, or to be financed, in whole or in part with USDA Rural Development funds. For construction projects, include Forms RD 1924-18, "Partial Payment Estimate"; RD 1924-7, "Contract Change Order"; SF-271, "Outlay Report and Request for Reimbursement for Construction Programs"; and Project Daily Inspection Reports for construction projects. For non-construction projects, Form SF-270, "Request for Advance or Reimbursement," will be submitted with paid invoices.
3. **Final Inspection**—A final inspection will be made by USDA Rural Development on the component USDA is financing before final payment is made.
4. **Excess Funds**—Any remaining funds must be utilized for approved purposes within 120 days following the final inspection or the funds will be canceled without further notification from USDA Rural Development.

SECTION III. GRANT CONDITIONS TO BE SATISFIED AFTER PROJECT COMPLETION

1. **Financial Statements**—To be submitted on an annual basis in accordance with the following:
 - a. 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F establishes audit requirements that borrowers and grantees must follow. Borrowers and grantees who expend \$750,000 or more in Federal awards in their fiscal year, have CF loan balances totaling \$750,000 or more, or a combination of the two must submit an audit in accordance with 2 CFR 200, Subpart F.

Federal funds expended during a borrowers fiscal year: 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F requires a borrower that expends \$750,000 or more in Federal awards in their fiscal year to submit a single or program-specific audit. A CF direct loan, guaranteed loan, and/or grant, or any combination thereof, are considered Federal awards.

Grantees: Grantees that expend \$750,000 or more in a year in Federal awards must have an audit conducted in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F except when the grantee elects to have a program specific audit conducted.

Prior loan and loan guarantees: 2 CFR Part 200, §200.502(b) establishes the basis for including loan and loan guarantees (loans) on the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA). The value of new loans made or received during the audit period plus the beginning of the audit period balance of loans from previous years for which the Federal Government imposes continuing compliance requirements must be reported on the SEFA. CF Program loans require its borrowers to meet continuing compliance requirements. Continuing compliance requirements that CF borrowers must meet include, but are not limited to, funding reserves, maintaining insurance, deposit funds in Federally insured banks, meet financial covenants, maintain sufficient debt service ratios, comply with civil rights requirements, and comply with additional requirements established as part of the loan approval process.

Borrowers and grantees must submit audits within nine months from the end of the borrower's fiscal year or 30 days after receipt from the auditor, whichever is earlier. The audited financial statements must be submitted to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse.

- b. All borrowers exempt from the audit requirements cited in 1(a) above, and who do not otherwise have annual audits, will within 60 days following the end of the borrower's fiscal year furnish Rural Development with annual financial statements, consisting of a verification of the organizations, balance sheet and statement of income and expenses.

Grantees exempt from the audit requirements cited in 1(a) above, and who do not otherwise have annual audits, will within 60 days following the end of the fiscal year in which any grant funds were expended furnish Rural Development with annual financial statements consisting of a verification of the organizations, balance sheet and statement of income and expenses.

The borrower/grantee may use Forms RD 442-2 "Statement of Budget, Income and Equity" and 442-3 "Balance Sheet", or similar format to provide the financial information. For borrowers using Form RD 442-2, the dual purpose of fourth quarter management reports, when required, and annual statements of income will be met with this one submission.

2. **Audit agreement**—If you are required to obtain the services of a licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA), you must enter into a written audit agreement with the auditor. The audit agreement may include terms and conditions that you and auditor deem appropriate.