

areas with concentrations or substantial numbers of low-income persons by providing support to self-help programs which promote economic development and independence, as a supplement to existing similar programs conducted by other departments and agencies of the Federal Government. Such programs should encourage low-income families to pool their talents and resources so as to create and expand rural economic enterprise.

(Pub. L. 97-35, title VI, §620, Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 493.)

**§ 9810. Financial assistance to low-income families, local cooperative associations, and local public or private nonprofit organizations or entities; amount, purposes, etc.**

(a) The Secretary is authorized to provide financial assistance, including loans having a maximum maturity of fifteen years and in amounts not resulting in an aggregate principal indebtedness of more than \$3,500 at any one time, to any low-income rural family where, in the judgment of the Secretary, such financial assistance has a reasonable possibility of effecting a permanent increase in the income of such families, or will contribute to the improvement of their living or housing conditions, by assisting or permitting them to—

- (1) acquire or improve real estate or reduce encumbrances or erect improvements thereon;
- (2) operate or improve the operation of farms not larger than family sized, including but not limited to the purchase of feed, seed, fertilizer, livestock, poultry, and equipment; or
- (3) participate in cooperative associations, or finance nonagricultural<sup>1</sup> enterprises which will enable such families to supplement their income.

(b) The Secretary is authorized to provide financial assistance to local cooperative associations or local public and private nonprofit organizations or agencies in rural areas containing concentrations or substantial numbers of low-income persons for the purpose of defraying all or part of the costs of establishing and operating cooperative programs for farming, purchasing, marketing, processing, and to improve their income as producers and their purchasing power as consumers, and to provide such essentials as credit and health services. Costs which may be defrayed shall include—

- (1) administrative costs of staff and overhead;
- (2) costs of planning and developing new enterprises;
- (3) costs of acquiring technical assistance; and
- (4) initial capital where it is determined by the Secretary that the poverty of the families participating in the program and the social conditions of the rural area require such assistance.

(Pub. L. 97-35, title VI, §621, Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 493.)

**§ 9811. Limitation on assistance**

No financial assistance shall be provided under this part unless the Secretary determines that—

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be "nonagricultural".

(1) any cooperative association receiving assistance has a minimum of fifteen active members, a majority of which are low-income rural persons;

(2) adequate technical assistance is made available and committed to the programs being supported;

(3) such financial assistance will materially further the purposes of this part; and

(4) the applicant is fulfilling or will fulfill a need for services, supplies, or facilities which is otherwise not being met.

(Pub. L. 97-35, title VI, §622, Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 494.)

PART C—DEVELOPMENT LOANS TO COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

**§ 9812. Development loan fund**

**(a) Authorities, scope, and purposes; conditions; interest rate; repayment**

The Secretary is authorized to make or guarantee loans (either directly or in cooperation with banks or other organizations through agreements to participate on an immediate or deferred basis) to community development corporations, to families and local cooperatives and the designated supportive organizations of cooperatives eligible for financial assistance under this subchapter, to private nonprofit organizations receiving assistance under chapter 106 of this title, or to public and private nonprofit organizations or agencies, for business facilities and community development projects, including community development credit unions, which the Secretary determines will carry out the purposes of this part. No loans, guarantees, or other financial assistance shall be provided under this section unless the Secretary determines that—

- (1) there is reasonable assurance of repayment of the loan;
- (2) the loan is not otherwise available on reasonable terms from private sources or other Federal, State, or local programs; and
- (3) the amount of the loan, together with other funds available, is adequate to assure completion of the project or achievement of the purposes for which the loan is made.

Loans made by the Secretary pursuant to this section shall bear interest at a rate not less than a rate determined by the Secretary of the Treasury taking into consideration the average market yield on outstanding Treasury obligations of comparable maturity, plus such additional charge, if any, toward covering other costs of the program as the Secretary of Health and Human Services may determine to be consistent with its purposes, except that, for the 5 years following the date in which funds are initially available to the borrower, the rate of interest shall be set at a rate considered appropriate by the Secretary in light of the particular needs of the borrower, which rate shall not be lower than 1 percent. All such loans shall be repayable within a period of not more than 30 years.

**(b) Adjustment of interest rates, moratorium on principal and interest, etc.**

The Secretary is authorized to adjust interest rates, grant moratoriums on repayment of prin-