

retary shall issue such regulations as may be necessary to carry out this section to assure the prompt and expeditious use of such funds for the restoration of decent, safe, and sanitary housing within the areas described in subsection (a)(1) of this section. In implementing this section, the Secretary shall evaluate the natural hazards to which any permanent replacement housing is exposed and shall take appropriate action to mitigate such hazards.

**(c) Eligibility**

Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, assistance allocated under this section shall be available to units of general local government and their agencies and to local non-profit organizations, agencies, and corporations for the construction or rehabilitation of housing for agricultural employees and their families.

**(d) Waiver of rural area requirements**

The Secretary may waive the application of the provisions of section 1490 of this title with respect to assistance under this section, as the Secretary considers appropriate.

**(e) Rural Housing Insurance Fund**

The Secretary is authorized to advance from the Rural Housing Insurance Fund such sums as may be necessary to meet the requirements of subsection (a)(1) of this section, subject to limits previously approved in appropriations Acts.

(July 15, 1949, ch. 338, title V, § 541, as added Pub. L. 101-625, title IX, § 934, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4404; amended Pub. L. 102-550, title VII, § 713, Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 3842.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, referred to in subsec. (a)(1), is Pub. L. 93-288, May 22, 1974, 88 Stat. 143, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 68 (§ 5121 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 5121 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

1992—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 102-550 substituted “amounts made available to the Secretary by an appropriations Act for such purpose” for “amounts available under this subchapter”.

**§ 1490r. Rural housing voucher program**

**(a) In general**

To such extent or in such amounts as are approved in appropriation Acts, the Secretary shall carry out a rural housing voucher program to assist very low-income families and persons to reside in rental housing in rural areas. For such purposes, the Secretary may provide assistance using a payment standard based on the fair market rental rate established by the Secretary for the area. The monthly assistance payment for any family shall be the amount by which the payment standard for the area exceeds 30 per centum of the family’s monthly adjusted income, except that such monthly assistance payment shall not exceed the amount which the rent for the dwelling unit (including the amount allowed for utilities in the case of a unit with separate utility metering) exceeds 10 per centum of the family’s monthly gross income.

**(b) Coordination and limitation**

In carrying out the rural housing voucher program under this section, the Secretary shall—

(1) coordinate activities under this section with activities assisted under sections 1485 and 1490m of this title; and

(2) enter into contracts for assistance for not more than 5000 units in any fiscal year.

(July 15, 1949, ch. 338, title V, § 542, as added Pub. L. 102-550, title VII, § 706(2), Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 3835.)

**§ 1490s. Enforcement provisions**

**(a) Equity skimming**

**(1) Criminal penalty**

Whoever, as an owner, agent, employee, or manager, or is otherwise in custody, control, or possession of property that is security for a loan made or guaranteed under this subchapter, willfully uses, or authorizes the use, of any part of the rents, assets, proceeds, income, or other funds derived from such property, for any purpose other than to meet actual, reasonable, and necessary expenses of the property, or for any other purpose not authorized by this subchapter or the regulations adopted pursuant to this subchapter, shall be fined under title 18 or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

**(2) Civil sanctions**

An entity or individual who as an owner, operator, employee, or manager, or who acts as an agent for a property that is security for a loan made or guaranteed under this subchapter where any part of the rents, assets, proceeds, income, or other funds derived from such property are used for any purpose other than to meet actual, reasonable, and necessary expenses of the property, or for any other purpose not authorized by this subchapter or the regulations adopted pursuant to this subchapter, shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$25,000 per violation. The sanctions provided in this paragraph may be imposed in addition to any other civil sanctions or civil monetary penalties authorized by law.

**(b) Civil monetary penalties**

**(1) In general**

The Secretary may, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, impose a civil monetary penalty in accordance with this subsection against any individual or entity, including its owners, officers, directors, general partners, limited partners, or employees, who knowingly and materially violate, or participate in the violation of, the provisions of this subchapter, the regulations issued by the Secretary pursuant to this subchapter, or agreements made in accordance with this subchapter, by—

(A) submitting information to the Secretary that is false;

(B) providing the Secretary with false certifications;

(C) failing to submit information requested by the Secretary in a timely manner;

(D) failing to maintain the property subject to loans made or guaranteed under this