

deems appropriate for the protection of the consumer.

(c) Blanket loans and insurance of loans; terms and conditions; certification by borrower of future ownership of multifamily project; maximum amount of principal obligation

In addition to individual loans made or insured under subsection (a) the Secretary is authorized, upon such terms and conditions (substantially identical insofar as may be feasible with those specified in section 1485 of this title) as he may prescribe, to make or insure blanket loans to a borrower who shall certify to the Secretary, as a condition of obtaining such loan or insurance, that upon completion of the multifamily project the ownership of the project will be committed to a plan of family unit ownership under which (1) each family unit will be eligible for a loan or insurance under subsection (a), and (2) the individual dwelling units in the project will be sold only on a condominium basis and only to purchasers eligible for a loan or insurance under subsection (a). The principal obligation of any blanket loan made or insured under this subsection shall in no case exceed the sum of the individual amounts of the loans which could be made or insured with respect to the individual dwelling units in the project under subsection (a).

(d) "Condominium" defined

As used in this section, the term "condominium" means a multi-unit housing project which is subject to a plan of family unit ownership acceptable to the Secretary under which each dwelling unit is individually owned and each such owner holds an undivided interest in the common areas and facilities which serve the project.

(July 15, 1949, ch. 338, title V, § 526, as added Pub. L. 93-383, title V, § 516(a), Aug. 22, 1974, 88 Stat. 698; amended Pub. L. 98-181, title I [title V, § 519(a)], Nov. 30, 1983, 97 Stat. 1249; Pub. L. 100-242, title III, § 316(f), Feb. 5, 1988, 101 Stat. 1898.)

AMENDMENTS

1988—Subsecs. (a), (c). Pub. L. 100-242 struck out "and" after "is authorized."

1983—Subsecs. (a), (c). Pub. L. 98-181 struck out "in his discretion" after "Secretary is authorized."

§ 1490g. Repealed. Pub. L. 98-181, title I [title V, § 503(c)], Nov. 30, 1983, 97 Stat. 1241

Section, act July 15, 1949, ch. 338, title V, § 527, as added Aug. 22, 1974, Pub. L. 93-383, title V, § 518, 88 Stat. 699, defined "housing" as including mobile homes and mobile home sites, and authorized the Secretary to prescribe property standards for mobile homes financed under this subchapter.

§ 1490h. Taxation of property held by Secretary

All property subject to a lien held by the United States or the title to which is acquired or held by the Secretary under this subchapter other than property used for administrative purposes shall be subject to taxation by a State, Commonwealth, territory, possession, district, and local political subdivisions in the same manner and to the same extent as other property is taxed: *Provided*, That no tax shall be im-

posed or collected on or with respect to any instrument if the tax is based on—

(1) the value of any notes or mortgages or other lien instruments held by or transferred to the Secretary;

(2) any notes or lien instruments administered under this subchapter which are made, assigned, or held by a person otherwise liable for such tax; or

(3) the value of any property conveyed or transferred to the Secretary, whether as a tax on the instrument, the privilege of conveying or transferring, or the recordation thereof; nor shall the failure to pay or collect any such tax be a ground for refusal to record or file such instruments, or for failure to impart notice, or prevent the enforcement of its provisions in any State or Federal court.

(July 15, 1949, ch. 338, title V, § 528, as added Pub. L. 95-128, title V, § 512(a), Oct. 12, 1977, 91 Stat. 1142; amended Pub. L. 98-479, title II, § 204(c)(3), Oct. 17, 1984, 98 Stat. 2233.)

AMENDMENTS

1984—Pub. L. 98-479 substituted "property held by Secretary" for "Farmers Home Administration-held property" in section catchline.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 95-128, title V, § 512(c), Oct. 12, 1977, 91 Stat. 1142, provided that: "The amendment made by subsection (a) [enacting this section] shall become effective as of January 1, 1977."

REFUND OF TAX PAYMENTS PRIOR TO OCTOBER 12, 1977, BARRED; FEDERAL OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES NOT LIABLE FOR SUCH PAYMENTS

Pub. L. 95-128, title V, § 512(b), Oct. 12, 1977, 91 Stat. 1142, provided that: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no State, Commonwealth, territory, possession, district, or local political subdivision which has received, prior to the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 12, 1977], tax payments from the Department of Agriculture based on property held by the Farmers Home Administration shall be liable for, or be obligated to refund, the amount of any such payment, which, if it had been made after the date of enactment of this Act, would have been authorized by the provisions of section 528 of the Housing Act of 1949 [this section], and no officer or employee of the United States shall incur or be under any liability by reason of having made or authorized any such payments."

§ 1490i. Repealed. Pub. L. 98-181, title I [title V, § 506(b)], Nov. 30, 1983, 97 Stat. 1242

Section, act July 15, 1949, ch. 338, title V, § 529, as added Nov. 9, 1978, Pub. L. 95-619, title II, § 252(b), 92 Stat. 3236, required the Secretary of Agriculture to promote the use of energy saving techniques through the establishment of minimum property standards for newly constructed residential housing.

§ 1490j. Conditions on rent increases in projects receiving assistance under other provisions of law

The Secretary may not approve any increase in rental payments, with respect to units in which the tenants are paying rentals in excess of 30 per centum of their incomes, in any project which is assisted under section 1484, 1485, or 1487 of this title and under section 1490a(a)(1)(B) of this title unless the project owner is receiving, or has applied for (within the most recent period

of 180 days prior to the effective date of such increase), assistance payments with respect to such project under section 1490a(a)(2)(A) or 1490a(a)(5) of this title or section 1437f of this title.

(July 15, 1949, ch. 338, title V, § 530, as added Pub. L. 96-399, title V, § 509, Oct. 8, 1980, 94 Stat. 1670; amended Pub. L. 98-181, title I [title V, § 517(d)], Nov. 30, 1983, 97 Stat. 1248; Pub. L. 105-276, title V, § 599C(e)(2)(G), Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2663.)

AMENDMENTS

1998—Pub. L. 105-276 substituted “assistance payments with respect to such project under section 1490a(a)(2)(A) or 1490a(a)(5) of this title” for “rental assistance payments with respect to such project under section 1490a(a)(2)(A) of this title”.

1983—Pub. L. 98-181 substituted “30 per centum” for “25 per centum”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1983 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 98-181 effective six months after Nov. 30, 1983, or upon the earlier promulgation of implementing regulations, see section 517(f) of Pub. L. 98-181, set out as a note under section 1490a of this title.

§ 1490k. FHA insurance

The Secretary is authorized to act as an agent of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to recommend insurance of any mortgage meeting the requirements of section 1709 of title 12.

(July 15, 1949, ch. 338, title V, § 531, as added Pub. L. 98-181, title I [title V, § 520], Nov. 30, 1983, 97 Stat. 1249.)

§ 1490l. Processing of applications

(a) Priority

Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c), the Secretary shall, in making assistance available under this subchapter, give a priority to applications submitted by—

- (1) persons and families that have the greatest housing assistance needs because of their low income and their residing in inadequate dwellings;
- (2) applicants applying for assistance for projects that will serve such persons and families; and
- (3) applicants residing in areas which are the most rural in character.

(b) Preliminary reservation of assistance at time of initial approval of project

In making available the assistance authorized by section 1483 of this title and section 1490a(a) of this title with respect to projects involving insured and guaranteed loans and interest credits and rental assistance payments, the Secretary shall process and approve requests for such assistance in a manner that provides for a preliminary reservation of assistance at the time of initial approval of the project.

(c) Prioritization of section 1485 housing assistance

(1) In general

The Secretary shall make assistance under section 1485 of this title available pursuant to an objective procedure established by the Secretary, under which the Secretary shall iden-

tify counties and communities having the greatest need for such assistance and designate such counties and communities to receive such assistance.

(2) Objective measures

The Secretary shall use the following objective measures to determine the need for rental housing assistance under paragraph (1):

- (A) The incidence of poverty.
- (B) The lack of affordable housing and the existence of substandard housing.
- (C) The lack of mortgage credit.
- (D) The rural characteristics of the location.
- (E) Other factors as determined by the Secretary, demonstrating the need for affordable housing.

(3) Information

In administering this subsection, the Secretary shall use information from the most recent decennial census of the United States, relevant comprehensive affordable housing strategies under section 12705 of this title, and other reliable sources obtained by the Secretary which demonstrate the need for affordable housing in rural areas.

(4) Designation

A designation under this subsection shall not be effective for a period of more than 3 years, but may be renewed by the Secretary in accordance with the procedure set forth in this subsection. The Secretary shall take such other reasonable actions as the Secretary considers to be appropriate to notify the public of such designations.

(July 15, 1949, ch. 338, title V, § 532, as added Pub. L. 98-181, title I [title V, § 521], Nov. 30, 1983, 97 Stat. 1250; amended Pub. L. 104-180, title VII, § 734(f), Aug. 6, 1996, 110 Stat. 1604.)

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 104-180, § 734(f)(1), substituted “Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c), the Secretary” for “The Secretary” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 104-180, § 734(f)(2), added subsec. (c).

§ 1490m. Housing preservation grants

(a) Statement of purposes

The purpose of this section is to authorize the Secretary to make grants to eligible grantees including private nonprofit organizations, Indian tribes, general units of local government, counties, States, and consortia of other eligible grantees, in order to—

- (1) rehabilitate or replace single family housing in rural areas which is owned by low- and very low-income persons and families, and
- (2) rehabilitate or replace rental properties or cooperative housing which has a membership resale structure that enables the cooperative to maintain affordability for persons of low income in rural areas serving low- and very low-income occupants.

The Secretary may also provide tenant-based assistance as provided under section 1437f of this title or section 1490r of this title upon the re-