

RD AN No. 3943 (1942-A)
(3570-B)
(3575-A)

February 23, 2004

TO: State Directors
Rural Development

ATTENTION: Community Facilities Program Directors

FROM: Arthur A. Garcia (*Signed by Arthur A. Garcia*)
Administrator
Rural Housing Service

SUBJECT: Guidance for Determining Eligibility of Faith-Based and
Community Organizations for Community Facilities Financing

PURPOSE/INTENDED OUTCOME:

This issuance is intended to provide guidance on determining the eligibility of faith-based and community organizations for Community Facilities (CF) loans, grants, and loan guarantees. This guidance is issued in accordance with the Executive Order, "Equal Protection of the Laws for Faith-Based and Community Organizations," dated December 12, 2002.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS AN:

There is no previous AN on this subject.

IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Community Facilities regulations limit eligible applicants to public bodies, Indian tribes, and organizations operated on a not-for-profit basis. RD Instruction 1942-A, § 1942.17(b)(1); RD Instruction 3570-B, § 3570.61(a)(2); and RD Instruction 3575-A, § 3575.20(c)(3) require non-profit organizations to exhibit significant ties to the local community in order to ensure that the facility financed will carry out a public purpose and continue to primarily serve rural areas.

The regulations cite two examples which would satisfy the community ties requirement: 1) substantial public funding through taxes, revenue bonds, or other local Government sources, and/or substantial voluntary community funding, such as would be obtained through a community-wide funding campaign and 2) broadly based ownership and control by members of the community.

EXPIRATION DATE:
February 28, 2005

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:
Preceding RD Instructions 1942-A,
3570-B, and 3575-A

A non-profit organization may also demonstrate significant ties to the local rural community when:

- 1) Its members are primarily from the local rural community;
- 2) Its membership is open to all adults in the local rural community;
- 3) Its members have ultimate control of the proposed community facility; and
- 4) It receives the majority of its funding from its members or their volunteer efforts.

If you have any questions concerning this issue, please contact Chad Parker, at (202) 720-1502.