

STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

USDA Launches New Tool to Make it Easier for Lenders to Provide Feedback on Improvements to the Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program

Agency Seeks Input on Proposed Handbook Revisions via New Online Tool

WASHINGTON, March 5, 2024 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Under Secretary Dr. Basil Gooden today announced that USDA is <u>launching an online tool</u> to make it easier for lenders and stakeholders to provide feedback on proposed policy changes for the <u>Single Family Housing Loan Guaranteed Program</u>.

The new tool, known as the <u>Policy Desk</u>, is USDA's one-stop shop for guaranteed home loan customers and stakeholders to review these proposals and provide their input before changes take effect. Through this tool, USDA seeks to enhance program efficiency and while further increasing transparency and engagement with its customers and stakeholders.

As part of today's announcement, USDA is seeking input on a new policy proposal to revise Rural Development's servicing guidelines under the guaranteed home loan program. It also proposes to streamline and simplify the mortgage recovery advance process ahead of an upcoming final rule on the program's special servicing options. To review the proposal and provide comments, visit the <u>Policy Desk</u>,

Through the Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program, USDA and approved lenders provide access to affordable mortgage financing for low- and moderate-income families in rural areas. Eligible applicants may purchase, build, rehabilitate, improve, or relocate a home in an eligible rural area using 100% financing. USDA has partnered with private lenders to help families and individuals buy and build safe, decent, and sanitary homes in rural areas since 1991.

For more information about the program visit <u>Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program | Rural Development (usda.gov).</u>

For more information about the Policy Desk, visit: <u>Single Family Housing GLP Policy Desk | Rural Development (usda.gov).</u>

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