

2009 VAPG PROGRAM

Guidance for NOSA Definitions

The 2009 VAPG NOSA published on May 6, 2009 contained several new definitions which have not been included in previous NOSA's.

This document is provided to assist applicants in determining if they meet the definition from the applicable United States Code or Federal Register citations, as referenced in the NOSA.

SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMER OR RANCHER (7 U.S.C. 2003(e))

(1) Socially disadvantaged group - As used in this section, the term "socially disadvantaged group" means a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities.

(2) Socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher - As used in this section, the term "socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher" means a farmer or rancher who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group.

Additionally, per April 22, 2009 Un-numbered Letter, published on May 26, 2009:

The term farmer or rancher means a person that is directly engaged in farming or ranching or an entity solely owned by individuals who are directly engaged in farming or ranching.

Applicants who meet the definition of a Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher may be considered for reserved funds and awarded priority points. To assess whether an applicant meets the definition, the Agency will require a self-certification (see attached) from the individual owner(s) of the applicant organization with the submission. In the event that there are multiple farmer or rancher owners of the applicant organization, the Agency requires that at least 75 percent of the owners are members of a socially disadvantaged group.

SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMER OR RANCHER CERTIFICATION

I certify that I am a farmer or rancher AND that I am a member of a socially disadvantaged group (i.e., a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice). If awarded a grant, the Agency may request that I identify the socially disadvantaged group with which I identify to confirm the socially disadvantaged status of that group.

Signature

Date