SELF-HELP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

This Instruction is partially revised as follows:

Conforming changes were made throughout in order to bring the instruction in line with the 7CFR 1944 Subpart I which was originally updated after the release of 2 regulations. These changes were made to the following:

§1944.404 (c) (4), to add a minimum number of board members for smaller organizations;
(4) Has a Board of Directors which consist of not less than five. For smaller organizations (i.e. less than 5 staff members) a board of 3 is authorized. (Revised 12-12-19, PN 532.)

§1944.405 (e), authorized use of grant funds;
(e) Purchase, lease, or maintenance of power or specialty tools such as a power saw, electric drill, saber saw, ladders, and scaffolds, which are needed by the participating families. The participating families, however, are expected to provide their own hand tools such as hammers and handsaws. If the grant award will not cover all tools, any proposal to charge a tool rental fee directly to a program participant must meet the following criteria: (1) The fee amount must be reasonable and approved by Rural Development. (Added 12-12-19, PN 532.) (2) The proposal must demonstrate that the program participants are receiving the best value as compared to renting from other sources. These funds may only be used for the rental of tools and other miscellaneous shared cost items for the building group (i.e. porta-potty, scaffolding, temporary power supply, etc.). (Added 12-12-19, PN 532.) (3) All rental fees must be tracked as a separate ledger item with disbursements approved and reviewed annually by the Technical and Management Assistance (T&MA) Contractor and Rural Development. (Added 12-12-19, PN 532.)

§1944.405 (e) (1) thru (e) (3), added to set a standard for organizations charging a tool fee to participating families;
(1) The fee amount must be reasonable and approved by Rural Development. (Added 12-12-19, PN 532.) (2) The proposal must demonstrate that the program participants are receiving the best value as compared to renting from other sources. These funds may only be used for the rental of tools and other miscellaneous shared cost items for the building group (i.e. porta-potty, scaffolding, temporary power supply, etc.). (Added 12-12-19, PN 532.) (3) All rental fees must be tracked as a separate ledger item with disbursements approved and reviewed annually by the Technical and Management Assistance (T&MA) Contractor and Rural Development. (Added 12-12-19, PN 532.)

§1944.405 (f), to add the authorized use of grant funds and added to define the minimum amount of liability insurance required;
(f) Payment of liability insurance and special purpose audit costs associated with self-help activities. These would be considered direct costs, even though the grantee’s general liability insurance cost and the cost of audits for the organization are generally indirect costs. The amount of required liability insurance will vary based on the organization’s assets at risk. For example, assets that could be lost due to employee dishonesty at $100,000 requires matching liability coverage. (Revised 12-12-19, PN 532.)

If you have questions or would like more information please call:
Kyle White, T&MA Contractor Program Director or Pam Price, T&MA Contractor Program Analyst
(580) 326-5165

Notes is an occasional bulletin of observations and recommendations intended to assist Self-Help Grantees. Written and distributed by Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc. T&MA Contractors, 209 North 4th Street, Hugo, OK 74743.