



STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

USDA Invites Public Comments on Proposal to Streamline Eligibility Rules for Single Family Housing Loans

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9, 2018 – Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development Anne Hazlett today announced that USDA is seeking comments on a proposal to simplify income eligibility and asset rules for the Department’s single family housing loan programs.

USDA proposes to create a two-tier income structure to determine eligibility for USDA single family housing loans. Under the proposal, there would be two categories for household income limits: one category for one- to four-person households, and a second category for five- to eight-person households. Currently, there are eight categories.

The Department also proposes to exclude certain types of assets – such as retirement and education savings – when calculating an applicant’s down payment ability.

A USDA pilot that began in 2016 found that using a two-tier income eligibility structure resulted in increased homeownership opportunities for low-income families.

The deadline to submit comments is Oct. 30, 2018. For more information on the proposed changes and how to submit comments, see page 44504 of the [Aug. 31, 2018, Federal Register](#).

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