

SFH Guaranteed Origination

June 26, 2025

Advance Notice: Revisions to HB-1-3555

The Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program (SFHGLP) is pleased to announce upcoming revisions to technical Handbook 1-3555. These changes are expected to be implemented on August 5, 2025. Below are the highlighted revisions:

Form RD 3555-21, Request for Single Family Housing Loan Guarantee

- Streamlined the form to remove information captured elsewhere, while maintaining the required certifications.

Chapter 4 – Lender Responsibilities

- Revised the conflict of interest guidance to clarify that only employees that have a direct impact on the mortgage transaction are prohibited from having multiple sources of income from a single Rural Development transaction.

Chapter 5 – Origination and Underwriting Overview

- Clarified all loan applications should be submitted through GUS and referenced the Manual File Submission Job Aid.
- Clarified lenders must use a login.gov account to access GUS.

Chapter 8 – Applicant Characteristics

- Clarified that upon submission of the application, the lender will ensure a SAM check was performed by documenting the date in GUS.
- Referenced the Manual File Submission Job Aid, which should be used for the submission of files not supported by GUS.

Chapter 9 – Income Analysis

- Clarified taxable income for housing allowances should be included in annual income.
- Added guidance for verifying previous employment.
- Clarified IRS Form 8821 is an acceptable method to request IRS tax transcripts.
- Clarified the number of household members must be identified in GUS.
- Added direct third-party verifications to the options for verifying assets.
- Clarified reserves entered into GUS must not exceed the balance on the most recent official monthly bank statement, however lenders may choose to use a lower balance at their discretion.

Chapter 10 – Credit Analysis

- Clarified multiple Verifications of Rent may be combined to make up the required 12 month history when no gaps exist.
- Combined the disputed accounts guidance into one section.
- Clarified the credit report for a non-purchasing spouse is maintained in the lender's permanent loan file.

- Revised the list of community property states and territories.

Chapter 15 – Submitting the Application Package

- Clarified all loan applications should be submitted through GUS and referenced the Manual File Submission Job Aid.
- Revised checklists to correspond with the applicable chapter revisions.

Chapter 16 – Closing the Loan and Requesting the Guarantee

- Clarified attorney opinions letters are acceptable alternatives to title insurance in some instances and provided a chart to clarify the requirements of each.
- Updated the email address for self-reports.

Copies of the upcoming revisions are available for review on the [Loan Origination page of the USDA LINC Training and Resource Library](#), under the sub-heading “New”.