

2. ~~THE FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN INSURANCE CORPORATION.~~

(6) "LINKED DEPOSIT" MEANS A CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT THAT IS PLACED BY THE AUTHORITY WITH A LENDER AT 3 PERCENT AND EARNS INCOME BELOW THE PREVAILING MARKET RATE FOR EQUIVALENT DEPOSITS MADE WITH THE LENDER AT THE TIME OF THE DEPOSIT.

(B) (1) THERE IS A LINKED DEPOSIT PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT, WHICH REPLACES THE DEPARTMENT'S MARYLAND ENTERPRISE INCENTIVE DEPOSIT FUND PROGRAM.

(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE LINKED DEPOSIT PROGRAM IS TO STIMULATE ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT GROWTH IN RURAL AREAS OF THE STATE THAT HAVE HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT.

(3) THE PROGRAM WILL ASSIST ELIGIBLE BUSINESSES IN OBTAINING LOANS AT LOWER THAN MARKET RATES.

(4) THE ELIGIBLE BUSINESS MAY USE THE LOAN FOR THE ACQUISITION OF LAND, BUILDINGS, MACHINERY, AND EQUIPMENT.

(5) THE ACQUISITIONS MADE BY THE ELIGIBLE BUSINESS SHALL BE USED TO CREATE OR RETAIN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE RURAL AREA.

(C) THE AUTHORITY MAY ~~MAKE~~ PLACE A LINKED DEPOSIT WITH A LENDER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(D) (1) TO OBTAIN FIXED ASSET FINANCING ASSISTED BY A LINKED DEPOSIT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE, AN ELIGIBLE BUSINESS SHALL APPLY TO A LENDER FOR FIXED ASSET FINANCING OF NOT MORE THAN \$500,000.

(2) IN ADDITION TO THE INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE LENDER AS PART OF ITS STANDARD LOAN APPLICATION PROCEDURE, THE APPLICANT SHALL PROVIDE TO THE LENDER, IN A FORM PRESCRIBED BY THE AUTHORITY:

(I) A CERTIFICATION, WITH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION, THAT THE APPLICANT IS AN ELIGIBLE BUSINESS; AND

(II) A DESCRIPTION OF THE NUMBER AND KINDS OF JOBS TO BE CREATED OR RETAINED AS A RESULT OF PROVIDING THE LINKED DEPOSIT.

(E) (1) ON CONDITIONAL APPROVAL OF A FIXED ASSET FINANCING LOAN APPLICATION TO BE ASSISTED BY A LINKED DEPOSIT, THE LENDER SHALL FORWARD THE LOAN PACKAGE TO THE AUTHORITY ~~A LINKED DEPOSIT LOAN PACKAGE WITH THE INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE AND IN A FORM PRESCRIBED BY THE AUTHORITY.~~

(2) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER INFORMATION REASONABLY REQUIRED BY THE AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE LINKED DEPOSIT LOAN PACKAGE SHALL INCLUDE THE INFORMATION REQUIRED OF THE APPLICANT UNDER SUBSECTION (D)(2) OF THIS SECTION.