

For: State and County Offices

Automated Price Support System (APSS) User Review Group (URG)

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A

Background

In preparation for the Common Computing Environment re-write of the APSS software from its current COBOL language to its next generation programming language, PSD will conduct a comprehensive review of APSS.

Based on the premise that daily users of APSS are the most knowledgeable and best qualified to critique the existing software, PSD has formed an APSS URG for that purpose.

B

Purpose

This notice:

- provides the following:
 - information about URG
 - URG’s mission and the method by which it shall be achieved
 - a list of URG participants
 - the schedule for URG’s first session
 - information about hotel accommodations and transportation
 - travel authorization information for participants
- requests input and suggestions from program users nationwide.

Disposal Date	Distribution
July 1, 2002	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

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2 APSS URG's Mission and Participants

A

URG Rationale

PSD's intention in forming URG is to provide day-to-day users, who have in-depth practical knowledge of APSS, an opportunity to say what they want the revised APSS to look like. The work shall be completed in Washington, DC in space provided by FSA.

B

Mission

URG shall:

- have as its mission:
 - a complete review of APSS in its present form
 - writing a report to the Director, PSD, detailing the group's proposals for making APSS more efficient and easier to use when it is re-programmed
 - establish its own organizational structure and methodology for accomplishing this mission
 - have additional meetings, other than that detailed in this notice, if necessary.
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Participant Selection

PSD:

- asked SED's from 17 States, based on volume of recent loan/LDP activity, to nominate URG participants to serve for the term of the project
 - has selected the URG participants shown in subparagraph D.
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2 APSS URG's Mission and Participants (Continued)

D

Participants

This table provides a list of URG participants.

APSS URG Participants		
State	Name	Address
Arkansas	Cheryl Reece, Program Technician (PT) Rachel Biggs, PT	Craighead County Poinsett County
California	Michele Clark, PT Chris Armendariz, PT	Glenn County Imperial County
Iowa	Brad Murray, State Office Lori Norris, PT	Iowa State Office Louisa County
Illinois	Donna Suver, PT Sandra Little, CED	Iroquois County Champaign County
Indiana	Dawn Hummel, PT Marietta Kendall, PT	Adams County Davies-Martin County
Kansas	Loyd Johnston, DD Carl Warner, PT	Crawford County Osborne County
Louisiana	Mona Frey, PT Ernest Armstrong, DD	Acadia Parish Tensas Parish
Minnesota	Trish Bullerman, PT Carol Poppel, PT	Nobles County Wilkin County
Missouri	Allyson Wells, PT Richard Hill, CED	Andrew County Ripley-Carter County
Nebraska	Lyanne Weissert, PT Anita Kasper, PT	Gosper County Platte County

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2 APSS URG’s Mission and Participants (Continued)

D
Participants
(Continued)

	APSS URG Participants	
State	Name	Address
North Dakota	Mavis Hogfoss, PT Donna Worcester, PT	Grand Forks County Grant County
Ohio	Anita Neth, PT Betsy Anstead, PT	Miami County Sandusky County
Pennsylvania	Sheri Patton, PT Jann Chapman, CED	Armstrong County Clinton-Centre County
South Dakota	Mary Jane Lusk, PT Lisa Rosheim, PT	Hughes-Stanley County Moody County
Tennessee	Rosemary Koss, PT Shirley Redfearn, CED	Robertson County Fayette County
Texas	Juanita Moody, PT Preston Wright, CED	Fort Bend County Hill County
Wisconsin	Charlotte Gudmunsen, PT	Polk County

3 Suggestions From APSS Users Nationwide

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Field Input

PSD encourages APSS users nationwide to submit suggestions in any format to URG for its consideration. Users shall submit suggestions addressed to “Suggestion for APSS User Review Group” by either of the following:

- e-mail to Brandie_Mosby@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
 - FAX at 202-720-9069.
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4 First URG Meeting

A

First Session Schedule

The first URG session at the Hilton Hotel, Arlington (Crystal City), VA, will:

- begin Monday, November 26, 2001, at 9 a.m.
 - end Thursday, December 6, 2001, at 3 p.m.
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B

Hotel Arrangements

URG participants shall:

- make their own hotel reservations:
 - directly with the following:

Hilton Hotel
2399 Jefferson Davis Highway (Crystal City)
Arlington, VA 22202

- **not later than** November 16, 2001
- call the Hilton Hotel at 703-418-6800
- identify themselves as being participants of the USDA User Review Group.

The daily hotel room rate:

- is \$119, plus tax, for a single room
 - must be guaranteed for late arrival (after 6 p.m.) by using a credit card.
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C

Per Diem and Travel Authorization

The per diem rate for Arlington, VA is \$165 a day. That includes \$119 for lodging and \$46 for M&IE.

Each URG participant:

- must have an approved AD-202 or FSA-164, as applicable, before incurring travel expenses

Note: This notice does not constitute an approved travel authorization.

- shall make their own travel arrangements.
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