

for purposes of 25 U.S.C. 2719(b)(1)(B)(iii) because it is located within Knox County, and the Ponca Tribe Restoration Act mandates that the Secretary acquire land for the Ponca Tribe in Knox County.

The legal description of the property is as follows:

A tract of land lying wholly in Out Lot G, Park Addition to the Village of Crofton, Knox County, Nebraska, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a point 150.0 feet West of the Northeast corner of said Out Lot G; thence West, along the North line of said Out Lot G, 166.0 feet; thence South 132.8 feet; thence East 70.7 feet; thence South 42.2 feet; thence East 95.3 feet; thence North 1750.0 feet to the point of beginning.

The property consists of approximately 3 acres located in Knox County, Nebraska.

Dated: December 20, 2002.

Neal A. McCaleb,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Civil Rights Division

Office of Special Counsel for Immigration Related Unfair Employment Practices; Immigration Related Employment Discrimination Public Education Grants

AGENCY: Office of Special Counsel for Immigration Related Unfair Employment Practices, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice.

ACTION: Notice of availability of funds and solicitation for grant applications.

SUMMARY: The Office of Special Counsel for Immigration Related Unfair Employment Practices (OSC) announces the availability of funds for grants to conduct public education programs about the rights afforded potential victims of employment discrimination and the responsibilities of employers under the antidiscrimination provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), 8 U.S.C. 1324b.

It is anticipated that a number of grants will be competitively awarded to applicants who can demonstrate a capacity to design and successfully implement public education campaigns to combat immigration related unfair employment discrimination. Grants will range in size from \$40,000 to \$100,000.

OSC will accept proposals from applicants who have access to potential victims of discrimination or whose experience qualified them to educate workers, employers and the general

public about the antidiscrimination provisions of the INA. OSC welcomes proposals from diverse nonprofit organizations such as local, regional or national ethnic and immigrants rights advocacy organizations, labor organizations, trade associations, industry groups, professional organizations, or other nonprofit entities, including state and local government agencies, providing information services to potential victims of discrimination and/or employers.

Application Due Date: April 21, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lilia Iraizarry, Office of Special Counsel for Immigration Related Unfair Employment Practices, 950 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20530. Tel. (202) 616-5594, or (202) 616-5525 (TDD for the hearing impaired). OSC's e-mail address is: oscrt@usdoj.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Special Counsel for Immigration Related Unfair Employment Practices of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice announces the availability of funds to conduct cost-effective public education programs concerning the antidiscrimination provisions of INA. Funds will be awarded to selected applicants who propose cost-effective ways of educating employers, workers covered by this statute, and/or the general public.

Background: The Immigration and Nationality Act protects worker-authorized individuals from employment discrimination based on their citizenship status and/or national origin. Federal law also makes knowingly hiring unauthorized workers unlawful, and requires employers to verify the identity and work authorization of all new employees. Employers who violate this law are subject to sanctions, including fines and possible criminal prosecution.

Employers of four or more employees are prohibited from discriminating on the basis of citizenship status or national origin in hiring, firing, recruitment and referral for a fee, and engaging in document abuse in the employment eligibility verification process on the basis of national origin or citizenship status.

U.S. citizens and certain classes of work authorized individuals are protected from *citizenship status discrimination*. Protected non-citizens include:

- Temporary Residents;
- Lawful Permanent Residents;
- Refugees; and
- Asylees.

Citizens and *all* work authorized individuals are protected from

discrimination on the basis of national origin. However, under INA this prohibition applies only to employers with four to fourteen employees. National original discrimination complaints against employers with fifteen or more employees are under the jurisdiction of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, U.S.C. 2000e, *et seq.*

In addition, under the *comment abuse provision* of the law, employers cannot request more or different documents than are required by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) for completion of the Employment Eligibility Verification (I-9) Form or prefer or require one form of documentation over another, if made for the purpose or with the intent of discriminating against an individual on the basis of national origin or citizenship status.

OSC is responsible for receiving and investigating discrimination charges and, when appropriate, filing complaints with specially designated administrative law judges. OSC also initiates independent investigations of possible immigration related job discrimination.

While OSC has established a record of vigorous enforcement, studies by the U.S. General Accounting Office and other sources have shown that there is an extensive lack of knowledge on the part of protected individual and employers about the antidiscrimination provisions of the INA. Enforcement cannot be effective if potential victims of discrimination are not aware of their rights. Moreover, discrimination can never be eradicated so long as employers are not aware of responsibilities.

Purpose: OSC seeks to educate both workers and employers about their rights and responsibilities under the antidiscrimination provisions of INA. Because previous grantees have developed a wealth of materials (*e.g.*, brochures, posters, booklets, information packets and videos) to educate these groups, OSC has determined that the main focus of the program should be on the *actual delivery* of these materials to educate further both potential victims and employers. OSC seeks proposals that will use *existing materials* effectively to educate large numbers of workers or employers about exercising their rights or fulfilling their obligations under the antidiscrimination provisions. OSC will, of course, consider any proposal that articulates and substantiates other creative means of reaching these populations.