

03), all applicants must register their name and address with the Grant Officer at the following address: U.S. Department of Labor, Procurement Services Center, Room N-5416, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** All applicants are advised that U.S. mail delivery in the Washington, DC area has been erratic due to the concerns involving anthrax contamination. All applicants must take this into consideration when preparing to meet the application deadline. It is recommended that you confirm receipt of your application by contacting Cassandra Willis, U.S. Department of Labor, Procurement Services Center, telephone (202) 693-4570, prior to the closing deadline. (This is not a toll-free number).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **I. Background**

Section 5 of the Homeless Veterans' Comprehensive Assistance Act of 2001 (HVCAA) amended the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Programs at 38 U.S.C. 2021, (HVCAA) and provides "the Secretary \* \* \* shall conduct, directly or through grant or contract, such programs as the Secretary determines appropriate to provide job training, counseling, and placement services (including job readiness and literacy and skills training) to expedite the reintegration of homeless veterans into the labor force."

The Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Project (HVRP) was the first nationwide Federal program that focused on placing homeless veterans into jobs. Both types of programs, urban and non-urban, in the past have provided valuable information on approaches that work in the different environments.

##### **II. Application Process**

###### *A. Potential Jurisdictions To Be Served*

This SGA is for non-urban HVRP grants. Separate SGAs for urban and new grantees HVRP grants have been issued at the same time. Due to the amount of funds available, and the emphasis on establishing or strengthening existing linkages with other recipients of funds under the HVCAA, the only potential jurisdictions which will be served through this non-urban competition for HVRPs in PY 2003 are the areas outside of the 75 U.S. cities largest in population and the city of San Juan, Puerto Rico. The 75 U.S. cities largest in population are listed in Appendix G.

###### *B. Eligible Applicants*

Applications for funds will be accepted from State and local workforce investment boards, local public agencies, for-profit/commercial entities, and nonprofit organizations, including faith-based and community organizations, which have familiarity with the area and population to be served and can administer an effective program. Eligible applicants will fall into one of the following categories:

1. State and Local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBS) as defined in sections 111 and 117 of the Workforce Investment Act, are eligible applicants, as well as State and local public agencies.

2. Local public agencies, meaning any public agency of a general purpose political subdivision of a State which has the power to levy taxes and spend funds, as well as general corporate and police powers. (This typically refers to cities and counties). A State agency may propose in its application to serve one or more of the potential jurisdictions located in its State. This does not preclude a city or county agency from submitting an application to serve its own jurisdiction.

Applicants are encouraged to utilize, through sub-awards, experienced public agencies, private nonprofit organizations, private businesses and faith-based and community organizations that have an understanding of unemployment and the barriers to employment unique to homeless veterans, a familiarity with the area to be served, and the capability to effectively provide the necessary services.

3. Also eligible to apply are for-profit/commercial entities and private nonprofit organizations that have operated an HVRP or similar employment and training program for the homeless or veterans and proven a capacity to manage grants and have or will provide the necessary linkages with other service providers. Entities described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Codes that engage in lobbying activities are not eligible to receive funds under this announcement as section 18 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, Public Law No. 104-65, 109 Stat. 691, prohibits the award of Federal funds to these entities.

###### *C. Funding Levels*

The total amount of funds available for this solicitation is \$2.0 million. It is anticipated that up to 15 awards may be made under this solicitation. Awards are expected to range from \$150,000 to \$200,000. The Department of Labor

reserves the right to negotiate the amounts to be awarded under this competition. Please be advised that requests exceeding the \$200,000 will be considered non-responsive.

###### *D. Period of Performance*

The period of performance will be for twelve (12) months from date of award unless modified. It is expected that successful applicants will commence program operations under this solicitation by July 1, 2003. Program funds must be obligated by June 30, 2004, however, funds may be reserved for limited activities of close-out.

###### *E. Optional Year Funding*

Should there be action by Congress to appropriate funds for this purpose, optional year funding may be considered. The government does *not*, however, guarantee optional year funding for any awardee. Should VETS decide that an option year for funding be exercised, the grantees' performance during the previous period of operations will be taken into consideration as follows:

1. The grantee must meet at minimum 85% of planned goals for Federal expenditures, enrollments, and placements in each quarter; and

2. The grantee must be in compliance with all terms identified in the solicitation for grant application, general and special provisions.

3. All program and fiscal reports must have been submitted by the established due date and must be verifiable for accuracy.

All instructions for modifications and announcement of fund availability will be issued at a later date. For these competitive grants, only two optional years of HVRP funding may be available.

###### *F. Submission of Proposal*

A cover letter, an original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted to the U.S. Department of Labor, Procurement Service Office, Room N-5416, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210. The proposal must consist of two (2) separate and distinct parts: (a) The technical proposal and (b) the cost proposal; one (1) completed, blue ink-signed original SF 424 grant application with an original and two (2) copies of the Technical Proposal; and an original and two (2) copies of the Cost Proposal.

###### *G. Acceptable Methods of Submission*

The grant application package must be received at the designated place by the date and time specified or it will not be considered. Any application received