

at the Office of Procurement Services after 4:45 p.m. ET, April 21, 2003, will not be considered unless it is received before the award is made and:

1. It was sent by registered or certified mail not later than the fifth calendar day before April 21, 2003; or

2. It was sent by U.S. Postal Service Express Mail Next Day Service-Post Office to Addressee, not later than 5 p.m. at the place of mailing two (2) working days, excluding weekends and Federal holidays, prior to April 21, 2003; and

3. It is determined by the Government that the late receipt was due solely to mishandling by the Government after receipt at the U.S. Department of Labor at the address indicated.

The only acceptable evidence to establish the date of mailing of a late application sent by registered or certified mail is the U.S. Postal Service postmark on the envelope or wrapper and on the original receipt from the U.S. Postal Service. If the postmark is not legible, an application received after the above closing time and date shall be processed as if mailed late. "Postmark" means a printed, stamped or otherwise placed impression (not a postage meter machine impression) that is readily identifiable without further action as having been applied and affixed by an employee of the U.S. Postal Service on the date of mailing. Therefore applicants should request that the postal clerk place a legible hand cancellation "bull's-eye" postmark on both the receipt and the envelope or wrapper.

The only acceptable evidence to establish the date of mailing of a late application sent by U.S. Postal Service Express Mail Next Day Service-Post Office to Addressee is the date entered by the Post Office receiving clerk on the "Express Mail Next Day Service-Post Office to Addressee" label and the postmark on the envelope or wrapper and on the original receipt from the U.S. Postal Service. "Postmark" has the same meaning as defined above. Therefore, applicants should request that the postal clerk place a legible hand cancellation "bull's-eye" postmark on both the receipt and the envelope or wrapper.

The only acceptable evidence to establish the time of receipt at the U.S. Department of Labor is the date/time stamp of the Procurement Services Center on the application wrapper or other documentary evidence or receipt maintained by that office. Applications sent by other delivery services, such as Federal Express, UPS, etc., will also be accepted.

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, as you assume the risk for ensuring a timely submission; that is, if, because of these mail problems, the Department does not receive an application or receives it too late to give proper consideration, even if it was timely mailed, the Department is not required to consider the application.

### III. Participant Eligibility

To be eligible for participation under HVRP, an individual must be homeless and a veteran defined as follows:

A. The term "homeless or homeless individual" includes persons who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. It also includes persons whose primary nighttime residence is either a supervised public or private shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations; an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or a private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. [42 U.S.C. 11302 (a)].

B. The term "veteran" means a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable. [38 U.S.C. 101(2)]

### IV. Related HVRP Program Development Activities

#### *Community Awareness Activities*

In order to promote linkages between the program and local service providers (and thereby eliminate gaps or duplication in services and enhance provision of assistance to participants), the grantee must provide project orientation and/or service awareness activities that it determines are the most feasible for the types of providers listed below. Project orientation workshops conducted by grantees have been an effective means of sharing information and revealing the availability of other services; they are encouraged but not mandatory. Rather, the grantee will have the flexibility to attend service provider meetings, seminars, conferences, outstation staff, develop individual service contracts, and involve other agencies in program planning. This list is not exhaustive. The grantee will be responsible for providing appropriate awareness, information sharing, and orientation activities to the following:

A. *Providers of hands-on services to the homeless veteran*, such as shelter and soup-kitchen operators, to make

them fully aware of services available to homeless veterans to make them job-ready and place them in jobs.

B. *Federal, State and local entitlement services* such as the Social Security Administration (SSA), Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), State Employment Security Agencies (SESAs) and their local Job Service offices, One-Stop Centers (which integrate WIA, labor exchange, and other employment and social services), detoxification facilities, etc., to familiarize them with the nature and needs of homeless veterans.

C. *Civic and private sector groups*, and especially veterans' service and community-based organizations (including faith-based organizations), to describe homeless veterans and their needs.

#### *D. Stand Down Support*

A "Stand Down", as it relates to homeless veterans, is an event held in a locality usually for three days where services are provided to homeless veterans along with shelter, meals, clothing, and medical attention. This type of event is mostly volunteer effort, which is organized within a community and brings service providers together such as the DVA, Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialists, Local Veterans' Employment Representatives from the State Employment Service Agencies, veteran service organization, military personnel, civic leaders, and a variety of other interested persons and organizations. Many services are provided on-site with referrals also made for continued assistance after the event. This can often be the catalyst that enables the homeless veterans to get back into mainstream society. The Department of Labor has supported replication of this event. Many such events have been held throughout the nation.

In areas where an HVRP is operating, the grantees are encouraged to participate fully and offer their services for any planned Stand Down event. Towards this end, up to \$5,000 of the currently requested HVRP grant funds may be used to supplement the Stand Down effort where funds are not otherwise available, and should be reflected in the budget and budget narrative.

### V. Program Summary

#### *A. Program Concept and Emphasis*

The HVRP grants under Section 5 of the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act (HVCAA) of 2001 are intended to address two objectives: (1) to provide services to assist in reintegrating homeless veterans into