

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Telecommunications and Information Administration****[Docket No. 000410097-3041-07]****RIN 0660-ZA11****Public Telecommunications Facilities Program: Closing Date**

AGENCY: National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of closing date for solicitation of radio and nonbroadcast applications.

SUMMARY: Subject to the availability of fiscal year (FY) 2003 funds, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U.S. Department of Commerce, announces the solicitation of applications for planning and construction grants for public radio and nonbroadcast facilities under the Public Telecommunications Facilities Program (PTFP).

DATES: Pursuant to 15 CFR 2301.8(b), the NTIA Administrator hereby establishes the following closing date for the filing of radio and nonbroadcast applications for PTFP grants. The closing date selected for the submission of all radio and nonbroadcast applications for FY 2003 is Friday, April 4, 2003. Applications must be received prior to 6 p.m. Friday, April 4, 2003. Applications submitted by facsimile or electronic means are not acceptable.

ADDRESSES: Application materials may be obtained electronically via the Internet (<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ptfp>). To obtain a printed application package, submit completed applications, or send any other correspondence, write to: NTIA/PTFP, Room H-4625, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William Cooperman, Director, Public Broadcasting Division, telephone: (202) 482-5802; fax: (202) 482-2156. Information about the PTFP can also be obtained electronically via the Internet (<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ptfp>).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Closing Date**

NTIA announces that all radio and nonbroadcast applicants for matching grants under the PTFP must file their applications on or before 6 p.m., April 4, 2003. Issuance of grants is subject to the availability of FY 2003 funds. Congress has recently passed an appropriation of \$43.5 million for the PTFP. NTIA intends to divide the funds

appropriated by the Congress into two parts. One portion of the appropriation will be set aside to fund radio and nonbroadcast applications submitted in response to this Notice as well as television broadcast applications submitted in response to the Notice of Closing Date published by NTIA on October 17, 2002. A second portion of the appropriation will be set aside to fund additional phases of multi-phase projects initially funded in FY 2000, FY 2001 and FY 2002. NTIA will shortly publish a Notice in the **Federal Register** indicating the funds set aside for each portion. In awarding grants, NTIA will strive to maintain an appropriate balance between traditional grants and those to stations converting to digital broadcasting. Information regarding radio projects is included in Section VI of this document and information regarding nonbroadcast projects is included in Section VII. The amount of any grants awarded by NTIA will vary, depending on the approved project. For FY 2002, NTIA awarded \$3.15 million in funds to 52 radio projects and \$1 million in funds to 4 nonbroadcast projects. The radio awards ranged from \$15,073 to \$220,568 and the nonbroadcast awards ranged from \$75,000 to \$404,047.

Any applications submitted in response to this Notice which are for television broadcast projects will be returned to the applicant without review.

All radio and nonbroadcast applications will be reviewed according to the Evaluation Process discussed in Section XI. Radio and nonbroadcast applications will compete with applications for television replacement or signal extension projects which were submitted by the November 19, 2002 Closing Date previously established by NTIA for television broadcast applications. Radio and nonbroadcast projects will be awarded in the fourth quarter of FY 2003 (July–September 2003).

II. Application Forms

All applicants must use the official application form for the FY 2003 grant cycle. This form expires on October 31, 2003, and no previous versions of the form may be used. Each page of the application form has the expiration date of 10/31/2003 printed on the bottom line. To apply for a PTFP grant, an applicant must file an original and five copies of a timely and complete application on the application form. The current application form is available on the Internet and will be provided to applicants as part of the application package upon request.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), unless that collection displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The PTFP application form has been cleared under OMB control no. 0660-0003.

III. Authority

The Public Telecommunications Facilities Program is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 390–393, 397–399(b).

IV. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA)

CFDA No. 11.550, Public Telecommunications Facilities Program.

V. Regulations

The applicable Rules for the PTFP were published on November 8, 1996 (61 FR 57966). In accordance with provisions provided in 15 CFR part 2301, section 2301.26, certain requirements of the PTFP are modified in this Notice for FY 2003. Copies of the 1996 Rules are posted on the NTIA Internet site and NTIA will make printed copies available to applicants upon request. Parties interested in applying for financial assistance should refer to these rules and to the authorizing legislation (47 U.S.C. 390–393, 397–399b) for additional information on the program's goals and objectives, eligibility criteria, evaluation criteria, and other requirements.

Applicants sending applications must ensure that the carrier will be able to guarantee delivery of the application by the Closing Date and Time. Applicants should be aware that all material sent via the United States Postal Service (including "overnight" or "Express Mail") are subject to delivery delays due to increased mail security procedures at the Department of Commerce. NTIA will not accept applications posted on the Closing Date or later and received after the above deadline. However, if an application is received after the Closing Date due to (1) carrier error, when the carrier accepted the package with a guarantee for delivery by the Closing Date, or (2) significant weather delays or natural disasters, NTIA will, upon receipt of proper documentation, consider the application as having been received by the deadline.

Applicants submitting applications by hand delivery are notified that, due to security procedures in the Department