

Selection Criteria

The following criteria will be used in the scoring and selection of applications for award:

- (1) The extent to which the application has clearly identified the problems and justified the needs that the proposed project will address.
- (2) The degree to which appropriate and *measurable* goals and objectives have been developed to address the problems/needs of the applicant.
- (3) The feasibility of the approach proposed to attain the goals and objectives of the project and the perceived likelihood of accomplishing the intended project results. This section will also address the degree of innovativeness or uniqueness of the proposed effort.
- (4) The appropriateness of committee membership and the degree of commitment of these individuals to the goals of the application as indicated in the letters of support.
- (5) The feasibility and thoroughness of the implementation plan in specifying major milestones and target dates.
- (6) The cost effectiveness and fiscal soundness of the application's budget request, as well as the application's feasibility vis-a-vis its goals and approach.
- (7) The overall feasibility of the proposed project in light of all of the information presented for consideration; and
- (8) The value to the government of the application in light of the overall objectives of the Labor-Management Cooperation Act of 1978. This includes such factors as innovativeness, site location, cost, and other qualities that impact upon an applicant's value in encouraging the labor-management committee concept.

C. Eligibility

Eligible grantees include state and local units of government, labor-management committees (or a labor union, management association, or company on behalf of a committee that will be created through the grant), and certain third-party private non-profit entities on behalf of one or more committees to be created through the grant. Federal government agencies and their employees are not eligible.

Third-party private, non-profit entities that can document that a major purpose or function of their organization is the improvement of labor relations are eligible to apply. However, all funding must be directed to the functioning of the labor-management committee, and all

requirements under part B must be followed. Applications from third-party entities must document particularly strong support and participation from all labor and management parties with whom the applicant will be working. Applications from third-parties which do not directly support the operation of a new or expanded committee will not be deemed eligible, nor will applications signed by entities such as law firms or other third-parties failing to meet the above criteria.

Successful grantees *will* be bound by OMB Circular 110 *i.e.*, "contractors that develop or draft specifications, requirements, statements of work, invitations for bids and/or requests for proposals shall be *excluded*" (emphasis added from competing for such procurements).

Applicants who receive funding under this program in the past for committee operations are not eligible to re-apply. The only exception will be made for grantees that seek funds on behalf of an entirely different committee whose efforts are totally outside of the scope of the original grant.

D. Allocations

The FY2003 appropriation for this program anticipated to be \$1,490,250, of which at least \$1,000,000 available competitively for new applicants. Specific funding levels will not be established for each type of committee. The review process will be conducted in such a manner that at least two awards will be made in each category (company/plant, industry, public sector, and area), provided that FMCS determines that at least two outstanding applications exist in each category. After these applications are selected for award, the remaining applications will be considered according to merit without regard to category.

In addition to the competitive process identified in the preceding paragraph, FMCS will set aside a sum not to exceed 30 percent of its non-reserved appropriations to be awarded on a non-competitive basis. These funds will be used only to support applications that have been solicited by the Director of the Service and are not subject to the dollar range noted in Section E. All funds returned to FMCS from a competitive grant award may be awarded on a non-competitive basis in accordance with budgetary requirements.

FMCS reserves the right to retain up to five percent of the FY2003 appropriation to contract for program support purposes (such as evaluation) other than administration.

E. Dollar Range and Length of Grants

Awards to expand existing or establish new labor-management committees will be for a period of up to 18 months. If successful progress is made during this initial budget period and all grant funds are not obligated within the specified period, these grants may be extended for up to six months. Continuation awards are projected to be made.

The dollar range of awards is as follows:

- Up to \$65,000 over a period of up to 18 months for company/plant committees or single department public sector applicants;
- Up to \$125,000 per 18-month period for area, industry, and multi-department public sector committee applicants.

Applicants are reminded that these figures *represent maximum Federal funds only*. If total costs to accomplish the objectives of the application exceed the maximum allowable Federal funding level and its required grantee match, applicants may supplement these funds through voluntary contributions from other sources. Applicants are also strongly encouraged to consult with their local or regional FMCS field office to determine what kinds of training may be available at no cost before budgeting for such training in their applications. A list of our field leadership team and their phone numbers is included in the application kit.

F. Cash Match Requirements and Cost Availability

All applicants must provide at least 10 percent of the total allowable project costs in cash. Matching funds may come from State or local government sources or private sector contributions, but may generally not include other Federal funds. Funds generated by grant-supported efforts are considered "project income," and may not be used for matching purposes.

It is the policy of this program to reject all requests for indirect or overhead costs as well as "in-kind" match contributions. In addition, grant funds must not be used to supplant private or local/state government funds currently spent for committee purposes. Funding requests from existing committees should focus entirely on the costs associated with the expansion efforts. Also, under no circumstances may business or labor officials participating on a labor-management committee be compensated out of grant funds for *time* spent at committee meetings or *time* spent in committee