

[FR Doc. 03-8227 Filed 4-3-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-30-C

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Employment and Training Administration

#### Grants for Intermediaries; SGA/DFA 03-104

**AGENCY:** Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of funds and solicitation for grant applications (SGA). This notice contains all of the necessary information and forms needed to apply for grant funding.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration (ETA), announces the availability of \$3.5 million to award grants to eligible intermediary organizations. Under this 2003 competition, eligible "intermediaries" are defined as those non-profit, community, and/or faith-based organizations with established connections and working relationships to grassroots faith-based and community organizations with the ability to connect those smaller organizations and the people they serve to the local One-Stop delivery system.

In achieving the grant purposes, the intermediary is expected to sub-grant a substantial portion of its award to eligible local grass-roots organizations. In their collaboration, the intermediaries will achieve the following objectives:

- Organize collaboration between sub-grantees and workforce boards to address a well-defined unmet community need by leveraging the resources of both faith-based and community organizations and the One-Stop Career Center system. The faith-based and community organizations resources may include, but are not limited to, services such as mentoring, soft skills training, transportation, childcare, or use of space and volunteer hours. "Soft skills" commonly refers to skills and characteristics that allow individuals to succeed in the workplace, such as a strong work ethic, an ability to work in teams, self-discipline, self-confidence, punctuality and courtesy.
- Increase the number of faith-based and community-based organizations serving as committed and active partners in the One-Stop delivery system.
- Establish methods and mechanisms to ensure sustainability of these partnerships and participation levels beyond the life of the grant.

- Expand the access of faith-based and community-based organizations' clients and customers to the training, job and career services offered by the local One-Stops.

- Thoroughly document the impact and outcomes of these grant investments through quarterly and annual reporting.

**DATES:** Applications will be accepted commencing on April 4, 2003. The closing date for receipt of applications under this announcement is May 5, 2003. Applications must be received by 4 p.m. (ET) at the address below: No exceptions to the mailing and hand-delivery conditions set forth in this notice will be granted. Applications that do not meet the conditions set forth in this notice will not be honored. Telefacsimile (FAX) applications will not be honored.

**ADDRESSES:** Applications must be mailed to: U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Division of Federal Assistance, Attention: Denise Roach, SGA/DFA 03-104, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room S-4203, Washington, DC 20210. Telefacsimile (FAX) applications will not be accepted. Applicants are advised that mail in the Washington area may be delayed due to mail decontamination procedures.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Denise Roach, Grants Management Specialist, Division of Federal Assistance, Telephone (202) 693-3301 (this is not a toll free-number). You must specifically ask for Denise Roach. Questions can also be faxed to Denise Roach, Telephone (202) 693-2879, please include the SGA/DFA 03-104, a contact name, fax and phone numbers. This announcement will be also published on the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) Web page at <http://www.doleta.gov/usworkforce>. This Web page will also provide responses to questions that are raised by applicants during the period of grant application preparation. Award notifications will also be announced on this Web page.

#### Part I. Delivery of Applications

1. *Late Applications.* Any application received after the exact date and time specified for receipt at the office designated in this notice will not be considered, unless it is received before awards are made and it:

- Was sent by U.S. Postal Service registered or certified mail not later than May 5, 2003 (e.g., an application submitted in response to a solicitation requiring receipt of applications by the 20th of the month must have been post

marked by the 15th of the that month); or

- Was sent by U.S. Postal Service Express Mail Next Day Service, Post Office to addressee, not later than May 5, 2003 by 5 p.m. at the place of mailing two working days before to the deadline date specified for receipt of applications. The term "working days" excludes weekends and U.S. Federal holidays. "Post-marked" means a printed, stamped or otherwise placed impression (exclusive of a postage meter machine impression) that is readily identifiable, without further action, as having been supplied or affixed on the date of mailing by an employee of the U.S. Postal Service.

#### 2. *Withdrawal of Applications.*

Applications may be withdrawn by written notice or telegram (including mailgram) received at any time before an award is made. Applications may be withdrawn in person by the applicant or by an authorized representative thereof, if the representative's identity is made known and the representative signs a receipt for the proposal.

3. *Hand Delivered Proposals.* It is preferred that applications be mailed at least five days before to the closing date. To be considered for funding, hand-delivered applications must be received at the designated address by 4 p.m., (ET). All overnight mail will be considered to be hand delivered and must be received at the designated place by the specified closing date and time. Telegraphed, e-mailed and/or faxed proposals will not be honored. Failure to adhere to the above instructions will be a basis for determination of non-responsiveness.

#### Part II. Authorities

These grants are made under the following authorities:

- The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA or the Act) (Public Law 105-220, 29 U.S.C. 2801 *et seq.*)
- The WIA Final Rule, 20 CFR parts 652, 660-671 (65 FR 49294 (August 11, 2000));
- Executive Order 13198; "Rallying the Armies of Compassion"
- Training and Employment Guidance Letter 17-01 ("Incorporating and Utilizing Grassroots, Community-Based Organizations Including Faith-Based Organizations in Workforce Investment Activities and Programs")
- Executive Order 13279; "Equal Protection of the Laws for Faith-Based and Community Organizations"

#### Part III. Background

The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) established a comprehensive reform of existing