

services were delivered at the local level, by establishing the One-Stop Career Center system as the cornerstone of the workforce investment system. One-Stop Career Centers are intended to be the "location," whether physical or electronic, where all persons in the community may access services from a variety of partner programs. Thus, a key feature of the One-Stop system is its universality.

To ensure that the One-Stop system serves everyone in the community, WIA required that specific programs become partners in the system, including the NFJP. The NFJP's participation in the One-Stop system contributes to creating a seamless delivery of services through which collaborating programs provide improved and comprehensive services. One-Stop systems can also ensure a greater use of state and local formula funded grant programs to serve farmworkers through the intensive and training services they need.

This solicitation is intended to increase farmworkers' access to workforce investment services by supporting the continued movement of the One-Stop Career Center system toward universality and integrated service delivery based on initiatives that:

1. Remove barriers and disincentives to serving farmworkers and increase the access migrant and seasonal farmworkers have to services provided through the One-Stop system, including services provided by other One-Stop partner agencies.

2. Develop methods of collaboration, coordination and service delivery enhancement leading to optimal use of NFJP resources within the One-Stop system that promote employment, earnings and training opportunities for farmworkers through the One-Stop system.

3. Increase the opportunities for migrant and seasonal farmworkers to transition into occupations with high employment and wage growth potential both within and outside agricultural industry.

4. Use the expertise of community-based, faith-based and other organizations that specialize in serving farmworkers' workforce development needs to build the capacity of One-Stop systems to be effective in serving farmworkers.

This solicitation establishes the following objectives for the National Farmworker Jobs Program to support these initiatives:

- Development of workforce investment service arrangements that lead to co-enrollment of migrant and seasonal farmworkers in WIA Title I

formula funded adult and dislocated worker services, and services provided by other One-Stop partner agencies.

- Development of training strategies leading to the specific skill training activities that enable farmworkers to transition into higher skilled and higher paid employment either in agriculture or outside the industry. These training strategies should also target employment with high growth potential.

- Improvement of English language proficiency of farmworkers who are not bilingual, and achievement of competencies for farmworkers who are basic skills deficient.

- The enabling of farmworkers to become proficient in basic computer skills and using the Internet as a source of information on job and training opportunities.

**Legal and Regulatory Requirements:** The NFJP program is subject to Section 167 of the Workforce Investment Act and the Department's regulations at 20 CFR part 669. This program is also subject to the requirements of 29 CFR parts 93 (New Restrictions on Lobbying), 96 (Audit Requirements), and 98 (Debarment, Suspension, and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements); as well as the Department's non-discrimination regulations at 29 CFR part 34 and the non-discrimination regulations implementing WIA Section 188 at 29 CFR part 37. Applicants should be familiar with and consult the WIA regulations at 20 CFR parts 660 through 671 in developing their grant proposals. Should the regulations at part 669 of WIA conflict with regulations elsewhere in 20 CFR, the regulations at part 669 will control.

In addition, this program is subject to the provisions of the "Jobs for Veterans Act," Public Law 107-288, which provides priority of service to veterans and certain of their spouses in all Department of Labor-funded job training programs. Please note that, to obtain priority of service, a veteran must meet that program's eligibility requirements (NFJP, in this instance). Comprehensive policy guidance is being developed and will be issued in the near future.

**State Areas and Planning Estimates:** State area planning estimates will be announced in a separate **Federal Register** Notice. The amount available nationally for the NFJP allotments is \$72,213,541, and \$4,609,840 is available for housing assistance. For purposes of this grant application, proposals are assumed to cover the entire agricultural area of the state unless otherwise stated by the applicant, including supporting rationale. The FY 2003 appropriation for this program provides that no state area shall receive less than 85 percent of its

1998 funding level. Funds will be awarded for one year only, as no budget authority has been requested for this program in FY 2004, and current congressional action affects only FY 2003.

**Consultation with Governors and Local Boards:** Executive Order No. 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs," and the implementing regulations at 29 CFR part 17 are applicable to this program. Under these requirements, an applicant must provide a copy of the funding proposal for comment to the states that have established a consultation process under the Executive Order. Applications must be submitted to the state's Single Point of Contact (SPOC), no later than the deadline for submission of the application to the Department. For states that have not established a consultative process under E.O. 12372, but have a State Workforce Investment Board (State Board), the State Board will be the SPOC. For WIA implementation purposes, this consultative process fulfills the requirement of WIA Section 167(e) concerning consultation with Governors and Local Workforce Investment Boards. To strengthen the implementation of E.O. 12372, the Department establishes the following timeframe for its treatment of comments from the state's SPOC on WIA Section 167 applications:

1. The SPOC must submit comments, if any, to the Department and to the applicant, no later than 30 days after the deadline date for the submission of applications;

2. The applicant's response to the SPOC comments, if any, must be submitted to the Department no later than 15 days after the post-marked date of the comments from the SPOC;

3. The Department will notify the SPOC of its decision regarding the SPOC comments and applicant response; and

4. The Department will implement that decision within 10 days after it has notified the SPOC.

#### *Contents of Grant Application*

**Note:** The following requirements apply to applicants for the NFJP portion of the program. Applicants for the housing assistance component of the program are directed to PART II of this SGA. Applicants seeking funding for both the NFJP program and the Housing Assistance program should submit two separate applications, as noted in the **SUMMARY** section of this SGA.

Applicants need not be a current or prior WIA Section 167 grantee to establish eligibility to be awarded a grant under this solicitation.

To provide training and employment opportunities and other related