

faith-based and community-based organizations, and health services whose services support farmworkers' labor force participation and assist them to improve their employment and earnings over time. The evaluation of the applicant's response to this factor will also look for evidence that the applicant has had experience in working within the One-Stop Career Center system as a partner or service provider and will be effective in mobilizing both the One-Stop system and other service systems in a way that maximizes the amount of NFJP funds that are available to fill training gaps in the local One-Stop system with respect to farmworkers and maximizes the funding available from non-NFJP sources for supportive services.

If the applicant is a Local Workforce Investment Board (LWIB), or a One-Stop Career Center operator applying on behalf of a LWIB, scoring will be based on the success of efforts to integrate services provided by all One-Stop partners, including Section 167 grantees, to enhance the workforce and related services provided to farmworkers. Special emphasis will be placed on the success achieved in enrolling and serving farm workers in WIA formula-funded programs.

(3) Administrative Capacity (20 points)

The applicant must demonstrate that it has or will have adequate management information, performance management, case management, accounting and program and fiscal reporting systems in place to assure the program and fiscal integrity of the services financed with funds awarded through this solicitation.

Scoring on this factor will be based on evidence that the applicant has the capacity to effectively administer a diversified program of workforce investment assistance using appropriate administrative systems to maintain program and fiscal oversight and monitoring. The evaluation of the application's response to this factor will look for evidence of effective accounting performance management, and program and fiscal reporting systems as well as the applicant's ability to report electronically through the Internet.

(4) Proposed Plan of Service (40 points)

The applicant must demonstrate that its proposed plan service will meet the objectives of this solicitation. The objectives in question seek to increase farmworkers' co-enrollment in WIA Title I formula funded adult and displaced worker services; transition farmworkers into higher-skilled, higher-paid jobs in or outside agriculture;

improve the English language proficiency of farmworkers who are not bilingual; and enable farm workers to become proficient in computer skills and Internet use.

Scoring on this factor will be based on evidence that the applicant has used (1) its understanding of the problems of eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers, (2) its knowledge of the agricultural economy (including placement opportunities among key growers, agribusiness, and non-agricultural employers), and (3) its familiarity with the proposed service area (including the network of social, educational, faith-based and community-based organizations) to develop a service strategy and plan of service that will be successful in meeting the objectives of this solicitation and holds the potential to have a measurable impact on improving the employment and earnings of farmworkers. Additionally, the evaluation of the applicant's response to this factor will look for (4) evidence of comprehensiveness and the potential effectiveness of the proposed service strategy and plan of service within the context of the background the proposal provides of the workforce development needs of farmworkers in the proposed service area and the opportunities to address those needs. If the applicant is a LWIB or a One-Stop Career Center operator applying on behalf of a LWIB, the evaluation (5) will assess whether significant success has been achieved in integrating services provided by all One-Stop partners, especially services provided by Section 167 grantees, to enhance of the workforce and related services farmworkers receive. Special emphasis will be placed on the success achieved in enrolling and serving farm workers in WIA formula-funded programs. Finally, if the applicant is not a LWIB or One-Stop operator applying on behalf of a LWIB, the evaluation of this factor will (6) assess whether the Section 167 service strategy and service plan reflect a knowledge of the local workforce investment plan and proposes services that complement that plan in a way that expands workforce services available to farm workers.

Review Process for Grant Applications

Panel Review: The Grant Officer will select potential grantees utilizing all information available to him/her. A review panel will rate each proposal according to the criteria specified in the SGA. Panel results are critical to selecting grantees but are advisory in nature and not binding on the Grant Officer. The Grant Officer may, at his/her discretion, request an applicant to

submit additional or clarifying information if needed to make a selection. However, selections may be made without further contact with the applicants. In such situations, an award will be based on the offeror's signature on the SF 424, which constitutes a binding offer.

Responsibility Review: Prior to awarding a grant, the Department will conduct a responsibility review of each potential grantee through available records. The responsibility review relies on testing available records to determine if the applicant has a satisfactory history of accounting for Federal funds and property. The responsibility review is independent of the competitive process. Applicants failing to meet the requirements of this section may be disqualified for selection as grantees, irrespective of their standing in the competition. Any applicant that is not selected as a result of a Grant Officer's responsibility review will be advised of its appeal rights. The responsibility tests that will be applied are those present in the WIA regulations (20 CFR 667.170).

Areas not Competed: In the event that no grant applications are received for a state, or all applications received are deemed non-responsive, or a grant agreement is not successfully negotiated with a selected applicant, the Department will offer the Governor of the State a right of first refusal to submit an acceptable application if that state has not applied. If the Governor does not accept this offer within 15 days after being notified, the Department may designate another organization, reopen the area for competitive bidding, allocate the area funds by formula to all other service areas, or transfer the funds for that service area to national account activities.

Notification of Non-Selection: Any applicant that is not selected as a potential grantee or whose application has been denied in part or in whole by the Department will be notified in writing by the Grant Officer and advised of all appeal rights.

Notification of Selection: Applicants submitting applications in response to this SGA that are selected as potential grantees will be notified in writing by the Grant Officer. The notification will invite each potential grantee to negotiate the final terms and conditions of the grant as applicable, will establish a reasonable time and place for the negotiations, and will indicate the specific service delivery area and amount of funds to be allocated under the grant. FY 2003 funds will be awarded for the period July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004. Grant plans will be approved for that one year only.