

	Percent
For Economic Injury: Businesses and Small Agricultural Cooperatives without credit avail- able elsewhere	3.189

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 348605 for New York; 348705 for Connecticut; and 348805 for New Jersey. The number assigned to this disaster for economic injury is 9U8700 for New York; 9U8800 for Connecticut; and 9U8900 for New Jersey.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008)

Dated: April 16, 2003.

Hector V. Barreto,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 03-10003 Filed 4-22-03; 8:45 am]

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster # 3489]

State of New York

Westchester County and the contiguous counties of Bronx, Orange, Putnam and Rockland in the State of New York; Fairfield County in the State of Connecticut; and Bergen County in the State of New Jersey constitute a disaster area as a result of a fire that occurred on March 16, 2003. The fire destroyed apartments at the Wakefield Towers apartment complex in the City of Yonkers. Applications for loans for physical damage may be filed until the close of business on June 16, 2003 and for economic injury until the close of business on January 16, 2004 at the address listed below or other locally announced locations:

U.S. Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 1 Office, 360 Rainbow Blvd., South 3rd Floor, Niagara Falls, NY 14303.

The interest rates are:

	Percent
For Physical Damage:	
Homeowners with credit avail- able elsewhere	5.875
Homeowners without credit avail- able elsewhere	2.937
Businesses with credit available elsewhere	6.378
Businesses and Non-Profit Orga- nizations without credit avail- able elsewhere	3.189
Others (Including Non-Profit Orga- nizations) with credit avail- able elsewhere	5.500

	Percent
For Economic Injury: Businesses and Small Agricul- tural Cooperatives without credit available elsewhere	3.189

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 348905 for New York; 349005 for Connecticut; and 349105 for New Jersey. The number assigned to this disaster for economic injury is 9U9000 for New York; 9U9100 for Connecticut; and 9U9200 for New Jersey.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008.)

Dated: April 16, 2003.

Hector V. Barreto,

Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4339]

Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Request for Grant Proposals: Human Rights and Democratization Initiatives in Central Asia

SUMMARY: The Office for the Promotion of Human Rights and Democracy of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL/PHD) announces an open competition for one or more assistance awards. Organizations may submit grant proposals that address programs and activities that foster democracy, human rights, press freedoms, women's political development and the rule of law in countries with a significant Muslim population in Central Asia (to include Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), and where such programs and activities would be important to United States efforts to respond to, deter, or prevent acts of international terrorism.

Awards are contingent upon the availability of Fiscal Year 2003 funds. Approximately \$3,000,000 may be available under the Economic Support Funds through the Bureau's Human Rights and Democracy Fund (HRDF) for projects that address Bureau objectives in predominantly Muslim countries in this region. The Bureau anticipates awarding between 3-12 grants in amounts of \$250,000-\$1,000,000.

Background: The Human Rights and Democracy Fund (HRDF) supports innovative, cutting-edge programs which uphold democratic principles, support and strengthen democratic

institutions, promote human rights, and build civil society in countries and regions of the world that are geo-strategically important to the U.S. HRDF funds projects that have an immediate impact but that have potential for continued funding beyond HRDF resources. HRDF projects must not duplicate or simply add to efforts by other entities.

Additional Information: The Bureau of Democracy Human Rights and Labor has identified the following issues as priorities. While competitive proposals must meet basic HRDF criteria, they are not restricted to these issues:

1. Rule of law, with emphasis on support for an independent judiciary, legal defense assistance and defense lawyers;
2. Independent media, with emphasis on comprehensive support including "one-stop" resource centers to provide legal assistance, advocacy, training and direct operational support;
3. Human rights, especially advocacy training and monitoring and reporting on law enforcement abuses; for Uzbekistan, programs designed to implement the recommendations contained in the recent report by the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Torture;
4. Civil society, including capacity-building of democracy-advocacy NGOs that promote government accountability; for Turkmenistan, such support could be in the form of extraterritorial activities; for Tajikistan, such support could be focused on women's leadership
5. Elections, with emphasis on support for democratically-oriented political parties as well as reform of electoral processes and legislation

Project Criteria

- Project implementation should begin no earlier than late summer 2003.
 - Projects should not exceed two years in duration. Shorter projects with more immediate outcomes may receive preference.
 - U.S.-based or exchange projects are discouraged.
 - Projects that have a strong academic or research focus will not be highly considered. DRL will not fund health, technology, environmental, or scientific projects unless they have an explicit democracy, human rights, or rule of law component. Conferences likewise will not be highly considered.
 - Projects should include a follow-on plan that extends beyond the grant period ensuring that Bureau-supported programs are not isolated events.
- In order to avoid the duplication of activities and programs, proposals should also indicate knowledge of