

will continue to serve as a national resource fostering high quality research, communication, and education. The Consortium's program purpose is to benefit the public through three tasks:

(1) *Research, evaluation, and data development.* The RRC will be expected to plan, initiate, and maintain a research program of high caliber. While Consortium research should broadly cover retirement and Social Security program issues, there will be special emphasis on system reform and program solvency. A portion of the research effort can focus on the development of research data sources and facilitating the use of Social Security Administrative data for retirement research purposes under secure conditions.

(2) *Dissemination.* The RRC will disseminate policy research findings using a variety of mediums to inform the academic community, policymakers, and the public.

(3) *Training and education.* The RRC will train and provide funding support for graduate students and postgraduates to conduct research on retirement policy.

**DATES:** The closing date for submitting applications under this announcement is July 15, 2003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The application kit is available at [www.ssa.gov/oag/](http://www.ssa.gov/oag/). To request an application kit for those without internet access, and for nonprogrammatic information regarding the announcement or application package contact: David Allshouse, Grants Management Officer, SSA, Office of Acquisition and Grants, Grants Management Team, 1-E-4 Gwynn Oak Building, 1710 Gwynn Oak Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21207-5279. The fax number is (410) 966-9310. The telephone number is (410) 965-9262 (e-mail: [dave.allshouse@ssa.gov](mailto:dave.allshouse@ssa.gov)).

For information on the program content of the announcement/application, contact: John W. R. Phillips, Division of Policy Evaluation, ORES, SSA, 500 E St., SW., Rm 936, Washington, DC 20254. The fax number is (202) 358-6187. The telephone number is (202) 358-6321 (e-mail: [john.phillips@ssa.gov](mailto:john.phillips@ssa.gov)).

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#### Part I—Supplementary Information

##### A. Eligible Applicants

SSA seeks applications from domestic institutions.

No cooperative agreement funds may be paid as profit to any cooperative agreement recipient. Profit is considered as any amount in excess of the allowable costs of the award recipient.

In accordance with an amendment to the Lobbying Disclosure Act, popularly known as the Simpson-Craig Amendment, those entities organized under section 501(c)4 of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in lobbying are prohibited from receiving Federal cooperative agreement awards.

##### B. Type of Award

All awards made under this program will be made in the form of cooperative agreements. A cooperative agreement, as distinct from a grant, anticipates substantial involvement between SSA and the awardee during the performance of the project. A comprehensive annual review process will allow SSA to evaluate, recommend changes, and approve each Center's activities. This involvement may include collaboration or participation by SSA in the activities of the Centers as determined at the time of award. The terms of award are in addition to, not in lieu of, otherwise applicable guidelines and procedures.

##### C. Availability and Duration of Funding

1. Up to \$5 million will be available to fund the initial 12-month budget period of a proposed five-year

cooperative agreement(s) pursuant to the announcement. Up to \$250,000 of the available \$5 million in funds will be set aside for collaborative research projects with SSA staff (see Part II A.b.1). Further, the Center budgets should include \$20,000 in provisional funds for Quick Turnaround projects (see Part II B.1).

2. Applicants must include separate budget estimates for each of the five years.

3. The amount of funds available for the cooperative agreement in future years has not been established. Legislative support for continued funding of the Consortium cannot be guaranteed and funding is subject to future appropriations and budgetary approval. SSA expects, however, that the Consortium will be supported during future fiscal years at an annual level of up to \$5 million.

4. Nothing in this announcement precludes the possibility that the annual funds will be divided disproportionately between the Centers. However, each Center should prepare a five-year proposal with a maximum budget of \$12.5 million.

5. Additional funds may become available from SSA or other Federal agencies in support of Consortium projects.

6. Initial awards, pursuant to this announcement, will be made on or about September 15, 2003.

7. SSA will not provide a Center's entire funding. Recipients of an SSA cooperative agreement are required to contribute a non-Federal match of at least 5 percent toward the total approved cost of each Center. The total approved cost of the project is the sum of the Federal share (maximum of 95 percent) and the non-Federal share (minimum of 5 percent). The non-Federal share may be cash or in-kind (property or services) contributions.

Although two awards are anticipated, nothing in this announcement restricts SSA's ability to make more (or less) than two awards, to make an award of lesser amount, or to add additional Centers to the RRC in the future. Further, SSA is not required to fund all proposed Consortium activities in any year. SSA will review all proposed activities annually and award up to \$2.5 million per Center per year.

##### D. Letter of Intent

Prospective applicants are asked to submit by June 2, 2003, a letter of intent that includes (1) this program announcement number and title; (2) a brief description of the proposed Center; (3) the name, postal and e-mail addresses, and the telephone and fax