

homeownership programs, increasing homeownership and rental housing opportunities in neighborhoods of choice, developing affordable and accessible housing in neighborhoods across the country, creating economic development programs, and supporting the residents of public housing facilities. HUD wants to make its programs more effective, efficient, and accessible by expanding opportunities for grassroots organizations to participate in developing solutions for their own neighborhoods. Additionally, HUD encourages applicants to include these grass-roots faith-based and other community-based organizations in their workplans. Applicants, their partners, and participants must review the Program Section of this SuperNOFA to determine whether they are eligible to apply for funding directly or whether they must establish a working relationship with an eligible applicant in order to participate in a HUD funding opportunity. Grassroots faith-based and other community-based organizations, and applicants who currently or propose to partner, fund, subgrant, or subcontract with grassroots organizations (including grassroots faith-based or other community-based non-profits eligible under applicable program regulations) in conducting their work programs will receive higher rating points as specified in the program section of this SuperNOFA.

(2) Definition of *Grassroots Organizations*.

(a) HUD will consider an organization a "grassroots organization" if the organization is headquartered in the local community to which it provides services; and,

(i) Has a social services budget of \$300,000 or less, or

(ii) Has six or fewer full-time equivalent employees.

(b) Local affiliates of national organizations are not considered "grassroots." Local affiliates of national organizations are encouraged, however, to partner with grassroots organizations but must demonstrate that they are currently working with a grassroots organization (e.g., having a faith community or civic organization, or other charitable organization provide volunteers).

(c) The cap provided in paragraph (2)(a)(i) above includes only that portion of an organization's budget allocated to providing social services. It does not include other portions of the budget such as salaries and expenses not directly expended in the provision of social services.

Activities support strategic goal 6.

(E) *Colonias*. The Department of Housing and Urban Development is seeking to improve housing conditions for families living in Colonias. Colonias means any identifiable, rural community that:

- Is located in Arizona, California, New Mexico, or Texas;
- Is within 150 miles of the border between the United States and Mexico; and
- Is determined to be a colonia on the basis of objective need criteria, including lack of potable water supply, lack of adequate sewage systems, and lack of decent, safe, sanitary, and accessible housing.

Applicants proposing to create affordable housing and provide services to the Colonias will receive higher rating points.

Activities support strategic goals 1, 2, 3, and 4.

(F) *Participation of Minority-Serving Institutions in HUD Programs*. Pursuant to Executive Orders 13256 President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, 13230 President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans, 13216 Increasing Participation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Federal Programs, and 13270 Tribal Colleges and Universities, HUD is strongly committed to broadening the participation of Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) in its programs. HUD is interested in increasing the participation of MSIs in order to advance the development of human potential, strengthen the nation's capacity to provide high quality education, and increase opportunities for MSIs to participate and benefit from federal financial assistance programs. HUD encourages all applicants and recipients to include meaningful participation of MSIs in their work programs. A listing of MSIs can be found on the Department of Education Web site at <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OCR/minorityinst.html> or HUD's Web site at <http://www.hud.gov>.

Activities support strategic goals 3 and 4.

(G) *Participation in Energy Star*. The Department of Housing and Urban Development has adopted a wide-ranging energy action plan for improving energy efficiency in all program areas. As a first step in implementing the energy plan, HUD, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Energy (DoE) have signed a joint partnership to promote energy efficiency in HUD's affordable housing efforts and programs. The purpose of the Energy Star partnership is to promote energy

efficiency of the affordable housing stock, but also to help protect the environment. Applicants constructing, rehabilitating, or maintaining housing or community facilities are encouraged to promote energy efficiency in design and operations. They are urged especially to purchase and use Energy Star labeled products. Applicants providing housing assistance or counseling services are encouraged to promote Energy Star building by homebuyers and renters. Program activities can include developing Energy Star promotional and information materials, outreach to low- and moderate-income renters and buyers on the benefits and savings when using Energy Star products and appliances, and promoting the designation of community buildings and homes as Energy Star compliant. For further information about Energy Star see <http://www.energystar.gov> or call 1-888-STAR-YES (1-888-782-7937) or for the hearing-impaired, 1-888-588-9920 TTY.

Activities support strategic goals 1 and 2.

(H) *Ending Chronic Homelessness within Ten Years*. President Bush has set a national goal to end chronic homelessness within ten years. Secretary Mel Martinez has embraced this goal and has pledged that HUD's grant programs will be used to support the President's goal and more adequately meet the needs of chronically homeless individuals. A person experiencing chronic homelessness is defined as an unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition who has been continuously homeless for a year or more or has experienced four or more episodes of homelessness over the last three years. In this year's SuperNOFA, applicants are encouraged to target assistance to chronically homeless persons by undertaking activities that will result in:

- Creation of affordable group homes or rental housing units;
- Establishing a set-aside of units of affordable housing for the chronically homeless;
- Substance abuse treatment programs targeted to homeless population;
- Job training programs which will provide opportunities for economic self-sufficiency;
- Counseling programs that assist homeless persons in finding housing, financial management, anger management, and building interpersonal relationships;
- Supportive services, such as health care assistance that will permit