

HUD will use up to \$4 million to fund approximately 10 New Grants and up to \$1 million to fund approximately 6 New Directions Grants.

HUD intends to fund at least two eligible COPC applications (applications that receive a minimum score of 75 points) that serve Colonias, (as defined in the General Section of this SuperNOFA). HUD will select the highest-ranking COPC applications that serve Colonias among the rated COPC applications. If less than two fundable COPC applications that serve Colonias are eligible for award these funds will be used to award additional COPC grants.

III. Program Description; Eligible Applicants; Eligible Activities

(A) *Program Description.* The main purpose of the COPC Program is to assist in establishing or carrying out outreach and applied research activities that address problems of urban areas; and to encourage structural change, both within an institution of higher education and in the way the institution relates to its neighbors. Funding under this program shall be used to establish and operate local Community Outreach Partnership Centers (COPC). The five key concepts that a COPC Program should include are:

(1) Outreach, technical assistance, and applied research;

(2) Empowerment efforts that engage community-based organizations and residents as partners with the institution throughout the life of the project and beyond;

(3) Applied research related to the project's outreach activities;

(4) Assistance to target communities primarily from the faculty, students, and to a limited extent by neighborhood residents and community-based organizations funded by the university; and

(5) Support from the university's senior officials to make the program part of the institution's broader effort to meet its urban mission.

(B) *Eligible Applicants.* Public or private nonprofit institutions of higher education granting two- or four-year degrees that are accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Consortia of eligible institutions may also apply, as long as one institution is designated the lead applicant. (**Note:** Institutions that participated in a COPC grant as a member of a consortium are eligible to apply for New Grant if they received 25 percent or less of the earlier grant.)

(C) *Eligible Activities.* COPC Programs should combine research with outreach

activities and work with communities and local governments to address the multidimensional problems that beset urban areas. Appropriate urban problems include, but are not limited to housing, economic development, neighborhood revitalization, infrastructure, health care, job training, education, crime prevention, planning, the environment, and community organizing.

(1) Research activities must have a clear near-term potential and practical application for solving specific, significant urban problems in designated communities and neighborhoods, including evaluation of the effectiveness of the outreach activities and how they relate to HUD programs. Applicants must have the capacity to apply the research results directly to the proposed outreach activities outlined in the application's work plan. In addition, applicants must work with communities and local institutions, including neighborhood groups, local governments, and other appropriate community stakeholders, in applying these results to real-life urban problems.

(2) Outreach, technical assistance, and information exchange activities designed to address specific urban problems in designated communities and neighborhoods served by the grant.

Examples of outreach activities include, but are not limited to:

(a) Assistance to communities to improve consolidated housing and community development plans and eliminate impediments to the design and implementation of such plans;

(b) Design of community or metropolitan strategies to resolve urban problems of communities and neighborhoods;

(c) Innovative use of funds to provide direct technical expertise and assistance to local community groups, residents, and other appropriate community stakeholders to resolve local problems such as homelessness, housing discrimination, and impediments to fair housing choice;

(d) Technical assistance in business start-up activities for low- and moderate-income individuals and organizations, including business start-up training and technical expertise and assistance, mentor programs, assistance in developing small loan funds, business incubators, etc;

(e) Technical assistance to local public housing authorities on welfare-to-work initiatives and physical transformations of public or assisted housing, including development of accessible and visitable housing;

(f) Job training and other training projects, such as workshops, seminars, and one-on-one and on-the-job training;

(g) Assistance to communities in eliminating or reducing excessive, unnecessary or duplicative regulations, processes or policies that restrict the development or rehabilitation of affordable housing (For further discussion of Regulatory Barriers see the General Section of this SuperNOFA);

(h) Assistance to communities to improve the design of affordable housing to better meet user needs and applying design approaches and principles that can improve overall quality and livability. For further information and guidance visit the Web site: <http://www.designadvisor.org>.

(i) Regional projects that maximize the interaction of targeted inner city distressed neighborhoods with suburban job opportunities similar to HUD's Bridges-to-Work or Moving to Opportunity programs. (For more information see www.HUDUSER.org.)

(3) Funds for faculty development including paying for course time or summer support to enable faculty members to work with the COPC.

(4) Funds for stipends or salaries for students (but the program cannot cover tuition and fees) while they are working with the COPC.

(5) Up to 20% of the grant for payments of reasonable grant administrative costs related to planning and execution of the project (e.g. preparation/submission of HUD reports). A detailed explanation of these costs is provided in the OMB circulars that can be accessed at the White House Web site at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/index.html>.

(6) Activities to carry out the "Program Requirements" as defined in this NOFA. These activities may include leases for office space in which to house the Community Outreach Partnership Center, under the following conditions:

(a) The lease must be for existing facilities not requiring rehabilitation or construction;

(b) No repairs or renovations of the property may be undertaken with federal funds; and

(c) Properties in the Coastal Barrier Resource System designated under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3501) cannot be leased with federal funds.

(7) Components of the program may address metropolitan or regional strategies. Applicants must clearly demonstrate how:

(a) Strategies are directly related to what the targeted neighborhoods and neighborhood-based organizations have decided is needed; and