

(g) *Client Comments and Suggestions* (Form HUD-2994). This form is included to solicit information from the most valuable source, the applicant. The changes that we have instituted this year are designed to make things easier for the applicant. If applicants complete and submit this form, it will help us to assess whether the changes have had the intended results. It will also guide us in our continuing efforts to improve the competitive grant process. Applicants are not required to complete this form.

(h) *Appendices*. Applicants are not permitted to submit any appendices. Letters of commitment for matching funds should be included in the narrative response to Factor 4. An applicant may not submit general support letters or resumes or other back-up materials (unless an applicant is willing to have the latter count towards the page limits). Applicants should make sure that the Statement of Work and Narrative Statement addressing the "Factors for Award" contain sufficient detail to stand on their own, without the need for back-up material.

(B) *Final selection*.

If an application is in compliance with the applicable threshold requirements as defined in the General Section of this SuperNOFA and NOFA, as well as the applicable program requirements, it will be evaluated, rated, and ranked based on its total score on the program's rating factors. In order to be funded, an application must receive a minimum score of 75 points. HUD will fund applications for each program in this NOFA in rank order, until it has awarded all available program funds.

If two or more applications have the same number of points, the application with the most points for Factor 3, Soundness of Approach, shall be selected. If there is still a tie, the application with the most points for Factor 4, Leveraging, shall be selected. HUD also reserves the right to make selections out of rank order to provide for geographic distribution of grantees. If HUD decides to use this option, it will do so only if two adjacent HUD regions do not yield at least one fundable grantee on the basis of rank order. If this occurs, HUD will fund the highest-ranking applicant within the two regions as long as the minimum score of 75 points is achieved.

HUD reserves the right to reduce the amount of funding requested in order to fund as many highly ranked applications under each program in this NOFA as possible. Additionally, if funds remain after funding the highest ranked applications, HUD may fund part of the next highest-ranking application in a given program area. If

an applicant turns down the award offer, HUD will make the same determination for the next highest-ranking application. If funds remain after all selections have been made, the remaining funds will be carried over to the next funding cycle's competition.

(C) *Negotiations*. After all selections have been made, HUD may require winning applicants to participate in negotiations to determine the specific terms of a program's Statement of Work and/or Grant Budget. In cases where HUD cannot successfully conclude negotiations, or an applicant fails to provide HUD with requested information, an award will not be made. In such instances, HUD may elect to offer an award to the next highest-ranking applicant, and proceed with negotiations with that applicant.

## VII. Other Matters

The provisions of the HUD Reform Act of 1989 that apply to this NOFA are explained in the General Section of the SuperNOFA.

(A) *Debriefing*. The General Section of the SuperNOFA provides the procedures for requesting a debriefing. All requests for debriefings must be made in writing and submitted to Armand Carriere of HUD's Office of University Partnerships, Robert C. Weaver Building, 451 7th St., SW., Room 8106, Washington, DC 20410. Applicants may also write to Mr. Carriere via email at [Armand.W.Carriere@hud.gov](mailto:Armand.W.Carriere@hud.gov).

(B) *Administrative*. Grants awarded under this NOFA will be governed by the provisions of 24 CFR part 84 (Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals and Other Non-Profit Organizations), A-21 (Cost Principles for Education Institutions) and A-133 (Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations). Applicants can access the OMB circulars at the White House website at [www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/index.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/index.html).

## VIII. Corrections to Deficient Applications

The General Section of this SuperNOFA provides the procedures for corrections to deficient applications.

## IX. Site Control

Where grant funds will be used for acquisition, rehabilitation, or new construction an applicant must demonstrate site control. If the recipient cannot demonstrate control of a suitable site within one year after initial notification of award of assistance, HUD may recapture or deobligate any award for assistance. (This is not applicable to

applicants applying for funding under COPC).

## X. Environmental Requirements

(A) *COPC Program*. In accordance with 24 CFR 50.19 (b) of the HUD regulations, activities under the COPC program are categorically excluded from the requirements of the National Environment Policy Act and are not subject to environmental review under related laws and authorities.

(B) *HBCU, HSIAC, AN/NHIAC, and TCUP Programs*. Selection for award does not constitute approval of any proposed sites. Following selection for award, HUD will perform an environmental review of activities proposed for assistance in accordance with 24 CFR part 50. The results of the environmental review may require that proposed activities be modified or proposed sites be rejected. Applicants are particularly cautioned not to undertake or commit funds for acquisition or development of proposed properties prior to HUD approval of specific properties or areas. An application constitutes an assurance that the institution will assist HUD to comply with part 50; will supply HUD with all available and relevant information to perform an environmental review for each proposed property; will carry out mitigating measures required by HUD or select alternate property; and will not acquire, rehabilitate, convert, demolish, lease, repair, or construct property and not commit or expend HUD or local funds for these program activities with respect to any eligible property until HUD approval of the property is received. In supplying HUD with environmental information, applicants should use the same guidance as provided in the HUD Notice CPD-99-01 entitled "Field Environmental Review Processing for HUD Colonias Initiative (HCI) Grants" issued January 27, 1999.

## XI. Authority

The COPC program is authorized under the Community Outreach Partnership Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 5307 note; the "COPC Act"). The COPC Act is contained in section 851 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-550, approved October 28, 1992) (HCD Act of 1992). Section 801(c) of the HCD Act of 1992 authorized \$7.5 million for each year of the 5-year demonstration to create Community Outreach Partnership Centers as authorized in the COPC Act. Division K of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (Pub. L. 108-7, approved February 20, 2003) continued the program beyond the