

funds. Consortia of eligible institutions may also apply, as long as one institution is designated the lead applicant. Institutions applying for COPC Community Futures awards may also submit applications for the basic Universities and Colleges COPC program provided the application is from a different academic unit with its own administrative structure.

(C) *Program Description.* In general, a Communities Futures COPC program must combine research and outreach with communities and local governments, and address the problems faced by urban areas. The statute creating COPC is very specific that COPC address problems of urban areas. Funded research must have a clear potential for solving significant urban problems. Applicants must have the capacity to apply the research results and work with communities and local institutions, including neighborhood groups, individual citizens, local governments, and other appropriate community stakeholders, in applying these results to specific, real-world community issues. More specifically, HUD will award COPC Community Futures Demonstration awards for research and outreach activities in one of the following two categories:

(1) *Housing Design Awards.* HUD will award funds to eligible schools of architecture, planning or design to establish and operate Community Outreach Partnership Centers to develop case study housing plans that incorporate innovative technologies, good design, energy efficiency, universal design, accessibility and affordability, so that the homes can be economically viable and marketable in the local area.

HUD is interested in stimulating the design and construction of housing that will reflect the future needs of communities in the United States. Applicants are expected to address the need for greater innovation and experimentation in the housing industry, training of architects and planners in affordable housing design, and merging quality affordable housing designs with market needs and constraints. These designs should be practicable but innovative, cost-effective but using cutting-edge technologies that incorporate good design.

Case study homes should include the following features: Innovative building technologies, including green building technologies; accessibility; energy efficiency; and good design that is both innovative and contextual. Clearly, there is no single definition of good design; however, it should at least address the following criteria: (1) Meet

user needs; (2) understand and respond to local context; (3) enhance the neighborhood; and (4) be built to last (See www.designadvisor.org for further guidance on these criteria).

The extent to which the housing addresses market needs is as important as the physical design. The designs should be based on a careful cost analysis and priced to meet specific segments of the housing market—either specific income levels or specific populations (elderly, female-headed households, young couples, persons with disabilities, homeless persons, etc).

Case study houses are not restricted to a single building type; they may consist of single-family homes, both detached or attached, multifamily units, or a combination of housing types that are suitable for different users. They may be rental or homeownership units, or single-room occupancy (SRO) units. They should be affordable to low- to moderate-income families (up to 80 percent of area median income). However, the affordable units may make up a portion of a larger complex that is market-rate; in fact, this may be a desirable strategy for meeting affordable housing needs. Several states, counties, or cities have established programs that provide for a set-aside of affordable units within a larger market-rate complex. HUD has also encouraged production of mixed-income housing, which combines affordable, market rate and subsidized housing as an alternative to previous approaches that separated these housing types. To the extent that the state or city has one of these programs, applicants may wish to adopt this strategy for their case study design.

Case study housing designs developed in this grant category must be conceived in one or more target communities in cooperation with a private or non-profit developer or builder (or more than one developer or builder) that will agree to build one or more demonstrations of the product in the community by the end of the grant period. The process for designing and building case study homes should be a joint venture with a developer or builder that is committed to building the final product. HUD recognizes the difficulty in establishing such joint ventures, particularly when they involve innovative or experimental designs such as envisioned through this NOFA. However, HUD's intent is to ensure that the designs result in tangible benefits for local communities in the form of affordable housing. At the same time, applicants may develop a range of case study housing designs through this NOFA, provided that at least one of these designs results in actual construction.

Within these parameters, the purpose of the Community Futures awards in housing design is to foster and stimulate creativity and innovation on the part of architecture schools in addressing housing needs in their communities. This NOFA is therefore purposefully non-prescriptive in defining the specific characteristics that HUD is seeking in the design of case study homes. Rather, these should be determined by community needs, market economics, and financial feasibility. In addition to benefiting individual communities, HUD hopes that policy makers and the building industry can learn from these local case studies in shaping the next generation of affordable housing in the United States. HUD is interested in the completed designs and built projects as best practices for the building industry, and will share the results with key public and private sector leaders around the country.

For the purposes of this grant, applicants must identify the community or communities that will be served by the COPC. Applicants may identify a community as either (1) one or more specific communities or neighborhoods; or (2) the entire city, in which case applicants must identify one or more demographic groups (e.g., elderly, homeless persons, persons with disabilities) or income groups (e.g., low-income, very low-income or moderate income) that will be served by the designs, and identify those neighborhoods in which the housing will be made available.

(2) *Planning Awards.* HUD will award funds to eligible schools of architecture, planning or design to establish and operate Community Outreach Partnership Centers to develop, in cooperation with communities and local governments in a city, region or metropolitan area, a plan for the future of the cities or metropolitan areas for the next 20 years.

HUD is interested in universities and colleges assisting communities to address the challenges associated with metropolitan growth. By 2050, the U.S. population is projected to grow from the current (2000) 281 million to 410 million. Much of this growth will take place in cities and metropolitan areas, but it will take place unevenly, depending on the geographic region of the country and other facts. Some metropolitan areas are growing, but their central cities continue to experience population losses. Planning awards in this category are intended to help communities assess the nature of these changes and develop policies, plans and strategies to effectively address them.