

materials throughout your project area; providing outreach and information on fair housing through printed and electronic media; developing fair housing curricula, and providing outreach to persons with disabilities and/or their support organizations and service housing providers working with homeless activists or persons to determine if fair housing plays a part in the homeless situation, and the general public regarding the rights of persons with disabilities under the Act. When conducting your outreach activities, we also encourage the use of existing, fair housing materials; except that we require that you translate these existing materials in languages other than English. The applicants for the Regional/Local/Community-Based Programs who submit an application in conjunction with a grassroots faith-based and other community-based organization must include in their application a letter of firm commitment from that grassroots faith-based and other community based organization. This letter of firm commitment must: (1) Identify the grassroots faith-based and other community-based organization; (2) identify the activities/tasks to be undertaken by the grassroots faith-based and other community-based organization under the project; and (3) be signed by the individual or organization with legal authority to make commitments for the organization. These components are described below:

Disability Component. Applications that emphasize the fair housing needs of persons with disabilities, so that persons with disabilities, housing providers and the general public better understand the rights and obligations under the Act and more fully appreciate the forms of housing discrimination that persons with disabilities may encounter, should submit their applications to the EOI-Disability Component. Although the component has a disability focus, the funded activities must provide education and outreach to all persons protected under the Act.

Hispanic Fair Housing Awareness Component. Applicants must be able to provide bilingual materials and services to Hispanics so that they are aware of and educated about their fair housing rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act. In addition, applicants must have staff who are bilingual and have demonstrated experience, which is defined as 5 years of proven experience in providing social services to persons of Hispanic origin or must have established a partnership with an established faith-based or other community-based organization to carry out the objectives of this component and

three years of experience with the applicant. Although the component has a focus in providing education and outreach to Hispanic communities, the funded activities must provide education and outreach in a non-discriminatory manner. Grantees may not deny services to a client who is not Hispanic.

Fair Housing and Minority Homeownership Component. Today, homeownership in America is at an all time high—but not all Americans have benefited. While 75% of white Americans own their own homes, less than half of all African Americans and Hispanic Americans are homeowners. Even with a surge in homeownership during the 1990's, the homeownership gap between minority and white households declined by just 1.5 percentage points. In June 2002, President George W. Bush announced an ambitious plan to help close the homeownership gap by increasing minority homeownership by 5.5 million families before the end of the decade. Educating homebuyers is an important step in meeting the President's challenge and there is a strong tie between equal housing opportunity and minority homeownership.

Under the Fair Housing and Minority Homeownership Component, applicants must demonstrate the ability to conduct community outreach activities to educate people about their rights under the Fair Housing Act and to prepare them for homeownership. The goal of this Component is to improve access to homeownership by racial and ethnic minorities by educating them about fair housing and how to recognize discriminatory housing practices in sales and financing of housing. Applicants must demonstrate the ability to educate participants about various forms of unlawful discrimination including discrimination in the sale of dwellings, discrimination in the financing of dwellings and unlawful segregation resulting from steering and other activities. Please ensure that all activities are tied to the protections outlined in the Fair Housing Act.

General Component. Applications for all other fair housing education and outreach activities should be submitted to the EOI-General Component.

The fifth component is the *National Program—Model Codes Component*.

The purpose of this component of the National Program is to increase compliance with the Fair Housing Act's accessible design and construction requirements through activities that will promote a collaborative partnership among builders and State and local government building code entities and

disability advocacy or fair housing groups. These collaborations will ultimately result in encouraging the adoption of model building codes at the State and local level that are consistent with the accessibility requirements of the Fair Housing Act, its regulations and the Fair Housing Accessibility Guidelines. Activities to be carried out will involve taking steps to encourage State and local jurisdictions to adopt building codes that incorporate one of the HUD-recognized safe harbors for compliance. (These safe harbors are discussed below). Activities must be done in a manner that recognizes that under the Fair Housing Act, HUD cannot compel the adoption of model codes but HUD is encouraging jurisdictions to adopt such codes.

Activities may include identifying jurisdictions toward which to target activities and education and outreach designed to provide technical assistance to jurisdictions that wish to adopt HUD-recognized Fair Housing Act safe harbor codes or update their existing codes to incorporate one of the safe harbors. This may be done through direct meetings, educational workshops, on-line "how to" technical assistance, and technical assistance to State and local communities that may be in the process of updating State or local building codes. Such technical assistance shall include educating entities on incorporating commentary or appendices to their codes.

These kinds of activities may be carried out under this NOFA:

(1) Assisting State and local jurisdictions that modify their existing building codes so that they are consistent with the accessibility requirements of the Fair Housing Act and the Fair Housing Accessibility Guidelines, the ANSI A117.1 technical standards;

(2) Educating State and local officials on the requirements of the Fair Housing Act and the Fair Housing Accessibility Guidelines, the ANSI A117.1 technical standards, or the State or local building codes if such codes already incorporate requirements that are consistent with the Act;

(3) Developing an electronically accessible "Best Practices Directory" for dissemination of information to those interested in finding peer communities and organizations that have successfully adopted or revised their model building codes to meet the Fair Housing Act's accessibility requirements, the Fair Housing Accessibility Guidelines, and the ANSI A117.1 technical standards;

(4) Providing assistance and reviewing proposed modifications of language to be included in building