

and follow-up for children under six years of age will be conducted according to the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), *Preventing Lead Poisoning in Young Children* (see Appendix B of this program section of the NOFA);

(3) HUD technical studies grant funds will not replace existing resources dedicated to any ongoing project;

(4) Laboratory analysis covered by the National Lead Laboratory Accreditation Program (NLLAP) will be conducted by a laboratory recognized under the program;

(5) Human research subjects will be protected from research risks in conformance with Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects, codified by HUD at 24 CFR part 60; and

(6) The requirements of OSHA (*e.g.*, 29 CFR part 1910 and/or 1926, as applicable) or the State or local occupational safety and health regulations, whichever are most stringent, will be met;

(7) If an individual researcher or a research team submits the application, the institution administering the grant will meet the civil rights threshold in Section V of the General Section of this NOFA.

(E) Conducting Business in Accordance with HUD Core Values and Ethical Standards

If awarded assistance under this NOFA, prior to entering into a grant agreement with HUD, you will be required to submit a copy of your code of conduct and describe the methods you will use to ensure that all officers, employees, and agents of your organization are aware of your code of conduct. See Section V of the General Section of the SuperNOFA for information about conducting business in accordance with HUD's core values and ethical standards.

(F) Participation in HUD-Sponsored Program Evaluation

As a condition of the receipt of financial assistance under this NOFA, you will be required to cooperate with all HUD staff or contractors performing HUD-funded research and evaluation studies pertaining to the subject of the grant.

(G) HUD Reform Act of 1989

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

V. Application Selection Process

(A) Threshold Requirements

Applications that meet all of the threshold requirements will be eligible to be scored and ranked, based on the total number of points allocated for each of the rating factors described below in Section V (B) of this NOFA. Your application must receive a total score of at least 75 points to remain in consideration for funding.

(B) Rating and Ranking

Awards will be made separately in rank order for Healthy Homes Technical Studies applications and for each category of Lead Technical Studies applications, within the limits of funding availability for each program.

(1) *Award Factors.* Applications will be reviewed by a Source Evaluation Board which will assign each application a numerical score based on the rating factors presented below (see also section V(B) of the NOFA). Each factor is weighted as indicated by the number of points that are attainable for it. The maximum score that can be assigned to an application is 102 points. Applicants should be certain that these factors are adequately addressed in the project description (see Section 2) and accompanying materials. The five rating factors are listed below.

Rating Factor 1: Capacity of the Applicant and Relevant Organizational Experience (30 points)

Rating Factor 2: Need/Extent of the Problem (10 points)

Rating Factor 3: Soundness of Approach (45 points)

Rating Factor 4: Leveraging Resources (5 points)

Rating Factor 5: Achieving Results and Program Evaluation (10 points)

RC/EZ/EC Bonus Points (2 points)
TOTAL: 102 points

Applicants are eligible to receive two bonus points for projects located within federally designated Renewable Communities (RC)/Employment Zones (EZ)/Enterprise Communities (EC) (RC/EZ/ECs) and which will serve the residents of these communities (see Section VI of the General Section of this NOFA).

You will receive one point under Rating Factor 3(1) for each of the applicable FY 2003 policy priorities that are adequately addressed in your application, up to a maximum of three points (see Section II of the General Section of this NOFA). Policy priorities that are applicable to the Lead and Healthy Homes Technical Studies NOFA are: (1) Improving our Nation's Communities (focus on distressed communities); (2) Providing Full and

Equal Access to Grass-Roots Faith-based and other Community-based Organizations in HUD Program Implementation; and (3) Colonias.

Within each of the two technical studies program areas, you may address more than one of the technical study topic areas within your proposal (*e.g.*, a healthy homes technical studies applicant can address multiple topics consistent with the HHI program objectives) or submit separate applications for different topic areas. You are encouraged to plan projects that can be completed over a short time period (*e.g.*, 12 to 24 months from the date of award (plus up to six months to accommodate approval by an IRB for human subjects research)), so useful information generated from the technical studies can be available for policy or program decisions and disseminated to the public as quickly as possible.

Regarding the amount to be awarded to the selected applicants, please refer to the Negotiation section VI(D) in the General Section of this NOFA.

(2) *Partial Funding.* In the selection process, HUD reserves the right to offer partial funding to any or all applicants. If you are offered a reduced grant amount, you will have a maximum of 14 calendar days to accept such a reduced award. If you fail to respond within the 14-day limit, you shall be considered to have declined the award.

(3) *Remaining Funds.* See section VI of the General Section of this NOFA for HUD's procedures if funds remain after all selections have been made within a category of the Lead Technical Studies Program.

(C) Rating Factors

The factors for rating and ranking applicants, and maximum points for each factor, are provided below. The factors or their assigned points differ somewhat from those used for most program areas included in this NOFA because they have been amended for rating the unique aspects of technical study applications. The maximum number of points to be awarded is 102.

Rating Factor 1: Capacity of the Applicant and Relevant Organizational Experience (30 Points)

This factor addresses the extent to which you have the ability and organizational resources necessary to successfully implement your proposed activities in a timely manner. The rating of you, the "applicant," will include any sub-grantees, consultants, sub-recipients, and members of consortia that are firmly committed to the project (generally, "subordinate