

industrial closings, housing conditions, such as the number and percentage of substandard and/or overcrowded units, rent burden (defined as average housing cost divided by average income) for the target area and urgency in addressing problems facing youth, local crime statistics, etc.

(3) In rating applications under this Factor, HUD reserves the right to consider sources of available objective data, such as the U.S. Census, other than, or in addition to, those provided by applicants, and to compare such data to those provided by applicants and local crime statistics for the project site.

HUD requires use of sound and reliable data (e.g., U.S. Census data, State statistical reports, university studies/reports that are verifiable) to support distress levels cited in each application. A source for all information along with the publication or origination date must also be provided.

Updated Census data are available as follows for the listed indicators:

- (a) Unemployment rate—estimated monthly, with a two-month lag;
- (b) Population—estimated for incorporated places through 2000;
- (c) Poverty rate—2000 data being the most recent available.

### **Rating Factor 3: Soundness of Approach (40 points)**

This factor addresses the extent to which your proposed program is coordinated with other ongoing and related activities in the area you propose to serve, how well your program outcomes result in increased independence and empowerment to your beneficiaries at the conclusion of the grant period. HUD will evaluate the extent to which your application meets the following three elements:

(1) *Coordination of activities* (2 points). The extent to which you have coordinated your activities with other known organizations that are not directly in your proposed work activities, but with which you share common goals and objectives and are working toward meeting these objectives in a holistic and comprehensive manner. The goal of coordination is to ensure that programs do not operate in isolation. The more your activities are coordinated with other agencies in your service area, the more points you will receive. An example of coordination activities would be the applicant's partnership with an existing child day care facility (which is not funded by program) that provides day care services to the Youthbuild participants during the hours they are being trained or receiving education.

(2) *Self-Sufficiency* (1 point). The extent to which your application implements practical solutions within the grant term that result in assisting beneficiaries of grant program funds in achieving independent living, economic empowerment, educational opportunities, housing choice or improved environments which are free from environmental hazards such as lead hazards, brownfields, overcrowded housing, etc. Applicants that clearly describe the extent to which proposed activities result in increased independence and empowerment for their beneficiaries will receive higher points in this sub-factor.

(3) *Sustainability* (2 points). The extent to which your program exhibits the potential to be financially self-sustaining by decreasing dependence on Youthbuild funding and relying more on state, local and private funding so your activities can be continued after your grant award is complete. Applicants that demonstrate a reduced dependence on Youthbuild funds over the life of their award will receive a greater number of points for this sub-factor.

*Youthbuild Program Work Plan.* There must be a clear relationship between your proposed activities, community needs and the purpose of the Youthbuild program. HUD will consider the overall quality and feasibility of your proposed work plan and budget which must be consistent with the Youthbuild program as measured by your specific activities and outcomes.

Specifically, HUD will consider the following categories when assessing your proposed work plan:

(1) *Program Components*. (15 points).

(a) Outreach strategy, recruitment strategy and selection activities. HUD will determine the extent to which you demonstrate a clear linkage with the following work plan activities and proposed outcomes and results. Points will be awarded based upon overall quality and feasibility of the outreach, recruitment and selection activities, the number and types of outreach activities, number of youths to be recruited including eligible participants who are harder to reach and comprehensiveness of the local selection process.

Letters describing specific resources or services to be contributed by non-applicant organizations must be included in your application. In evaluating this category, HUD will consider:

(i) Specific steps you will take to attract potential eligible participants who are unlikely to be aware of this program (because of race, color, national

origin, religion, ethnicity, sex or disability) and selection strategies;

(ii) Special outreach efforts you will make to recruit eligible young women, young women with dependent children, and persons receiving public assistance; and

(iii) Recruitment arrangements you have made with public agencies, courts, homeless shelters, local school systems, local workforce development systems, one-stop centers and, community-based organizations, etc. You will receive a greater number of points if your outreach and recruitment arrangements are consistent with the purpose of the Youthbuild program and your project goals and the resources provided.

(b) Educational and job training services and activities. HUD will evaluate the extent to which you demonstrate a clear linkage with the following work plan activities and proposed outcomes and results.

Letters describing specific resources or services to be contributed by non-applicant organizations must be included in your application. Points will be awarded based upon the quality and feasibility of your proposed curriculum, qualifications of instructors and proposed wages and stipends for youth participants. In evaluating this category, HUD will consider:

(i) The types of in-class academic and vocational instruction you will provide;

(ii) The number and qualifications of program instructors and ratio of instructors to participants;

(iii) Scheduling plan for classroom and on-the-job training needed to meet program requirements and ensure timely completion of your program; and

(iv) Reasonable payments of participants' wages, stipends, and incentives. You will receive a greater number of points if your educational and job training services are consistent with the purpose of the Youthbuild program and your project goals and the resources provided.

(c) Leadership development. HUD will determine the extent to which you demonstrate a clear linkage with work plan activities and proposed outcomes and results. Letters describing specific resources or services to be contributed by non-applicant organizations must be submitted in your application. Points will be awarded based upon the quality and feasibility of your proposed leadership curriculum, qualifications of instructors and the impact of the proposed leadership activities on the target area. You must describe the leadership development training you will offer to participants and strategies for providing the training to build group cohesion and peer support. You will