

not meet the threshold requirements described in the General Section of the SuperNOFA);

(2) Do not serve an eligible rural area;

(3) Do not meet the objectives of the RHED program;

(4) Propose a program for which the majority of the activities are ineligible.

(C) *Rating Factors for Award Used to Evaluate and Rate Applications.* The factors for rating and ranking applicants, and maximum points for each factor, are provided below. The maximum number of points for this program is 102. This includes 100 points for all five rating factors and two RC/EZ/EC bonus points, as described in the General Section of the SuperNOFA.

(D) *Notification of Approval and Disapproval.* HUD will notify you whether or not you have been selected for an award. If you are selected, HUD's notice to you of the amount of the grant award based on the approved application will constitute HUD's conditional approval, subject to negotiation and execution of the grant agreement by HUD.

(E) *Applicant Debriefing.* Any applicant can obtain a debriefing of their application. Please refer to Section IX(A)(4) of the General Section of the SuperNOFA for details on the conditions and time frames for requesting a debriefing. In addition, applicants requesting a debriefing must send a written request to Ms. Jackie Williams-Mitchell, Director, Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development (ORHED), at the address listed in Section I of this NOFA under "For Further Information and Technical Assistance."

(F) *Rating Factors.* The following Rating Factors will be used to review, evaluate and rate your application.

Rating Factor 1—Capacity of the Applicant and Relevant Organizational Experience (15 Points).

This rating factor addresses the extent to which you have the organizational resources necessary to successfully implement your proposed work plan as further described in Rating Factor 3 in a timely manner, specifically within the 36 month award period.

Rating standards applicable to individual funding categories. The two funding categories have different objectives. Accordingly, in addition to the generally applicable rating standard discussed above, different standards as discussed below will be used to judge the experience and qualifications of the applicants for each of the two funding categories. HUD fully supports emerging organizations that desire to develop

internal capacity. Therefore, the following categories will be evaluated:

(1) *For Capacity Building applications (15 points).* *Team members, composition, experience, organizational structure and management capacity.*

Your response to this subfactor should clearly state the need which your organization is to address through the request for assistance. In addition, you should describe how the enhanced capacity realized through the assistance will fulfill that need. HUD will evaluate the experience of your project director, core staff, any outside consultants, contractors, subrecipients, and project partners to implement all of the work activities in your workplan as they relate to innovative housing and economic development activities. In evaluating your capacity to do the work, HUD will assess the recentness and relevancy of the prior work experience of each of the parties listed above to execute the prescribed activities; the services that consultants or other parties will provide to fill gaps in your staffing structure to enable you to carry out the proposed workplan; the experience of your project director in managing projects of similar size, scope, and dollar amount; the lines of authority and procedures that you have in place for ensuring that workplan goals and objectives are being met, consultants and other project partners are performing as planned, and that beneficiaries are being adequately served. In responding to this sub-factor, please indicate how the capacity building assistance will strengthen or otherwise impact your organization's current housing or economic development program portfolio, or if you are a new grantee, how the capacity assistance will ensure that you can carry out your proposed activities. In judging your response to this factor, HUD will only consider work experience gained within the last three years. When responding, please be sure to provide the dates, job titles and relevancy of the past experience to work undertaken by the employee or contractor under your proposed RHED application. The more recent, relevant, and successful the experience of your team members is in relationship to the workplan activities, the greater the number of points you will receive.

(2) *For Support for Innovative Rural Housing and Economic Development Activities applications*

(a) (5 points). *Team members, composition, and experience.* HUD will evaluate the experience of your project director, core staff, any outside consultants, contractors, subrecipients, and project partners to implement all of

the work activities in your workplan. In evaluating your capacity to do the work, HUD will assess the recentness and relevance of the prior work experience of each of the parties listed above to execute the prescribed activities; the services that consultants or other parties will provide to fill gaps in your staffing structure to enable you to carry out the proposed workplan; the experience of your project director in managing projects of similar size, scope, and dollar amount; the lines of authority and procedures that you have in place for ensuring that workplan goals and objectives are being met, that consultants and other project partners are performing as planned, and that beneficiaries are being adequately served. In judging your response to this factor, HUD will only consider work experience gained within the last seven years. When responding, please be sure to provide the dates, job titles and relevancy of the past experience to work undertaken by the employee or contractor under your proposed RHED application. The more recent, relevant, and successful the experience of your team members are in relationship to the workplan activities, the greater the number of points that you will receive.

(b) (5 points). *Organizational structure and management capacity.* HUD will evaluate the extent to which you can demonstrate your organization's ability to manage a workforce composed of full-time and/or part-time staff as well as any consultant staff and your ability to work with community-based groups or organizations in resolving issues related to affordable housing and economic development. In evaluating this sub-factor, HUD will take into account your experience in working with community-based organizations to design and implement programs which address the identified housing and economic development issues. The more recent, relevant, and successful the experience of your organization and any participating entities, the greater the number of points you will receive.

(c) (5 points). *Experience with performance based funding requirements.* HUD will evaluate your experience in producing timely products and reports in any previous grant programs undertaken with HUD funds or other Federal, State, local or non-profit or for-profit organization funds. In assessing points for this sub-factor, HUD reserves the right to take into account your past performance in meeting performance and reporting goals on any previous HUD awards. HUD will deduct one point for each of the following activities related to previous HUD grant programs for which