

points, as described in the General Section of the SuperNOFA. The SuperNOFA contains a certificate that must be completed in order for the applicant to be considered for RC/EZ/EC bonus points. A listing of federally designated RCs, EZs, ECs, EECs and Strategic Planning Communities is attached to the General Section of the SuperNOFA as Appendix A-2 and is also available from the SuperNOFA Information Center, and the HUD Web site, [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov).

**Note:** Applicants should carefully review each rating factor before writing a response. Applicants' narratives should be as descriptive as possible, ensuring that every requested item is addressed. Applicants should make sure to include all requested information, according to the instructions found in Section VIII of this NOFA. This will help ensure a fair and accurate review of your application. Applications must not be longer than 30 narrative pages. Supporting documentation and certificates will not be counted towards the 30 page limit. However, applicants should make every effort to submit only what is necessary in terms of supporting documentation.

#### **Rating Factor 1: Capacity of the Applicant and Relevant Organizational Staff (20 Points)**

This factor addresses whether the applicant has the organizational resources necessary to successfully implement the proposed activities within the grant period. In rating this factor HUD will consider the extent to which the proposal demonstrates that the applicant will have qualified and experienced staff dedicated to administering the program.

##### **(A) Proposed Program Staffing (7 Points).**

(1) *Staff Experience* (4 Points). The knowledge and experience of your proposed project coordinator, staff, subcontractors, and partners in planning and managing programs for which funding is being requested. Experience will be judged in terms of recent, relevant and successful experience of your staff to undertake eligible program activities. In rating this factor, HUD will consider experience within the last 5 years to be recent; experience pertaining to the specific activities being proposed to be relevant; and experience producing specific accomplishments to be successful. The more recent the experience and the more experience your own staff members who work on the project have in successfully conducting and completing similar activities, the greater the number of points you will receive for this rating factor. The following information should be provided in order to provide

HUD an understanding of your staff's experience and capacity:

(a) The number of staff years (one staff year = 2080 hours) to be allocated to your program by each employee or expert as well as each of their roles in the program;

(b) The staff's relevant educational background and/or work experience; and

(c) Relevant and successful experience running programs whose activities are similar to the eligible program activities described in this grant category.

(2) *Staff Capacity* (3 Points). You will be evaluated based on whether you, your subcontractors and partners have sufficient personnel or will be able to quickly access enough qualified experts or professionals, to deliver the proposed activities in a timely and effective fashion. Your ability to immediately begin the proposed work program will also be evaluated. Attach resumes or position descriptions (where staff is not yet hired) for all key personnel. (Resumes do not count toward the 30-page limit.)

(B) *Past Performance of Applicant/Project Coordinator* (6 Points). Your narrative must describe how you (or your proposed Project Coordinator) successfully implemented grant programs designed to promote resident self-sufficiency, moving from welfare to work or homeownership. You will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

(1) Achievement of specific measurable outcomes and objectives in terms of benefits gained by participating residents (*i.e.* higher incomes, higher rates of employment, increased savings, moving out of subsidized housing to market-rate housing, homeownership etc.);

(2) Success in attracting and keeping residents involved in past grant programs so that grant activities benefited a significant numbers of residents;

(3) Timely expenditure of funds throughout the term of the grant. Timely means regular drawdowns throughout the life of the grant, *i.e.* quarterly drawdowns, with all funds expended by the end of the grant term;

(4) Leveraging of funding or in-kind services beyond that which was originally proposed to be used for past projects;

(5) Long-term partnerships formed with local housing groups, employers, community organizations, social service agencies, etc.

Your past experience may include, but is not limited to, programs aimed at assisting residents of low-income

housing achieve economic self-sufficiency; *i.e.* Tenant Opportunities Program and Youthbuild. Your narrative must indicate the grants, grant amounts, grant terms and grant sources which you are counting towards past experience.

##### **(C) Program Administration and Fiscal Management. (7 Points)**

(1) *Program Administration.* (4 Points). Describe how you will manage the program; how HUD can be sure that there is program accountability; and describe staff's roles and responsibilities.

(2) *Fiscal Management.* (3 Points). In rating this factor, your skills and experience in fiscal management will be evaluated. If you have had any audit or material weakness findings, you will be evaluated on how well you have addressed them. You must provide the following:

(i) A complete description of your fiscal management structure, including fiscal controls you have in place including those of a Contract Administrator for all applicants except non-troubled PHAs;

(ii) List any audit findings (HUD Inspector General, management review, fiscal, etc.), material weaknesses and what you have done to address them; and

(iii) For applicants who are required to have a Contract Administrator, describe the skills and experience your Contract Administrator has in managing federal funds.

#### **Rating Factor 2: Need/Extent of the Problem (20 Points)**

This factor addresses the extent to which there is a need for funding your proposed program and your indication of the importance of meeting the need in the target area. In responding to this factor, you will be evaluated on the extent to which you describe and document the level of need for your proposed activities.

You should use statistics and analyses contained in data source(s) that are sound and reliable. Data that describes socioeconomic conditions at the local level can be found by going to the following Web sites: [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov) (Bureau of Labor Statistics) or [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov) (US Census). Other types of sources include academic, state, and local sources. To the extent possible, the data you use should be specific to the area where the proposed activities will be carried out. You should document needs as they apply to the area where activities will be targeted, rather than the entire locality or state.

In responding to this factor, you should include: