

technology centers. NN centers provide computer and Internet access to public housing residents and offer a full range of supportive services. Applicants should submit proposals that will: Provide job training, reduce welfare dependency; promote economic self-sufficiency; increase the use of computer technology; expand educational opportunities for residents; develop access to health and nutrition information; and meet other needs of residents. All applicants must complete a Business Plan (see sample provided in Appendix B) covering the thirty-six month grant term. Applicants' business plan and narrative must indicate how the centers will become self-sustaining after the grant term expires.

An existing computer center is: (1) A computer lab, or community technology center already owned and operated by a PHA or nonprofit which serves residents of public housing and which has not received prior Neighborhood Networks funding and therefore is not officially designated a HUD Public & Indian Housing (PIH) Neighborhood Networks center; or (2) a computer lab officially designated a HUD PIH Neighborhood Networks center by virtue of prior funding received under this grant program.

A new computer center is one that: (1) Is not operational; (2) in development; and/or (3) needs funding under this grant program to become fully operational and serve residents of public housing.

HUD is looking for applications that implement comprehensive programs within the grant term which will result in improved economic self-sufficiency for public housing residents. HUD is looking for proposals that involve partnerships with organizations that will help supplement and enhance the services grantees' offered to residents.

Proposed grant activities should build on the foundation created by previous ROSS grants or other federal, state and local self-sufficiency efforts.

(B) *Available Funding.* The amount of funding available for FY03 is \$14,902,500.

(C) *Allocation.* Fifty percent of available funding for NN will provide grants for updating, maintaining and expanding existing computer technology centers. The other 50% will provide grants to establish and operate new Neighborhood Networks centers. Five percent of available funding shall be provided to national nonprofit organizations provided there is a sufficient number of qualified applications.

(1) *Maximum Funding Amount.* To update, maintain and expand existing

computer technology centers, PHAs must use the number of occupied conventional family public housing units they have as of September 30, 2002 per their budget to determine the maximum grant amount they are eligible for in accordance with the categories listed below. PHAs should clearly indicate the number of units under management on the Fact Sheet.

—For PHAs with 1 to 780 occupied conventional family public housing units, the maximum grant award is \$50,000.

—For PHAs with 781 to 7,300 occupied conventional family public housing units, the maximum grant award is \$100,000.

—For PHAs with 7,301 or more occupied conventional family public housing units, the maximum grant award is \$200,000.

—Nonprofit entities that have resident support or RAs/ROs are limited to \$100,000 for each RA/RO. A nonprofit may submit a single application for no more than three different RAs from the same PHA for a maximum grant award of \$300,000. Nonprofits may submit more than one application provided they target residents of distinct PHAs.

(2) For new NN centers, PHAs must use the number of occupied conventional family public housing units they have as of September 30, 2002 per their budget to determine the maximum grant amount they are eligible for in accordance with the categories listed below for families:

—For PHAs with 1 to 780 occupied conventional family public housing units, the maximum grant award is \$150,000.

—For PHAs with 781 to 7,300 occupied conventional family public housing units, the maximum grant award is \$250,000.

—For PHAs with 7,301 or more occupied conventional family public housing units, the maximum grant award is \$450,000.

—Nonprofit entities that have resident support or RAs/ROs are limited to \$100,000 for each RA/RO. A nonprofit may submit a single application for no more than three different RAs from the same PHA for a maximum grant award of \$300,000. Nonprofits may submit more than one application provided they target residents of distinct PHAs.

(D) *Deobligation of Funds.* HUD may deobligate amounts for the grant if proposed activities are not initiated or completed within the required time period after the effective date of the award. The grant agreement will set forth in detail circumstances under

which funds may be deobligated and other sanctions imposed.

(E) *Eligible Applicants.* Public Housing Authorities and nonprofit organizations that have a demonstrated expertise in developing and managing community technology centers are eligible to apply for this funding category. Tribes/TDHEs are not eligible to apply for this funding category.

Note: Applications from PHAs and nonprofit organizations targeting the same public housing development/population will not all be funded. HUD suggests that in these cases, applicants work together to submit one application. Otherwise, the highest scoring application will be funded.

(F) *Eligible Activities.*

Programs offered by Neighborhood Networks centers shall be designed to meet residents' needs; be geared towards helping residents transition from welfare to work; assist school-age children and youth with homework; provide guidance and preparatory programming to high school students (or other interested residents) for post-secondary education (college or trade schools); offer life-skills and job training for youth, adults and seniors; provide health care information; and other services as deemed necessary by results obtained from resident surveys.

Neighborhood Networks centers should be located within a public housing development, on PHA land or within reasonable walking distance to the PHA development(s) being served by the center.

Neighborhood Networks will use computers, software and Internet connectivity and should provide the following array of supportive services:

(1) Hiring of a qualified Project Coordinator to run the grant program. A qualified Project Coordinator should have two years of experience running a community technology center. The Project Coordinator should be hired for the entire term of your grant. The ROSS program will fund up to \$62,500 in combined annual salary and fringe benefits for a full-time project coordinator. However, the project coordinator's salary and administrative costs may not exceed more than 30% of the total grant amount. Other administrative costs, see paragraph 17 below, may not exceed 10% of the total grant amount requested from HUD. For audit purposes, applicants must have documentation on file demonstrating that the salary they pay the project coordinator is comparable to similar professions in their local area. The project coordinator should be responsible for ensuring that the center's programs achieve your proposal's goals and objectives. In