

date of award, unless you indicate a specific rationale for a different schedule. HUD will provide comments to you on the study design.

(b) You must submit a draft report to HUD no later than twenty (20) weeks prior to the scheduled ending date of the project. HUD will provide comments on the draft report, which may include comments of peer reviewers engaged by HUD.

(c) Travel to Washington (or another location, as mutually agreed) to present the study, at a time to be arranged with HUD representatives, subsequent to submission of the draft final report. Your project budget must include provision for this.

(d) You must submit a final report taking account of the comments.

A cost-reimbursement award based on the negotiated budget is anticipated.

A payment schedule based on the completion of project milestones will be established in negotiation. An amount equal to 20 percent of the total amount of the cooperative agreement will be withheld and paid by HUD only after the final project report has been received and accepted by HUD.

The terms and conditions of the cooperative agreement will include restrictions against release of work products, quotation or paraphrasing from work products, or disclosures of interim findings prior to 60 days after HUD acceptance of your final report except with HUD approval. Thereafter, recipients are free to publish without HUD approval. The present provisions of OMB-Circular A-110, and HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 84 subpart C shall govern the right to intellectual or intangible property developed as a result of a recipient's performance under a cooperative agreement.

V. Program Requirements.

(A) Threshold Requirements.

(1) *Eligible Applicants.* Academic and not-for-profit institutions located in the U.S., state and local governments, and federally recognized Indian tribes are eligible to apply under this NOFA. For-profit firms also are eligible; however, they are not allowed to earn a fee (*i.e.*, no profit can be made from the project). Federal agencies and federal employees are not eligible to submit applications.

(2) *Compliance with Fair Housing and Civil Rights Laws.*

(a) With the exception of federally recognized Indian tribes and their instrumentalities, all applicants and their subrecipients must comply with all Fair Housing and Civil Rights laws, statutes, regulations, and Executive Orders as enumerated in 24 CFR 5.105(a). If you are a federally

recognized Indian tribe, you must comply with the non-discrimination provisions enumerated at 24 CFR 1003.601, as applicable.

(b) If you, the applicant:

(i) Have been charged with a systemic violation of the Fair Housing Act alleging ongoing discrimination;

(ii) Are a defendant in a Fair Housing Act lawsuit filed by the Department of Justice alleging an on-going pattern or practice of discrimination; or,

(iii) Have received a letter of non-compliance findings under title VI, section 504, or section 109, and if the charge, lawsuit, or letter of findings has not been resolved to HUD's satisfaction before the application deadline stated in this NOFA, then you may not apply for assistance under this NOFA. HUD will not rate and rank your application. HUD's decision regarding whether a charge, lawsuit, or a letter of findings has been satisfactorily resolved will be based upon whether appropriate actions have been taken to address allegations of on-going discrimination in the policies or practices involved in the charge, lawsuit, or letter of findings.

(3) *Conducting Business In Accordance With Core Values and Ethical Standards.* Entities subject to 24 CFR parts 84 and 85 (most non-profit organizations and state, local and tribal governments or government agencies or instrumentalities that receive federal awards of financial assistance) are required to develop and maintain a written code of conduct (*see* §§ 84.42 and 85.36(b)(3)). Consistent with regulations governing specific programs, your code of conduct must: prohibit real and apparent conflicts of interest that may arise among officers, employees, or agents; prohibit the solicitation and acceptance of gifts or gratuities by your officers, employees, and agents for their personal benefit in excess of minimal value; and, outline administrative and disciplinary actions available to remedy violations of such standards. If awarded assistance under this NOFA, you will be required, prior to entering into a cooperative agreement with HUD, 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.

(B) Program Requirements.

(1) *Number of Proposals and Topics.*

A particular author or group of co-authors may submit separate research proposals on more than one topic, but no more than one award will be made to any one such author or group of co-authors.

You may address more than one of the technical study topic areas within your

proposal or submit separate applications for different topic areas. Projects need not address all of the objectives within a given topic area. While you will not be penalized for not addressing all of the specific objectives for a given topic area, if two applications for technical study in a given topic have equal scores, HUD will select the applicant whose project addresses the most objectives.

(2) *Period of Performance.* The period of performance may not exceed 18 months from the time of award.

(3) *Conflict of Interest.* You must include information in your proposal concerning any past and current relationships that you and any other individuals, contractors, subcontractors or consultants proposed to be involved in the work may have with Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. Substantial conflict of interest may be a basis for HUD disapproval of a proposed investigator's involvement.

If your study bears in any way on the role or activities of financial institutions, you will be required upon the completion of your work to provide to HUD a succinct statement summarizing any past or current relationships between project personnel (either individually or through their institutions), and Fannie Mae, or Freddie Mac. In any subsequent public release of the research by the Office of Policy Development and Research, either through formal publication or otherwise, this statement will be included, to inform readers of the nature and extent of any such relationships.

(4) *Existing Resources.* HUD technical studies funds may not replace existing resources dedicated to any ongoing project.

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

(6) *Ensuring the Participation of Small Businesses, Small Disadvantaged Businesses, and Women-Owned Businesses.* HUD is committed to ensuring that small businesses, small disadvantaged businesses, and women-owned businesses participate fully in HUD's direct contracting and in contracting opportunities generated by HUD cooperative agreement funds. Too often, these businesses still experience difficulty accessing information and successfully bidding on federal contracts. State, local, and tribal governments are required by 24 CFR 85.36(e), and non-profit recipients of assistance by 24 CFR 84.44(b), to take all necessary affirmative steps in contracting for purchase of goods or