

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**Economic Development Administration****[Docket No. 991215339-3117-07]****RIN 0610-ZA14****National Technical Assistance, Training, Research, and Evaluation: University Research Parks, Technology-Led Economic Development Strategies, and Information Dissemination—Request for Proposals**

AGENCY: Economic Development Administration (EDA), Department of Commerce (DoC).

ACTION: Request for Grant Proposals (RFP) upon availability of funds.

SUMMARY: The role of government is to create conditions in which jobs are created, and in which people can find work. EDA is soliciting proposals (1) to measure the economic impact of university research parks in the United States, (2) to provide technical assistance to practitioners to accelerate transition to technology-led economic development strategies, and (3) to disseminate information to economic development practitioners serving distressed communities that will help our partners across the nation (States, regions and communities) create wealth and minimize poverty by promoting a favorable business environment to attract private capital investment and high skill, high wage jobs through world-class capacity building, infrastructure, business assistance, research grants and strategic initiatives. EDA will fulfill this mission by promoting progressive domestic business policies and growth, and by assisting States, communities, and individuals to achieve their highest economic potential.

DATES: Prospective applicants are advised that EDA will conduct a pre-proposal conference on June 12, 2003, at 2 p.m. e.d.t. in the Department of Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover Building, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230, Room 1412, at which time questions regarding these projects can be answered. Prospective applicants unable to attend this pre-proposal conference may participate by teleconference. Teleconference information may be obtained by calling (202) 482-4085 between 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. e.d.t. on June 11, 2003.

Proposals for funding under this program will be accepted through June 30, 2003, at either of the addresses provided below. Proposals received

after 4 p.m. e.d.t., on June 30, 2003, will not be considered for funding.

By July 15, 2003, EDA will notify proposers whether they will be given further funding consideration. Each successful proponent will be invited to submit an Application for Federal Assistance, OMB Control Number 0610-0094. Projects will be funded no later than September 30, 2003.

ADDRESSES:

1. Proposals may be e-mailed to jmcnamee@eda.doc.gov, or

2. Proposals may be hand-delivered to: John J. McNamee, Director, Research and National Technical Assistance Division, Economic Development Administration, Room 1874, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230, or

3. Proposals may be mailed to: John J. McNamee, Director, Research and National Technical Assistance Division, Economic Development Administration, Room 7019, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

Proponents are encouraged to submit proposals by e-mail. Proponents are advised that, due to mail security measures, receipt of U.S.P.S. mail may be delayed for up to two weeks. EDA will not accept proposals submitted by FAX.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John J. McNamee (202) 482-4085; e-mail: jmcnamee@eda.doc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a previous notice published on April 9, 2003 (68 FR 17520), EDA stated that it would publish a separate announcement for certain National Technical Assistance, Research, and Evaluation projects. Pursuant to that notice, EDA publishes program requirements and solicits applications for those programs.

I. Funding Availability

Funding appropriated under Public Law 108-07 is available for the National Technical Assistance, Training, Research, and Evaluation program authorized by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended (Pub. L. 89-136, 42 U.S.C. 3121, *et seq.*) and as further amended by the Economic Development Administration Reform Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-393). Funds in the amount of \$1,590,093 have been appropriated for these programs for FY 2003 and shall remain available until expended. Awards will be in the form of grants or cooperative agreements. In funding cooperative agreements, a common example of substantial involvement is collaboration between EDA program

staff and the recipient of an information dissemination award to select topics and presenters for satellite telecasts and regional policy forums, or reviewing a research project's methodology at critical stages as well as reviewing the draft written report. The average funding level in FY 2002 for National Technical Assistance investments was \$134,000, and for Research and Evaluation investments was \$105,000. EDA anticipates using only a portion of the available funding for the three RFPs described below.

II. Authority

The authority for the programs listed above is the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended (Pub. L. 89-136, 42 U.S.C. 3121 *et seq.*), and as further amended by Pub.L. 105-393.

III. Eligibility

Eligible recipients of EDA financial assistance are defined at 13 CFR 300.2 and eligible applicants are specified at 13 CFR 301.1. An "area" is an eligible recipient and is defined at 13 CFR 301.2. One category of the areas eligible for financial assistance are those areas meeting the "special needs" criteria. The special needs criteria are published in part XV of the **Federal Register** notice of April 9, 2003 (68 FR 17524).

IV. Proposal Format

Each proposal submitted must include:

1. A description of how the researcher(s) intend(s) to carry out the scope of work (not to exceed 10 pages in length);
2. A proposed budget and accompanying explanation;
3. Resumes/qualifications of key staff (not to exceed two pages per individual, with an additional two pages allowed for a single summary description of all organizations/consultants named in the proposal); and
4. A proposed schedule for completion of the project.

V. Evaluation and Selection Process

To apply for an award under this request, an eligible recipient must submit a proposal to EDA during the specified timeframe, at one of the addresses specified above. Proposals that do not meet all items required or that exceed the page limitations of section IV of this RFP, will be considered nonresponsive, and will not be considered. Proposals that meet all the requirements will be evaluated by a review panel comprised of at least three members all of whom will be full-time Federal employees. The panel first