

\$150,000 each year to eligible intermediary organizations that have demonstrated an ability to assist faith-based and community organizations, particularly smaller organizations, in promoting positive employment and transition outcomes for youth with disabilities through mentoring activities. The period of performance will be one year from the date of execution of the grant documents by DOL. ODEP may elect to extend these grants on a yearly basis for up to four additional years based on the availability of government funds and acceptable performance.

Part V. Eligible Applicants and Required Partnerships

Eligible Applicants: Under this competition, eligible "intermediaries" are defined as non-profit, community, and/or faith-based organizations with existing connections within the community, and a demonstrated ability to connect smaller faith and community-based organizations and the people they serve to youth services funded under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-220, 29 U.S.C. 2801 *et seq.*) (WIA) and to other youth services available in their local communities. These intermediary organizations must possess strong financial and grant management skills, and the ability to mentor smaller organizations to increase their capacity to fully participate in the youth service delivery provider network.

Partnerships: Applicants must establish strong linkages with the Local Workforce Investment Board (WIB) in the area to be served by the activities of the grant. The Local WIB can assist the intermediary in connecting to the One-Stop system and other community-based youth service providers receiving WIA funding. It is ODEP's belief that the intermediary and its sub-awardees can complement, augment, and supplement the services currently provided through WIA, and leverage WIA funded resources to assist them in carrying out some of their grant activities, *e.g.*, recruitment of youth with disabilities.

Grant recipients will broker partnerships with employers, the workforce development system, school systems, disability service providers, non-profit organizations, and other faith-based and community organizations to provide mentoring experiences for youth with disabilities. Among other partners, grantees will be required to collaborate with employer organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and the state Business Leadership Network where one exists. In addition, grantees will be required to utilize broad strategies for recruiting

adult and peer mentors, including outreach to other faith-based and community organizations, employer organizations and employers, and organizations representing youth with disabilities such as centers for independent living, the state's Youth Leadership Forum, and state members of the National Youth Leadership Network. In addition, applicants are to work in partnership with other disability-related public and private organizations. Partners may include:

- State/local public agencies such as Special Education;
- Vocational Rehabilitation;
- State Councils for Independent Living;
- Local Centers for Independent Living (CILs);
- State mental health agencies, state mental retardation and Developmental Disability Councils;
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) agencies; and
- Private, non-profit organizations such as disability advocacy and provider organizations, as well as federally funded disability grant entities, including faith-based entities.

Eligible Sub-Awardees and Allowable Activities

For purposes of this announcement, the intermediary may issue sub-awards to community or faith-based organizations that:

1. Have social services as a major part of their mission;
2. Are headquartered in the local community to which they provide these services;
3. Have a total annual operating budget of \$300,000 or less, or
4. Have 6 or fewer full-time equivalent employees.

Except as specifically provided, DOL/ODEP's acceptance of a proposal and an award of Federal funds to sponsor any program(s) does not provide a waiver of any grant requirement and/or procedures. For example, the OMB circulars require that an entity's procurement procedures must require that all procurement transactions be conducted, as practical, to provide open and free competition. These circulars are applicable to awards made by the intermediary to sub-awardees under the terms of this grant solicitation. If a proposal identifies a specific entity to provide the services, the DOL/ODEP's award does not provide the justification or basis to sole-source the procurement, *i.e.*, avoid competition.

The "\$300,000 or less" budget includes only that portion of an organization's budget allocated to providing social services. It does not

include other portions of the budget such as salaries and expenses. For purposes of this announcement local affiliates of national social service organizations are not eligible for a sub-grant award.

Legal Rules That Apply to Faith-Based Organizations That Receive Government Funds

The government is prohibited from directly funding religious activity.¹ These grants may not be used for religious instruction, worship, prayer, proselytizing or other inherently religious practices. Neutral, secular criteria that neither favor nor disfavor religion must be employed in the selection of grant and sub-grant recipients.

Nonetheless, participation by faith-based organizations in this grant program is highly encouraged. Consistent with the Free Exercise Clause and the Free Speech Clause of the Constitution, faith-based organizations are eligible to compete for Federal financial assistance used to support social service programs and to participate fully in the social service programs supported with Federal financial assistance without impairing their independence, autonomy, expression, or religious character. See Equal Protection of the Laws for Faith-based and Community Organizations, Exec. Order No. 13279 (December 12, 2002).

Part VI. Format Requirements for Grant Application

General Requirements: Applicants must submit one (1) paper copy with an original signature and two (2) additional paper copies of the signed proposal. To aid with the review of applications, DOL also encourages Applicants to submit an electronic copy of their proposal on a disc or CD using Microsoft Word. Applicants who do not provide an electronic copy *will not* be penalized. The Application Narrative must be double-spaced with standard margins on 8½ x 11 papers, and be presented on single-sided, numbered pages with the exception of format requirements for the Executive

¹ The term "direct" funding is used to described funds that are provided "directly" by a governmental entity or an intermediate organization with the same duties as a governmental entity, as opposed to funds that an organization receives as the result of the genuine and independent private choice of a beneficiary. In other contexts, the term "direct" funding may be used to refer to those funds that an organization receives directly from the Federal government (also known as "discretionary" funding), as opposed to funding that it receives from a State or local government (also known as "indirect" or "block grant" funding). In this SGA, the term "direct" has the former meaning.