

and on the original receipt from the U.S. Postal Service. If the postmark is not legible, an application received after the specified time and date will be processed as if mailed late. "Postmark" means a printed, stamped, or otherwise placed impression (not a postage meter machine impression) that is readily identifiable without further action as having been applied and affixed by an employee of the U.S. Postal Service on the date of mailing. Therefore, applicants shall request that the postal clerk place a legible hand cancellation bull's-eye postmark on both the receipt and the wrapper or envelope.

The only acceptable evidence to establish the date of mailing of a late application sent by U.S. Postal Service Mail Next Day Service—Post Office to Addressee is the date entered by the post office receiving clerk on the "Express Mail Next Day Service-Post Office to Addressee" label and the postmark on the envelope or wrapper and on the original receipt from the U.S. Postal Service. "Postmark" has the same meaning as defined in the preceding paragraph. Therefore, applicants shall request that the postal clerk place a legible hand cancellation bull's-eye postmark on both the receipt and the envelope or wrapper.

The only acceptable evidence to establish the time of receipt at the U.S. Department of Labor is the date/time stamp of the Office of Procurement Services on the application wrapper or other documentary evidence of receipt maintained by that office. Applications sent by other delivery services, such as Federal Express, UPS, etc., will also be accepted; however, the applicant bears the responsibility of timely submission.

ADDRESSES: Applications must be directed to the U.S. Department of Labor, Procurement Services Center, Attention: Cassandra Willis, Reference SGA 03-12, Room N-5416, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: *All applicants are advised that U.S. mail delivery in the Washington, DC area has been erratic due to concerns involving anthrax contamination. All applicants must take this into consideration when preparing to meet the application deadline. You assume the risk for ensuring a timely submission; that is, if, because of these mail problems, the Department does not receive an application or receives it too late to give it proper consideration, even if it was timely mailed, the Department is not required to consider the application. Therefore, it is recommended that you confirm receipt of your application by*

contacting Cassandra Willis, U.S. Department of Labor, Procurement Services Center; (202) 693-4570 (this is not a toll-free number), prior to the closing deadline.

Application announcements or forms will not be mailed. The **Federal Register** may be obtained from your nearest government office or library. In addition, a copy of this notice and the application requirements may be downloaded from the Women's Bureau's Web site at <http://www.dol.gov/wb/nontra.htm>.

All questions about this SGA should be directed to Cassandra Willis, U.S. Department of Labor, Procurement Services Center, Room N-5416, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210; 202-693-4570.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Part I. Background

A. Authority and Funding. The Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations (WANTO) Act of 1992 (29 U.S.C. 2501 *et seq.*) authorizes the Department of Labor (DOL) to disburse technical assistance grants. The WANTO grants for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 are funded by DOL FY 2003 Budget: Training and Employment Services (TES) 1630174. The Women's Bureau (WB) co-administers the WANTO program with the DOL Office of Apprenticeship Training, Employer and Labor Services (ATELS). WB has responsibility for implementing the grant process.

B. Purpose. The WANTO Act's purpose is to provide technical assistance to employers and labor unions (E/LU) to encourage employment of women in apprenticeships and nontraditional occupations (A/NTO). WANTO grants are awarded to community-based organizations (CBOs), which may be faith-based, to deliver technical assistance to E/LU to prepare them to successfully recruit, train, employ and retain women in A/NTO. DOL has found that placement and retention of women in A/NTO pose significant challenges.

C. Grant Awards. The WB is soliciting proposals on a competitive basis for the WANTO program. The WB anticipates awarding grants of \$50,000 to \$100,000 to approximately 10 grantees to conduct innovative projects that comply with the goals set forth in the WANTO Act and this SGA. The period of performance begins September 30, 2003, and ends on September 29, 2004. The initial performance period may be extended once, for up to three months, at no additional cost to DOL, so that a grantee can finish its final report. Each application shall clearly state the

applicant's intention to begin performance no later than October 1, 2003.

D. Acronyms and Definitions. The following terms are defined for the convenience of prospective applicants:

WANTO refers to Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations.

A/NTO refers to apprenticeship and nontraditional occupations.

E/LU refers to employers and labor unions.

ATELS refers to the Apprenticeship Training, Employer and Labor Services office of the Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor.

WB refers to the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor.

TA refers to technical assistance.

NTO (Nontraditional Occupations) are those where women account for less than 25 percent of all persons employed in a single occupational group. For the most recent listing of nontraditional jobs, see the WB Web site at www.dol.gov/wb/stats/main.htm.

Pre-Apprenticeship Programs are those programs that prepare individuals for apprenticeship or entry-level employment in NTO. Depending on the apprenticeable or other nontraditional occupation for which the program is preparing students, the curriculum would vary. For example, a curriculum for the construction trades may include pre-vocational identification and use of tools, blueprint reading, basic shop skills, safety procedures, math skills, and physical conditioning. English as a Second Language and team-building skills such as effective listening and feedback might be included in curricula preparing students for some entry-level nontraditional jobs.

Apprenticeship is a formal employment relationship designed to promote skill training and learning on the job. "Hands on" learning takes place in conjunction with related theoretical instruction (often in a classroom setting). An apprentice who successfully completes an ATELS registered program, which usually requires 3 to 5 years, is awarded a certificate of completion. An ATELS-registered program is one in which employers, or groups of employers, and unions design, organize, manage, and finance apprenticeship programs under the standards developed and registered with ATELS or ATELS-recognized State Apprenticeship Agencies. Employers, or groups of employers, and unions also select apprentices who are trained to meet certain predetermined occupational standards. For more