

approximately 20–30 awards under this competition.

Matching Requirement: Pursuant to Section 5512(c) of ESEA, as amended by NCLB, Federal funds may not pay for more than 50 percent of total project costs. In order to apply for and receive a grant award under this competition, each applicant must furnish from nonfederal sources at least 50 percent of its total project costs. Applicants may satisfy this requirement in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including services.

Reporting Requirements

In accordance with Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) cited elsewhere in this notice, grantees are required to submit to the Secretary a final performance report that:

- (1) Summarizes project progress with respect to the specific, measurable goals, objectives, and outcomes proposed in the management plan;
- (2) Summarizes project impact with respect to the achievement of participants;
- (3) Identifies barriers to progress as well as solutions; and
- (4) Provides information about the project's success in identifying funding to sustain its operations after the cessation of the grant.

Intergovernmental Review

This program is subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR Part 79. One of the objectives of the Executive Order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened Federalism. The Executive order relies on processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

Applicable Program Regulations: 34 CFR parts 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, 86, 97, 98 and 99.

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(CFDA No. 84.341) Community Technology Centers Program.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 7263–7263b.

Dated: June 17, 2003.

Carol D'Amico,

Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.341]

Community Technology Centers Program

AGENCY: Office of Vocational and Adult Education, Department of Education

ACTION: Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2003 for novice applicants.

PURPOSE OF PROGRAM: As authorized by Title V, Part D, Subpart 11, Section 5511–13 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001, the purpose of the Community Technology Centers (CTC) program is to assist eligible applicants to create or expand community technology centers that will provide disadvantaged residents of economically distressed urban and rural communities with access to information technology and related training.

The CTC program novice applicant competition gives absolute priority to those applicants who will focus on improving the academic achievement of low-achieving secondary school students while continuing to provide a community technology center for all members of their community. Thus, grant recipients must meet this priority as they use grant funds to create or expand community technology centers that expand access to information technology and related training for disadvantaged residents of distressed urban or rural communities and evaluate the effectiveness of this project.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS: Eligible applicants shall be an institution of higher education, a State educational agency, a local educational agency, an entity (such as a foundation, museum, library, for-profit business, public or private nonprofit organization, or community-based organization, including faith-based organizations), or consortia

thereof, that also meet the definition of a “novice applicant,” as that term is defined in 34 CFR 75.225(a)(1) (see “Supplementary Information: Novice Applicants” for more information on this requirement). In addition, eligible applicants shall have the capacity to significantly expand access to computers and related services for disadvantaged residents of economically distressed urban and rural communities who would otherwise be denied such access.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Novice Applicants

The Department encourages the participation of novice applicants in the Community Technology Centers program. Therefore, the Secretary has determined, under 34 CFR 75.225(c)(1), to give special consideration to novice applicants. As a result, up to 25 percent of available program funds will be reserved for grants to novice entities submitting high-quality applications.

This notice invites applications for the novice applicant competition of the FY 2003 CTC program. Notices inviting applications and establishing priorities, selection criteria, and program requirements for the general CTC competition for FY 2003—for which both novices and non-novices may apply—previously have been published in the **Federal Register** on June 3, 2003 (68 FR 33318–33323). A novice may apply under the general competition or under this novice competition. A novice may also file a separate application under each competition. If a novice does this, it must take care that each of the separate applications meets the particular requirements of the competition under which it is being submitted.

An applicant is considered a “novice applicant” if it meets the following definition taken from 34 CFR 75.225(a)(1):

The applicant must—

- (i) Have never received a grant or subgrant under the Community Technology Centers program;
- (ii) Have never been a member of a group application, submitted in accordance with 34 CFR 75.127–75.129, that received a grant under the Community Technology Centers program; and
- (iii) Have not had an active discretionary grant from the Federal Government in the five (5) years before the deadline date for applications in this competition.

(34 CFR 75.225(a)(2) and (b) further interpret this definition in cases of group applications in this competition