

technical assistance to faith-based and community organizations.

CFDA Number: The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number is 93.647.

SUMMARY: This program announcement announces the availability of funds for Compassion Capital Fund (CCF) awards. These awards provide experienced intermediary organizations with funds to deliver technical assistance to small faith-based and community organizations. Intermediaries will assist these small groups, for example, in their efforts to improve program effectiveness and organizational management, access funds from diverse sources and manage those funds, develop and train staff, expand the types and reach of social services programs in their communities and develop promising collaborations among organizations dedicated to social service delivery. In addition, recipients of awards under this announcement must issue sub-awards to a number of qualified faith-based and community organizations for a variety of capacity-building purposes.

To be eligible for CCF awards, intermediaries should have established relationships with grassroots faith-based and community organizations, as well as a proven track record in providing technical assistance to such groups.

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is the agency designated to issue awards under the Fund.

However, the work supported through such awards is expected to address a broad array of services and programs and to complement related activities in other parts of HHS and other Federal departments. CCF will help further the President's goals and objectives regarding faith-based and community organizations and will enhance work being supported by multiple Federal agencies. ACF estimates that the funds available under this announcement will support an estimated 4–8 cooperative agreements¹ with intermediary organizations.

The Federal government wishes to partner with applicant organizations that share the same vision, have similar goals, and are able to share in the cost of this important set of activities. Therefore, ACF is seeking applicants who can provide funding for the proposed project equal to 25 percent of the amount of Federal funds requested (*i.e.*, one-fourth of the total budget. For example, an applicant requesting \$500,000 in Federal funds would need to provide \$125,000 to the total project.

The total budget therefore would be \$625,000. An applicant requesting \$250,000 in Federal funds would need to provide \$62,500. The total budget in this circumstance would therefore be \$312,500).

DATES: The closing date for submission of applications is July 28, 2003. Applications received after the closing date will be classified as late. See Part IV of this announcement for more information on submitting applications.

In order to determine the number of expert reviewers that will be necessary, if you plan to submit an application, you are requested, but not required, to mail, fax, or e-mail written notification of your intentions at least 15 calendar days prior to the submission deadline date. Send the notification, with the following information: The name, address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address of the project director and the name of the applicant to: OCS Operations Center, 1815 North Fort Myer Drive, Suite 300, Arlington, Virginia 22202 or fax to (703) 248–8765 or e-mail to OCS@lcgnet.com. Label all submissions as follows: Intent to Apply for Compassion Capital Fund Demonstration Program.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: All questions should be forwarded to Joseph Grogan, Project Officer for the Compassion Capital Fund at 202–401–4830 (ph) or jgrogan@acf.hhs.gov (email).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This program announcement consists of four parts: Part I: Background and Program Purpose—legislative authority, background, and program purpose and objectives; Part II: Project and Applicant Eligibility—eligible applicants, funding availability and instruments, cost sharing, and roles and responsibilities under the cooperative agreement; Part III: The Review Process—intergovernmental review, initial ACF screening, general instructions for the Uniform Project Description, competitive review and evaluation criteria, and review process; and Part IV: The Application Process—required forms, application limits, checklist for complete application, application submission, and Paperwork Reduction Act.

Part I. Background and Program Purpose

A. Legislative Authority

Funding under this announcement is authorized by section 1110 of the Social Security Act governing Social Services Research and Demonstration activities and the Departments of Labor, Health

and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2003, Pub. L. 108–7.

B. Background

Faith-based and community organizations have a long history of providing an array of important services to people and communities in need of charitable services in the United States. These groups are part of their communities and possess unique strengths that the government cannot duplicate. They hold the trust of their neighbors and leaders and have a keen understanding of the particular needs of the community and its systems. As a result, they are well positioned to assist individuals and families with the most pressing needs, such as the homeless, prisoners reentering the community, children of prisoners, at-risk youth, addicts, elders in need, and families moving from welfare to work. Faith-based and community organizations are also equipped to help couples who choose marriage for themselves, develop the skills and knowledge to form and sustain healthy marriages.

In recognition of this history and ability, President Bush believes it is in the public's interest to broaden Federal efforts to work with faith-based and community organizations and has made improving funding opportunities for such organizations a priority. A key part of the effort to enhance and expand the participation of faith-based and community groups serving those in need is CCF. Intermediary organizations awarded funds under this announcement will serve as partners to both the Federal government and to the faith-based and community organizations that they assist. The intermediaries will represent a diverse set of affiliations, and will assist community-level organizations with a range of service goals, target populations, affiliations, and beliefs.

C. Program Purpose and Objectives

The goal of CCF is to assist faith-based and community organizations in increasing their effectiveness, enhancing their ability to provide social services, expanding their organizations, diversifying their funding sources, and creating collaborations to better serve those most in need. This will be accomplished through the funding of established intermediary organizations in well-defined geographic locations with a proven track record of providing technical assistance to smaller organizations in their communities. These intermediary organizations will serve as a bridge between the Federal government and the faith-based and

¹ A cooperative agreement allows substantial Federal involvement in the activities undertaken with Federal financial support.