

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR****Office of the Secretary****Developing a Serbian Labor Inspectorate for the 21st Century**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of International Labor Affairs, Department of Labor.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of funds and solicitation for grant application (SGA 03-17).

**SUMMARY:** This notice contains all of the necessary information and forms needed to apply for grant funding. The U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL), Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB), announces the availability of funds to be granted by cooperative agreement (hereafter referred to as "grant") to one or more qualifying organizations. USDOL will award up to U.S. \$500,000 through one or more grants to an organization or organizations to develop and implement a project(s) designed to contribute to the reduction of work-related deaths and injuries in the Republic of Serbia. Partnerships between more than one organization are eligible and encouraged, in particular with qualified, regionally-based organizations in order to build local capacity, although in such a case a lead organization must be identified.

**DATES:** The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, August 8, 2003. Applications must be received by 4:45 p.m. (Eastern Time) at the address below.

**ADDRESSES:** Application forms will not be mailed. They are published as part of this **Federal Register** notice and in the **Federal Register**, which may be obtained from your nearest U.S. Government office or public library or online at [http://www.archives.gov/federal\\_register/index.html](http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/index.html).

Applications must be delivered to: U.S. Department of Labor, Procurement Services Center, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room N-5416, Attention: Lisa Harvey, Reference: SGA 03-17, Washington, DC 20210.

Applications sent by e-mail, telegram, or facsimile (FAX) will not be accepted. Applications sent by other delivery services, such as Federal Express, UPS, etc., will be accepted; the applicant, however, bears the responsibility for timely submission. Applications that do not meet the conditions set forth in this notice will not be honored. No exceptions to the mailing and delivery requirements set forth in this notice will be granted.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lisa Harvey, e-mail address:

[harvey.lisa@dol.gov](mailto:harvey.lisa@dol.gov), tel: (202) 693-4570 (this is not a toll-free number).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The expansion of global trade and investment and the improvement of working conditions and protection of basic worker rights are best understood as mutually reinforcing, and not mutually exclusive objectives. In today's environment of widespread market reforms and economic integration, efficient and fair labor markets are a prerequisite for economic growth, increasing living standards, and promoting employment in the U.S. As political developments, market reforms, and the transition to a global economy bring significant changes to national economies, individual labor market systems need to change accordingly to remain viable and to support their populations. In addition, the inability to manage the development of a relatively open market economy during periods of political and social transition impedes the development of political democracy, social cohesion, and equity.

USDOL/ILAB carries out a worldwide International Cooperation Program that helps address some of these difficulties by working to ensure that the greatest possible number of workers benefit from a more open world economy. The three major initiatives of the International Cooperation Program are:

*Improving Economic Opportunity and Income Security for Workers (EOIS)*—Under the EOIS initiative, USDOL works to strengthen developing countries' abilities to build and institutionalize social safety net policies and programs needed to improve working conditions and foster economic growth. Projects under this initiative aim to increase employment among targeted groups, improve workplace safety and health, and increase access to social insurance.

*Protecting the Basic Rights of Workers (PBRW)*—Under the PBRW initiative, USDOL works to implement the fundamental principles embodied in the International Labor Organization's (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, specifically working towards strengthening the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining, eliminating forced or compulsory labor, and eliminating employment discrimination.

*International HIV/AIDS Workplace-based Education Program (IHWEPP)*—Under the IHWEPP initiative, USDOL works to reduce the rate of HIV/AIDS infection through workplace-based prevention and education programs and to improve the workplace environment for workers living with HIV/AIDS. The

IHWEPP program also works to build the capacity of the tripartite partners to address the long-term impact of HIV/AIDS on labor markets and economic development.

USDOL/ILAB manages its projects in partnership with stakeholders representing the government, employers, workers, and other organizations.

**I. Authority**

ILAB is authorized to award and administer this program by the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003, Pub. L. 108-7, 117 Stat. 11 (2003).

**II. Application process***A. Eligible Applicants*

Any commercial, international, educational, or not-for-profit organization (including faith-based organizations) possessing experience in one or more of the following areas are eligible to apply for this grant:

- The field of worker health and safety;
- Assisting foreign governments to strengthen institutions;
- Facilitating strategic planning;
- Development of training curricula; and
- Delivery of training.

The Labor Ministry is the primary government entity that will be involved, but the project may also include other ministries of government with responsibilities for worker safety and health. Partnerships of more than one organization are also eligible and encouraged, in particular with qualified regionally-based organizations to further build local capacity, although in such a case a lead organization must be identified. The capability of an applicant, partners, and co-applicants to perform necessary aspects of this solicitation will be determined under Section XI—Review and Selection of Applications for Award. All applicants are requested to complete the Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunity for Applicants (OMB No. 1225-0083) (see Appendix A).

Please note that eligible grant applicants must not be classified under the Internal Revenue Code as a 501(c)(4) entity (see 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(4)). According to the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, as amended by 2 U.S.C. 1611, an organization, as described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, that engages in lobbying