

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR****DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT****[SGA 03-15]****Ending Chronic Homelessness Through Employment and Housing**

A WorkFORCE (Working for Freedom, Opportunity and Real Choice through Community Employment) action cooperative agreement sponsored by the Office of Disability Employment Policy, the Employment and Training Administration, and the Veterans Employment and Training Service of the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), in combination with a permanent housing grant sponsored by the Office of Special Needs, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

**AGENCIES:** Office of Disability Employment Policy, U.S. Department of Labor; and Office of Special Needs, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of funds; solicitation for both cooperative agreement and grant applications. (SGA 03-15)

This notice contains all of the necessary information and forms needed to apply for both the DOL Cooperative Agreement funding and the HUD permanent housing grants, in combination. (SGA 03-15)

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), in cooperation with the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) and the Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS), announces the availability of \$2.5 million to award up to 4 Cooperative Agreements: Ending Chronic Homelessness through Employment and Housing Cooperative Agreements, ranging from approximately \$500,000 to \$625,000, per award, designed to increase and improve employment opportunities for persons who are chronically homeless. In partnership with this DOL award, HUD announces the availability of \$10 million for permanent housing grants from recaptured McKinney Act monies. These funds will be used to supplement each DOL Cooperative Agreement effort with a HUD grant award, ranging from approximately \$2-3 million per award, to support permanent housing for individuals who are "chronically homeless" served through the DOL Cooperative Agreement. This inter-agency effort supports the President's goal of ending chronic homelessness in ten years by creating innovative

approaches to providing housing and economic self-sufficiency for this population.

A person who is "chronically homeless" is an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, OR has had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years. In order to be considered chronically homeless, a person must have been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., living on the streets) and/or in an emergency homeless shelter. A disabling condition is defined as a diagnosable substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, or chronic physical illness or disability including the co-occurrence of two or more of these conditions. A disabling condition limits an individual's ability to work or perform one or more activities of daily living.

Applicants for this program must, through a partnership evidenced with an executed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), apply for both the DOL Cooperative Agreement and the HUD permanent housing grant award. Funding will be awarded, as this funding effort is meant to be a collaborative project combining a customized employment initiative with permanent housing services. The goal of these awards is to enable persons who are "chronically homeless" to achieve employment, permanent housing, and self-sufficiency. These agreements will begin or expand the delivery and implementation of "customized employment" strategies for people who are "chronically homeless" so that they may live, work, and fully participate in their communities. (See part VII, Section 1 for Glossary of Applicable Terms.)

The purpose of the DOL Cooperative Agreements and the HUD grants is to bring together the respective expertise and capabilities of both the local workforce development system (One-Stop Career Centers and their partners) and the local permanent housing service organizations, to develop and document the increased employment outcomes anticipated when these organizations combine their efforts to respond to the employment and housing needs of persons who are chronically homeless. The DOL Cooperative Agreements will be funded for a one-year period and may be renewed for a period up to four additional years, at varying funding levels (see Section IV) depending upon the availability of funds and the efficacy of the project activities. The HUD grants (McKinney-Vento Act funds) will

provide funding for three (3) or five (5) years, determined by the application filed. The Supportive Housing Program (SHP) carries a term of three (3) years, and the Shelter Plus Care Program (S+C) is a five-year (5) term. The HUD permanent housing grants may only be used to provide new permanent housing resources for those persons who are chronically homeless and have expressed interest in pursuing employment outcomes.

The DOL Cooperative Agreement anticipates substantial involvement between ODEP and the awardees during the performance of the project to share expertise in the implementation of a customized employment model. Involvement will include collaboration or participation by ODEP in the management of the project throughout the period of the award. The ODEP will be involved in decisions involving strategic planning (including the plan to provide customized employment strategies), allocation of resources, release of public information materials, and analysis and implementation of evaluation findings.

The applications will be evaluated by DOL and HUD using the criteria set forth in Part VII, in conjunction with considerations by the Grant Officer delineated in Part IX of this Solicitation for Cooperative Agreement Application. DOL Cooperative Agreements will be matched by the HUD grants offered in this Solicitation, pursuant to the criteria set forth in Part VII as well as the requirements outlined in the HUD Application package.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Eligible applicants for the DOL Cooperative Agreements are Local Workforce Investment Boards (Local Boards) or, if appropriate, the WIA Cooperative Agreement recipient or fiscal agent for the local area on behalf of the local board under the Workforce Investment Act, that meet the following requirements: 1. Submit documentation that their locality includes at least 150 persons who are currently chronically homeless, as defined herein; and, 2. Demonstrate that they have partnership(s) with: (i) The applicant for the HUD grant, and (ii) other public and private entities, especially homeless serving organizations, consistent with the proposed activities of the Cooperative Agreement.

Eligible applicants for the HUD grant within this initiative are described in the HUD Eligible Applicants and Activities Chart. See Part VII, Section III, Part A.

**DATES:** Applications will be accepted commencing July 18, 2003. The closing date for receipt of the joint applications