

designed to be flexible in addressing the universal as well as local or regional problems barring homeless veterans from the workforce. VETS, in a joint effort with ODEP and ETA, will continue to seek applicants that have established links with federal, state and local resources for assisting homeless veterans, and applicants that provide personalized or customized services in their approach for employment and retention of persons who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness.

HUD has homeless assistance programs designed to provide permanent housing, including the Supportive Housing Program (SHP) and the Shelter Plus Care Program. These programs can be used to help persons who are chronically homeless transition from homelessness to living as independently as possible.

This SGA provides an opportunity for both HUD and DOL to combine their respective resources and expertise in a combined approach to provide employment and housing services to people who are chronically homeless so that they can live independently as self-sufficient members of their community.

This Ending Chronic Homelessness through Employment and Housing SGA supports the President's New Freedom Initiative. The New Freedom Initiative is designed to increase the number of people with disabilities who enter, re-enter, and/or remain in the workforce. By emphasizing the need to increase the capacity of federally-supported employment and training programs to serve persons who are chronically homeless, this SGA will further the New Freedom Initiative's goals of increased integration of Americans with disabilities into the workforce.

Recently, the Federal Government's Interagency Council on Homelessness (<http://www.ich.gov>) has begun an expanded effort to end chronic homelessness. This SGA supports this initiative by increasing the involvement of the workforce development system in partnership with key disability and homeless serving organizations to meet the customized employment needs of persons who are chronically homeless.

In addition, the DOL Cooperative Agreements will support implementation of coordinated workforce development envisioned under the WIA. The WIA established comprehensive reform of existing federal job training programs, consolidating multiple programs into a unified system and bringing multiple federal programs together as required partners in the One-Stop delivery system established under the WIA. The One-Stop Centers, which comprise the

heart of this system, are in a position to expand employment opportunities for persons who are disabled and chronically homeless, by helping to ensure that the workforce system is accessible both physically and programmatically. To accomplish this, however, additional state and local organizations must be involved, including community-based providers of customized employment services. Additional partners necessary to the success of this endeavor for persons who are chronically homeless may include, but are not limited to, the organizations listed in Part VII, Section 2.

In response to these considerations, and in view of the potential resources described above, both DOL and HUD offer these Ending Chronic Homelessness through Employment and Housing—WorkFORCE (Working for Freedom, Opportunity and Real Choice through Community Employment) Action Cooperative Agreements to develop and/or expand the capacity of the workforce development system to provide individually determined “customized employment” strategies, in partnership with housing organizations serving people who are chronically homeless.

The ODEP and its partners strongly recognize the need for technical assistance to provide support, training, dissemination, information on effective practices, etc. to the grantees under the Ending Chronic Homelessness through Employment and Housing initiative. This demonstration Cooperative Agreement and grant initiative needs technical assistance and cross-expertise to bring together the workforce development system with the homeless serving community to provide employment and permanent housing for persons who are chronically homeless. Accordingly, a National technical assistance effort on Ending Chronic Homelessness through Employment and Housing is planned, to: 1. Provide awardees with ongoing support and technical assistance; 2. Compile and disseminate to other interested parties what is learned through these Cooperative Agreements to other interested parties; and, 3. Inform the policy development process of the Administration regarding the advantages of combining the provisioning of employment and permanent housing services for persons who are chronically homeless.

Part IV. Funding Availability and Period of Performance

The DOL anticipates awarding up to 4 Cooperative Agreements, ranging from

approximately \$500,000 to \$625,000 per year, totaling \$2.5 million, to develop demonstration programs to increase and improve employment opportunities for people who are chronically homeless. In conjunction with the DOL Cooperative Agreements, HUD grants, totaling \$10 million, will be issued to the top-scoring applications (as described in Part VII and the HUD grant application section) to support new permanent housing units for chronically homeless persons. The goal of these DOL Cooperative Agreements is to enable people who are chronically homeless to achieve employment, permanent housing, and self-sufficiency. These demonstration programs 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.

Each DOL Cooperative Agreement award will be for one year, with four additional option years possible, depending upon the availability of funds and the efficacy of Cooperative Agreement activities, established by independent reviews conducted by the ODEP or its designees. It is envisioned that if DOL funding continues for the full five years, its funding for years four and five will be at successively lower rates, with funding during year four at 80 percent of the third year funds, and funding during year five at 60 percent of the third year funds. This decreased funding strategy is designed to encourage program sustainability in the community, beyond the federally funded Cooperative Agreement period. Awardees are expected to use this Cooperative Agreement to leverage and develop other public and private resources to ensure long-term sustainability. This funding strategy applies only to DOL funds. The DOL funds (the customized employment funds) may be used in a flexible manner so long as the requirements delineated in this Cooperative Agreement are met.

Approximately four (4) grant awards will be made by HUD for terms of three (3) or five (5) years, depending on the program being used (see Program descriptions below). At the end of these terms, eligible projects seeking renewal can apply through their local Continuum of Care to replace the loss of non-renewable funding from HUD through this process and, if selected, can be funded for additional years.

The HUD grants (the housing funds) must only be used to secure new permanent housing units for those persons who are chronically homeless served through the DOL Cooperative Agreement and who indicate a