

criteria. In this Advance RFP, USDA has included one supplemental evaluation criterion. This evaluation criterion looks at the quality of the performance criteria suggested by the applicant for evaluating the success of the proposed Center. Criteria which are ambitious, readily quantifiable and reflect serious consideration and seriousness of purpose will result in more points scored than proposed performance criteria that are superficial, reflect little or no challenge, and do not incorporate variables that reflect value-added results.

Background

Section 6402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-171) (2002 Farm Bill) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to establish up to 10 agriculture innovation demonstration centers (Agriculture Innovation Centers or AICs) in Fiscal Year 2003. The purpose of these centers is to foster the ability of agricultural producers to reap the benefits of producing and marketing value-added products.

The Proposed Rule sets forth the proposed policies and procedures for this program. The Agency has elected not to wait until publication of a Final Rule before publishing this Advance RFP in order to alert potential applicants of the anticipated limited timing for the filing of application packages so as to maximize the possibility of awarding grants in FY 2003. While comments to the Proposed Rule may effect substantive changes to the final promulgated rule, it is the intention of this Advance RFP to give potential applicants as much lead time as possible to develop applications.

Restrictions on Awards

1. RBS will not make more than ten grant awards for FY 2003.
2. RBS will not make a grant to more than one entity in any one State.
3. A grant award may not exceed the lesser of \$1,000,000 or twice the dollar amount (in cash or in kind) of the resources committed to the Center's operations apart from the program grant funds.

Evaluation Criteria and Weights

The reader is referred to the Proposed Rule for the proposed evaluation criteria listed there. Each criterion may be awarded up to five (5) points. This Advance Request for Proposals provides for the following, seventh, evaluation criterion:

Performance Criteria

Criteria suggested by the applicant pursuant to proposed § 4284.1009(c)(5)(v) that are ambitious, relevant and quantifiable and reflect serious consideration and seriousness of purpose will score more points than superficial performance criteria that reflect little or no challenge or that do not incorporate variables that reflect value-added results.

In the event of a tied score between two or more applications, the scores for the first individual criterion listed in the Proposed Rule will be compared, and the highest score for that individual criterion will break the tie. If the scores for the first criterion are tied, the scores for the second criterion will be compared, and so on.

Contents of Application Package

Under the Proposed Rule at § 4284.1009, applicants must file an original and one copy of the required forms and proposal.

Form of Submission

After the information collection has been approved by OMB and the Proposed Rule becomes final, applicants are encouraged, but not required, to submit applications and reports in electronic form. A complete, original application may be electronically sent as an e-mail attachment to marc.warman@usda.gov. If applications are submitted electronically, a signature page must be submitted via facsimile to the attention of Marc Warman at (202) 720-4641 or in hard copy to Marc Warman at the address provided at the beginning of this notice. Alternatively, an original application package plus one paper copy may be submitted to the addresses provided at the beginning of this notice.

Dated: July 25, 2003.

Thomas C. Dorr

Under Secretary, Rural Development.

Notice of Intent To Participate Suggested Template

Agriculture Innovation Center Grant Program

The undersigned hereby expresses interest in applying for an agriculture innovation center grant pursuant to the Request for Proposals published by the USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) for Fiscal Year 2003. The purpose of this notice is solely to facilitate courtesy communication from RBS regarding the publication timing of the anticipated Final Rulemaking related to the Agriculture Innovation Center Grant Program.

Applicant Entity: _____

Applicant Address: _____

Applicant Telephone: _____

Name of Individual Representative: _____

Title: _____

Firm (if different from the Applicant): _____

Address (if different than the Applicant): _____

The applicant must indicate the method by which notification will be sent and the complete address. Choose only one method. The Agency will not be responsible for any failure of the applicant to receive notifications sent by the selected method.

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Fax number: _____

(Attention): _____

[FR Doc. 03-19618 Filed 7-31-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-Y

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Addition and Deletions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase from people Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Additions to deletions from procurement list.

SUMMARY: This action adds to the Procurement List a product to be furnished by a nonprofit agency employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities, and deletes from the Procurement List services previously furnished by such agencies.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 31, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Jefferson Plaza 2, Suite 10800, 1421 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia, 22202-3259.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sheryl D. Kennerly, (703) 603-7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Additions

On May 30, 2003, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notice (68 FR 32458) of proposed addition to the Procurement List. After consideration of the material presented to it concerning capability of the qualified nonprofit agency to provide the product and impact of the addition on the current or most recent contractor, the Committee has determined that the