

of such systems and technologies for such individuals; and

- At least one recipient must provide training and technical assistance for nonvisual access.

## Part II. Background Information for Applicants

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA), signed into law by President George W. Bush on October 29, 2002, contains several provisions that will enable an applicant to establish, expand, and improve access to and participation in the election process by individuals with the full range of disabilities (e.g., disabilities such as blindness or visual impairment, deafness or hearing impairment, mobility-related, dexterity-related, emotional or intellectual) in the election process.

On February 20, 2003, "Division N—Consolidated Appropriations Resolution FY 2003, Public Law 108–7." Congress appropriated \$13 million for States to operate the Election Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (EAID) grant program; \$2 million for payments for Protection and Advocacy systems, and \$140,000 (7 percent) for payments to provide training and technical assistance with respect to the activities carried out under Section 291 of the Help America Vote Act. HAVA assigned responsibility for the EAID to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (the Secretary), who has assigned responsibility for carrying out this program to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). Within ACF, the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) is responsible for the administration of the EAID grant program.

## Part III. The Application Review

### A. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include public or private non-profit organizations, including State and local governments, Federally recognized Indian tribes, faith-based and community organizations, and private nonprofit organizations including universities and other institutions of higher learning. An entity is eligible to receive a payment under subsection 291 if the entity is:

- A public or private non-profit entity with demonstrated experience in voting issues for individuals with disabilities;
- Governed by a board with respect to which the majority of its members are individuals with disabilities or family members of such individuals or individuals who are blind; and
- Submits to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such

information as the Secretary may require.

All applications that may be developed jointly by more than one agency or organization must identify only one organization as the lead organization and the official applicant. The other participating agencies and organizations can be included as co-participants, subgrantees, or subcontractors.

Any non-profit organization submitting an application must submit proof of its non-profit status in its application at the time of submission. The non-profit agency can accomplish this by submitting any of the following that constitutes acceptable proof of status:

- a. A reference to the applicant organization's listing in the Internal Service's (IRS) most recent list of tax exempt organizations described in the IRS Code.
- b. A copy of a currently valid IRS tax exemption certificate.
- c. A statement from a State taxing body, State attorney general, or other appropriate State Official certifying that the applicant organization has a non-profit status and that none of the net earnings accrue to any private shareholders or individuals.
- d. A certified copy of the organization's certificate of incorporation or similar document that clearly establishes non-profit status.
- e. Any of the items in the paragraphs immediately above for a State of national parent organization and a statement signed by the parent organization that the applicant organization is a local non-profit affiliate.

ADD cannot fund a non-profit applicant without acceptable proof of its non-profit status.

Private, non-profit applicants are encouraged to fill out and submit the optional survey located at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofsf/form/htm>.

Before applications under this Program Announcement are reviewed, each one will be screened to determine whether the applicant is eligible for funding. Applications from organizations that do not meet eligibility requirements will not be considered or reviewed in the competition, and the applicant will be so informed.

### B. Review Process and Funding Decisions

Applications from eligible applicants received by the deadline date will be reviewed and scored by a panel of at least three (3) reviewers (primarily experts in the field from outside the

Federal Government). To facilitate this review, applicants should ensure that they address each minimum requirement in the program description under each section of the project Narrative Statement.

Reviewers will determine the strengths and weaknesses of each application in terms of the evaluation criteria listed in Part IV, provide comments, and assign numerical scores. The point value following each criterion heading indicates the maximum numerical weight that each applicant may receive per section in the review process. The results of this review are a primary factor in making funding decisions.

ADD reserves the option of discussing applications with, or referring them to, other Federal or non-Federal funding sources when this is determined to be in the best interest of the Federal Government or the applicant.

Grantees funded by ADD may be requested to cooperate in evaluation efforts funded by ADD. The purpose of these evaluation activities is to learn from the combined experience of multiple projects funded under a particular program description.

### C. Available Funds

ADD intends to award new grants resulting from this announcement during the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2003. Up to \$140,000 in Federal funds will be available for support of these projects.

### D. Matching Requirements and Non-Federal Share

There are no matching requirements.

### E. General Instructions for the Uniform Project Description

The following ACF Uniform Project Description (UPD) has been approved under OMB Control Number 0970–0139.

Applicants are required to submit a full project description and should prepare the project description statement in accordance with the following instructions.

*Project summary/abstract:* Provide a summary of the project description (a page or less) with reference to the funding request.

*Objectives and need for assistance:* Clearly identify the physical, economic, social, financial, institutional, or other problem(s) requiring a solution. The need for assistance must be demonstrated and the principal and subordinate objectives of the project must be clearly stated; supporting documentation, such as letters of support and testimonials from concerned interests other than the