

control No. 0970-0139, ACF UNIFORM PROJECT DESCRIPTION (UPD) attached as appendix A, which expires 12/31/03. An agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Part I: Background

In recent years, ORR has supported the work of its grantees and other agencies serving refugees in various program areas through several technical assistance grants with organizations uniquely qualified to advance the refugee service field, improve program achievement, develop organizational capacity, and improve overall performance. ORR has supported specific technical assistance for employment, English language training, microenterprise, Individual Development Account programs, housing, capacity development activities among emerging ethnic organizations, and services to children, the elderly and asylees. ORR's intent is to assist grantees to provide the best technical help for continuous improvement in refugee programs in the form of capacity building to adequately serve refugees, and to bring about positive development and impact on the lives of refugees and asylees.

Legislative Authority—This program is authorized by section 412(c)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)(8 U.S.C. 1522 (c)(1)(A)), as amended, authorizing the Director to make grants to, and enter into contracts with public or private non-profit agencies to achieve the following goals. The technical assistance projects and the services for asylees must be designed “(i) to assist refugees in obtaining the skills that are necessary for economic self-sufficiency, including projects for job training, employment services, day care, professional refresher training, and other re-certification services; (ii) to provide training in English where necessary (regardless of whether the refugees are employed or receiving cash or other assistance) and (iii) to provide where specific needs have been shown and recognized by the Director, health, (including mental health) services, social services, educational, and other services.” The Department of Health and Human Services Appropriations Act, 2003, title II of division G of the Consolidated Appropriation Resolution FY 2003, Public Law 108-7, appropriates funds for refugee and entrant assistance activities authorized by these provisions of the INA.

Funding Availability—ORR expects to make available approximately \$3 million in social services discretionary funds in eight program areas, seven cooperative agreements and one grant. The award amount range is for planning purposes. Applications with requested amounts that exceed the upper value of the dollar range specified will still be considered for review. No matching or cost sharing by the applicant is required.

Applicant Eligibility—Eligible applicants for all program areas are public and private non-profit organizations. Faith-based and community organizations are eligible to apply for these funds. Any non-profit organization submitting an application must submit proof of its non-profit status at the time of submission. The non-profit agency can accomplish this by providing a copy of the applicant's listing in the Internal Revenue service's (IRS) most recent list of tax-exempt organizations described in Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code, or by providing a copy of the currently valid IRS tax exemption certificate, or by providing a copy of articles of incorporation bearing the seal of the State in which the corporation or association is domiciled, or by providing a certified copy of the organizations certificate of incorporation or similar document that clearly establishes non-profit status, or any of the items above for a state or national parent organization and a statement signed by the parent organization that the applicant organization is a local non-profit affiliate. Private, non-profit organizations are encouraged to submit with their applications the optional survey located under “Grant Manuals & forms” at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofs/forms.htm>.

Project and Budget Periods—This announcement invites applications for project periods for up to 3 years. Awards, on a competitive basis, will be for a one-year budget period, although project periods may be for 3 years. Applications for continuation of grants under these awards beyond the one-year budget period, but within the 3-year project period, will be entertained in subsequent years on a noncompetitive basis. Any continuation is subject to the availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the grantee and a determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of the Government.

Length of Application: Applicants must limit program narratives to 25 pages per program area (double-spaced on standard, letter-size paper, in 12-

point font) plus no more than 25 pages of appended material. This limitation of 25 pages per program area should be considered as a maximum, and not necessarily a goal.

Program Area 1—Technical Assistance in the Area of Organizational and Capacity Building for Refugee-Based Mutual Aid Associations (MAAs), Voluntary Agencies Assisting or Working With Refugee Community Organizations and Other Areas That the Director of ORR Considers an Appropriate Response to Emerging Refugee Resettlement Needs

Purpose and Scope

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) proposes to award one cooperative agreement to assist in the development of a project to provide technical assistance to MAAs, faith-based and community organizations, and other entities assisting refugees. Through this award, ORR intends for this grantee to provide technical planning and assistance to MAA grantees, Voluntary Agencies and other refugee service providers working with refugee community organizations for multiple purposes: (1) To strengthen organizational capacity; (2) to acquire functional governance and organizational stability; and (3) to conduct appropriate personnel, program, and financial management by sharing proper organizational policies, structures, procedures, and materials through a grantee network. ORR envisions that the assistance in this category will improve services to refugees and enhance grantees' collaboration on performance measures in critical service areas that are designed to facilitate and promote refugee self-sufficiency and economic independence.

ORR's intent is also to equip technical assistance providers with the best technical help possible so that MAAs and other entities serving refugees can be better trained to address the social and economic developments that may impact on how well refugees progress in their resettlement in the U.S. Thus, ORR also intends to provide technical guidance to organizations serving refugees concerning emerging refugee issues in resettlement in an effort to promote continuous improvement in refugee programs. These areas will include projects to provide services to newly arrived refugees.

Approximately \$500,000 has been allocated for this program area. ORR expects to award one cooperative agreement. The successful applicant will have demonstrated expertise in