

individuals and families. In most urban areas throughout the U.S. where the majority of refugees are resettled, rent levels are being pushed to record highs and there is a dwindling supply of affordable and decent housing. In many areas, rents are increasing faster than wages and recent energy price hikes have exacerbated an already critical situation. There is a need to assist resettlement agencies in developing innovative approaches to the housing crises to enable refugees to live as well-informed consumers in safe and affordable homes in desirable communities.

A grantee in this category will provide technical planning and assistance to promote refugee access to housing that meets acceptable standards for health, safety, affordability, good repair, and maintenance.

Approximately \$200,000 has been allocated for this program area. One cooperative agreement may be awarded for one national project to promote refugee housing. Through this cooperative agreement, the grantee will submit a technical assistance plan to promote refugee housing opportunities that includes the following: (1) Proposed site visits and technical assistance activities and schedules; (2) all written materials developed prior to the release of such documents; (3) proposed workshop locations, topics, formats, and agendas; and (4) technical assistance plan to assist IDA grantees implementing IDA programs with housing components. ORR intends to review and approve a housing technical assistance plan in these areas and other activities proposed by the grantee in relation to the allowable activities listed below. ORR will also provide direction and feedback in addressing problems associated with refugee impacted areas and most affected refugee groups such as the elderly.

#### Allowable Activities

Applicants may propose all or a combination of the activities described below or new and innovative approaches justifying their usefulness to providing technical assistance in the area of housing assistance and services.

- Assesses housing needs across the nation and selects and prioritizes affected areas; plans for on-site visits to provide technical assistance to agencies, and identify best practices in providing services for counseling refugees about housing;
- Provision of information to agencies on relevant available services and programs in the area of public housing assistance, including

- programs designed for low-income first time home buyers;
- Research of housing regulations and provisions for the elderly, low-income families, large families and people with disabilities. Identifying and disseminating information on possible collaboration among public and private for profit and non-profit housing developers and providers;
- Preparation of a variety of reports to be distributed to agencies to assist them in providing housing services, including site visit reports and best practices reports;
- Organization and operation of workshops for agencies in the area of housing services, to include such subjects as effective use of assistance provided by HUD and other local assistance programs as available;
- Assistance in developing collaborative housing agreements and arrangements with employers, non-profit agencies, landlords, and other Federal and State agency programs;
- Training of case workers in orienting refugees to be responsible tenants including timely payment of rent, maintenance of apartments, building good credit, and negotiating with landlords;
- Exploring, developing, and promoting links between Individual Development Account programs, small businesses and other refugee economic activities to expand refugees' ability to rent or purchase homes and provide technical assistance to IDA grantees; and
- Provision of technical assistance to agencies in writing, by e-mail and by telephone.

#### Review Criteria—Refugee Housing Services

**1. Organizational Profiles.** The capacity of the applicant to achieve the project's objectives is clearly demonstrated. Organizational expertise and experience in the provision of technical assistance and information sharing to refugee resettlement agencies and other non-profit and for profit organizations concerned with affordable housing for low income and needy families. (30 points)

**2. Approach.** The technical assistance plan is clearly described and appropriate, and the proposed activities and time frames are reasonable. The technical assistance plan describes clearly and in detail the manner in which the applicant will assess the need for technical assistance, the proposed activities, and how the proposed activities are expected to address known housing technical assistance needs in resettling refugees. (20 points)

**3. Staff and Position Data.** Staff qualifications are clearly presented and are appropriate to achieving the project's objectives. The description of staff qualifications demonstrates experience in providing technical assistance to agencies that assist refugees with their housing needs. (20 points)

**4. Results or Benefits Expected.** The results or benefits expected are clearly explained and are appropriate to the technical assistance activities proposed. (15 points)

**5. Budget and Budget Justification.** The budget is clearly presented and is detailed, reasonable, and cost effective. (15 points)

#### Program Area 7—Technical Assistance for Crime Prevention and Safety Programs for Refugee Communities

##### Purpose and Scope

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) proposes to award one cooperative agreement for the purpose of developing a project to provide integrated crime prevention technical assistance to refugee service providers, law enforcement entities, volunteers, refugee groups and communities that fosters partnerships among entities involved in building safe and crime-free communities where refugees live. Lack of awareness of the laws and practices of their new country that may result in crime or conflict with law enforcement is likely to slow or prevent the processes of refugee adjustment and/or efforts to achieve early self-sufficiency. ORR envisions that the technical assistance in this category will address a range of risk factors including family violence, social isolation, drugs, alcohol, as well as traditional child-rearing practices, spouse roles, and relationships of refugee families that may conflict with the laws and practices of the U.S. This technical assistance aims at reducing or eliminating crime and victimization among refugees, positively contributing to their safety and self-sufficiency, and supports the development of refugee youth training in leadership skills and conflict management.

Approximately \$400,000 has been allocated for this program area. One cooperative agreement will be awarded for one national project. The successful applicant will have demonstrated expertise in planning and executing an integrated technical assistance plan to prevent criminal activities among refugee communities and demonstrated experience and flexibility in responding to the particular characteristics and needs of different ethnic and age groups.