

F. *Technical Assistance*. 1. Before the application due date, HUD staff will be available to provide you with general guidance and technical assistance. However, HUD staff is not permitted to assist in preparing your application. If you have a question or need a clarification, you may call, fax, or write Mr. Milan Ozdinec, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Housing Investments, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Room 4130, Washington, DC 20410-5000; telephone (202) 401-8812; fax (202) 401-2370 (these are not toll-free numbers). Persons with hearing and/or speech challenges may access these telephone numbers via text telephone (TTY) by calling the toll-free Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

2. Frequently asked questions, clarifications, and any technical corrections will be posted to the HUD Web site at <http://www.hud.gov>. In addition, all materials related to this NN NOFA will be posted to the HOPE VI Web site at <http://www.hud.gov/hopevi>. Any technical corrections will also be published in the **Federal Register**. Applicants are responsible for monitoring these sites during the application preparation period.

II. Amount Allocated

A total of \$5,000,000 is available for funding which must be obligated in FY 2003.

III. Program Description

A. The Notice of Funding Availability for Revitalization of Severely Distressed Public Housing HOPE VI Revitalization Grants; Fiscal Year 2002, as published in the **Federal Register** on July 31, 2002, page 49766 to 49791, Docket Number FR-4768-N-01 (HOPE VI NOFA) stated that funding for Neighborhood Networks within the HOPE VI program would be offered under a separate Neighborhood Networks NOFA. This is that NOFA.

B. Grantees from the FY 2002 HOPE VI NOFA (defined below) are building Neighborhood Network Centers (NNCs) and/or developing Neighborhood Networks programs as part of their revitalization plan. HOPE VI monies can be used for NNC construction, computer and information technology hardware, staffing, and services.

C. The Neighborhood Networks enhancement grant will provide additional funding to HOPE VI grantees to accelerate and optimize the development of their NNCs as focal points for innovative information technology (IT) programs and supportive service delivery through

digital technologies. This Neighborhood Networks NOFA (NN NOFA) provides grants to qualified Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) to (1) Update, maintain, and expand existing Neighborhood Networks/community technology centers (NNCs); or (2) establish new NNCs. Proposed grant activities must build on the foundation created or planned under the application for the HOPE VI NOFA.

D. NNCs provide computer and Internet access to public housing residents and offer a full range of supportive services. Applicants should submit proposals that will: provide job training; reduce welfare dependency; promote economic self-sufficiency; increase the use of computer technology; expand educational opportunities for residents; develop access to health and nutrition information; and meet other needs of residents. A NNC may be existing or new.

1. An existing NNC is:

a. A computer lab, or community technology center already owned and operated by a PHA or nonprofit which serves residents of public housing and which has not received prior Neighborhood Networks funding and therefore is not officially designated a HUD Public and Indian Housing (PIH) NNC; or,

b. A computer lab officially designated a HUD PIH NNC by virtue of PIH funding received prior to award of HOPE VI NOFA funds.

2. A new NNC is one that:

a. is not operational;
b. is in development; and/or,
c. needs funding under this grant program to become fully operational and serve residents of public housing.

E. HUD is looking for applications that implement comprehensive programs within the grant term that will result in improved economic self-sufficiency for public housing residents. HUD is looking for proposals that involve partnerships with organizations that will help supplement and enhance the services grantees will offer to residents.

F. If you are interested in applying for funding under this NN NOFA, please carefully review the application requirements provided below.

IV. Program Requirements

A. *Eligible Activities*. 1. Programs offered by NNCs shall be designed to meet public housing residents' needs, be geared towards helping residents transition from welfare to work, assist school-age children and youth with homework, provide guidance and preparatory programming to high school

students (or other interested residents) for post-secondary education (college or trade schools), offer life-skills and job training for youth, adults, and seniors, and provide health care information and other services as deemed necessary by results obtained from resident surveys. NNCs must be located within the HOPE VI development's locally defined neighborhood, on PHA owned land (including land leased to an ownership entity via a ground-lease) or land leased by the PHA, procured developer, or owner entity on a long-term lease of at least 15 years.

2. Applicants should provide the following staff and services:

a. Increased computer and Internet access for residents during all phases of the HOPE VI revitalization process, including those that are temporarily or permanently relocated through a Housing Choice Voucher (HCV). Innovative approaches that promote computer ownership or home-based computer access in conjunction with NNC access will receive higher scores;

b. Use the NNC as a focus for computer and online access to community and supportive services, whether those services are computer/Internet related or not. An emphasis on access during the relocation process will receive higher scores;

c. The creation of online groups whose purpose is to better connect residents to each other and the HOPE VI revitalization process;

d. NNCs will use computers, software, and Internet connectivity and should provide the following array of supportive services:

i. Hiring of a qualified Neighborhood Networks Coordinator to run the grant program. A qualified Neighborhood Networks Coordinator should have two years of experience running a community technology center. The Neighborhood Networks Coordinator should be hired for the entire term of your grant.

ii. The Neighborhood Networks Coordinator should be responsible for ensuring that the NNC's programs achieve your application's goals and objectives.

iii. In addition, the Neighborhood Networks Coordinator should be responsible for the following activities:

(A) Marketing the program to residents;

(B) Assessing participating residents' needs, interests, skills, and job-readiness;

(C) Assessing participating residents' needs for supportive services, e.g. childcare;

(D) Designing and coordinating grant activities based on residents' needs;