

**DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY****Community Development Financial Institutions Fund****Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA)  
Inviting Applications for the Bank Enterprise Award Program**

**AGENCY:** Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, Department of the Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) inviting applications for the FY 2003 and 2004 funding rounds of the Bank Enterprise Award (BEA) Program.

**SUMMARY:** This NOFA is issued in connection with the Fiscal Year 2003 and 2004 funding rounds of the BEA Program. Through the BEA Program, the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (the Fund) encourages insured depository institutions to increase their levels of loans, investments, services, and technical assistance within distressed communities and financial assistance to Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) through grants, stock purchases, loans, deposits, and other forms of financial and technical assistance.

Subject to funding availability, the Fund expects that it may award approximately \$17 million for FY 2003 awards, and approximately \$8 million for FY 2004 awards, in appropriated funds under this BEA Program combined FY 2003–2004 NOFA. The Fund reserves the right to award in excess of said funds under this NOFA, provided that the appropriated funds are available and the Fund deems it appropriate. Under this NOFA, the Fund anticipates a maximum award amount of \$1.5 million per applicant. However, the Fund, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to award amounts in excess of the anticipated maximum award amount if the Fund deems it appropriate. Further, the Fund reserves the right to fund, in whole or in part, any, all, or none of the applications submitted in response to this NOFA. The Fund reserves the right to re-allocate funds from the amount that is anticipated to be available under this NOFA to other Fund programs, particularly if the Fund determines that the number of awards made under this NOFA is fewer than projected.

The interim rule governing the BEA Program (12 CFR part 1806), revised and published in this issue of the **Federal Register**, provides guidance on evaluation criteria and other requirements of the BEA Program. Detailed application content

requirements are found in the application related to this NOFA. The Preamble to the Fund's NOFAs, published in this issue of the **Federal Register** also specifies other program information, including eligibility requirements, for each of the Fund's programs. The Fund encourages applicants to review the revised interim rule and the Preamble to the NOFAs; in addition, all of the application content requirements and the evaluation criteria set forth in the revised interim rule are set forth in the application.

**DATES:** Following the publication of this NOFA, the Fund will make the FY 2003–2004 BEA Program application materials available on its Web site at <http://www.cdfifund.gov>. The Fund will send application materials to applicants that are unable to download them from the Web site. To have application materials sent to you, contact the Fund by telephone at (202) 622–6350; by e-mail at [cdfihelp@cdfi.treas.gov](mailto:cdfihelp@cdfi.treas.gov); or by facsimile at (202) 622–7754. These are not toll free numbers.

BEA Program awards are based on increases in Qualified Activities from a Baseline Period to an Assessment Period. For the FY 2003–2004 funding round, applicants may elect to apply for an award based on a 6-month Baseline and Assessment Period or a 12-month Baseline and Assessment Period. The deadline for receipt of all application materials for the 6-month option is 5 p.m. ET on July 17, 2003. The deadline for receipt of all application materials for the 12-month option is 5 p.m. ET on February 25, 2004. Applicants may only submit an application for either the 6-month option or the 12-month option, but not both. Applications received after 5 p.m. ET on the applicable date will be rejected and returned to the sender.

In order to expedite application review, applicants must submit a specific section of the application, the Report of Transactions form, electronically (via e-mail) per the instructions provided on the Fund's website, by 5 p.m. ET on July 17, 2003 (for the 6-month option) or by 5 p.m. ET on February 25, 2004 (for the 12-month option). Reports of Transactions that are submitted after said date and time will not be accepted for consideration and will be returned to the sender. If an applicant is unable to submit the Report of Transactions via e-mail, it must notify the Fund by 5 p.m. ET April 30, 2003 (for the 6-month option) or 5 p.m. ET on October 31, 2003 (for the 12-month option) to make alternative arrangements. Applications sent by facsimile or e-mail will not be accepted (except as provided above).

Any entity that is planning to participate in the BEA Program either as an applicant or as a CDFI Partner, and that is seeking certification as a CDFI (as described in 12 CFR 1805.200), is strongly encouraged to submit the Application for Certification (the contents of which are described in 12 CFR 1805.201(b)(1) through (6)), no later than the following dates prior to the end of the applicable Assessment Period: April 15, 2003 for the 6-month option and October 15, 2003 for the 12-month option. If an entity fails to submit such application by the applicable deadline, the Fund may not have sufficient time to timely complete a certification review for the purpose of the current funding round of the BEA Program. With respect to all requests for certification, the Fund reserves the right to request clarifying or technical information after reviewing certification materials submitted as described in 12 CFR 1805.201(b)(1) through (6). If the entity seeking certification does not respond to such requests in a timely manner, the Fund may not have sufficient time to complete a certification review for the purposes of the current funding round of the BEA Program.

For the 6-month option, any CDFI whose certification is due to expire between January 1, 2003 and June 30, 2003 must submit a re-certification application by May 30, 2003 in order to continue to qualify as a CDFI Partner. For the 12-month option, any CDFI whose certification is due to expire between July 1, 2003 and December 31, 2003 must submit a re-certification application by November 28, 2003 in order to continue to qualify as a CDFI Partner.

**ADDRESSES:** Applications in paper form must be sent to: CDFI Fund Awards Manager, Bureau of Public Debt—Franchising, 200 Third Street, Room 211, Parkersburg, WV 26101. The telephone number to be used in conjunction with overnight mailings to this address is (304) 480–5450. Applications will not be accepted in the Fund's offices in Washington, DC. Applications received in the Fund's offices will be rejected and returned to the sender. Applicants must submit completed Reports of Transactions either:

- (i) online to [bea@cdfi.treas.gov](mailto:bea@cdfi.treas.gov); or
- (ii) in paper form to the address stated above, by the applicable deadline.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** If you have any questions about the programmatic requirements for the BEA Program, or if you have questions or problems with the e-mail submission of the Report of Transactions form, contact