

- (a) CDFI Related Activities;
- (b) Distressed Community Financing Activities, and
- (c) Service Activities.

Within each category, applicants will be ranked according to the ratio of the Actual Award Amount calculated by the Fund for the category to the total assets of the applicant. Within the Distressed Community Financing category as well as the Service Activities category, Applicants that are certified CDFIs will be ranked first, and then applicants that have carried out such Distressed Community Financing and Service Activities in a Distressed Community that encompasses an Indian Reservation.

The Fund, in its sole discretion:

- (a) May adjust the Estimated Award Amount that an applicant may receive;
- (b) may establish a maximum amount that may be awarded to an applicant; and

- (c) reserves the right to limit the amount of an award to any applicant if the Fund deems it appropriate.

For purposes of calculating award disbursement amounts, the Fund will treat Qualified Activities with a total principal amount of less than \$250,000 as fully disbursed. Awardees will have 12 months from the end of the Assessment Period to disburse on Qualified Activities and 18 months to request the corresponding portion of their awards.

## XI. Award Decision Appeal Process

Each applicant will be informed of the Fund's award decision either through a Notice of Award if selected for an award, or a declination letter, if not selected for an award, which may be for reasons of application incompleteness, ineligibility or substantive issues. Any applicant that is not selected for an award due to application incompleteness or ineligibility, and that believes that such decision was made in error, may appeal said decision by notifying the Fund's Awards Manager in writing or by e-mail (at [cdfihelp@cdfi.treas.gov](mailto:cdfihelp@cdfi.treas.gov), Attention: Awards Manager); such appeals must be received by the Fund within five business days of the date of the declination letter. Such appeal requests will be reviewed by the Fund's Deputy Director for Management and the Deputy Director for Policy and Programs, as appropriate, whose decision will be final. All Applicants that are not selected for awards based on substantive issues, will be given the opportunity to request feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of their applications. This feedback will be provided in a format and within a

timeframe to be determined by the Fund, based on available resources.

The Fund reserves the right to change these evaluation procedures, if the Fund deems it appropriate; if said procedural changes materially affect the Fund's award decisions, the Fund will provide information regarding the procedural changes through the Fund's Web site.

## XII. Information Sessions

In connection with the Fiscal Year 2003 funding rounds of its programs, the Fund may conduct Information Sessions to disseminate information to organizations contemplating applying to, and other organizations interested in learning about, the Technical Assistance and Financial Assistance Components of the CDFI Program, the Native American CDFI Development Program, and the BEA Program. For further information on the Fund's Information Sessions, dates and locations, or to register online to attend an Information Session, please visit the Fund's Web site at <http://www.cdfifund.gov> or call the Fund at (202) 622-8401.

*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance:* 21.021.

**Authority:** 12 U.S.C. 1834a, 4703, 4703 note, 4713; 12 CFR part 1806.

Dated: January 27, 2003.

**Tony T. Brown,**

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[FR Doc. 03-2337 Filed 2-3-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4810-70-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Community Development Financial Institutions Fund

#### Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) Inviting Applications for the Community Development Financial Institutions Program—Native American CDFI Development Program

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

**ACTION:** Notice of funds availability ("NOFA") inviting applications for the FY 2003 and FY 2004 funding rounds of the Native American CDFI Development ("NACD") Program.

**SUMMARY:** This NOFA is issued in connection with the FY 2003 and FY 2004 funding rounds of the NACD Program. Through the NACD Program and subject to appropriation of funding for the purposes enumerated in this NOFA, the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (the "Fund") will provide technical

assistance ("TA") grants to organizations that plan to create community development financial institutions (CDFIs) to serve Native American, Alaska Native and/or Native Hawaiian communities.

Interested parties should be aware that implementation of the FY 2003/04 NOFA for the NACD Program is contingent on the appropriation of funds for the purposes enumerated in this NOFA; as of the date of this NOFA, said appropriation is pending with Congress. The Fund will issue a notice on its Web site, at <http://www.cdfifund.gov>, at such time that the Fund has the authority to implement the FY 2003/04 NOFA for the NACD Program. Applicants may submit applications pursuant to this NOFA as set forth herein; however, the Fund will not review applications or make awards unless and until funds are appropriated for the purposes and uses set forth in 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.

The FY 2003 and FY 2004 Technical Assistance Component and the NACD Program together replace the Native American CDFI Technical Assistance ("NACTA") Component that was made available in FY 2002.

Subject to funding availability, the Fund expects that it may award approximately \$3 million for FY 2003 awards, and approximately \$1.5 million for FY 2004 awards, in appropriated funds under this NACD Program 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. The Fund intends to make information available on its website about the level of dollars remaining available on a regular basis.

Applicants should note that the Fund expects that the funding round for this NOFA (and the NOFA for the Technical Assistance Component of the CDFI Program, also published in the **Federal Register** on this date) will extend over a two year funding round, subject to funding availability and Fiscal Year 2004 appropriations.

Under this NOFA, the Fund anticipates making TA grants up to \$100,000 per awardee. The Fund, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to award amounts in excess of the anticipated maximum award if the Fund deems it appropriate. The Fund reserves