

Authority: 12 U.S.C. 4703, 4703 note, 4704, 4706, 4707, 4717; 12 CFR part 1805.

Dated: January 27, 2003.

Tony T. Brown,

Director, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund.

[FR Doc. 03-2338 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 "Technical Assistance Component (incorporating Native American Technical Assistance)"

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 Technical Assistance Component of the Community Development Financial Institutions ("CDFI") Program.

SUMMARY: This NOFA is issued in connection with the FY 2003 and FY 2004 funding rounds of the Technical Assistance Component of the CDFI Program. Through the Technical Assistance Component of the CDFI Program, the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (the "Fund") provides technical assistance ("TA") grants to CDFIs, and entities proposing to become CDFIs, in order to build their capacity to better address the community development and capital access needs of their particular target markets, including Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities.

Subject to funding availability, the Fund expects that it may award approximately \$13 million for FY 2003 awards, and approximately \$4.5 million for FY 2004 awards, in appropriated funds under this Technical Assistance Component NOFA. The Fund expects that, within the FY 2003 amount, it will award up to \$3 million to CDFIs, and entities proposing to become CDFIs, that principally serve Native American, Alaska Native and/or Native Hawaiian communities. 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 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 Fund intends to make information available on its Web site 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 NACD 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 \$50,000 per Technical Assistance Component awardee and up to \$100,000 per awardee principally serving Native American, Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian communities. 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. 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 interim rule (12 CFR part 1805), also published in this issue of the **Federal Register**, provides guidance on evaluation criteria and other requirements of the CDFI 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. While the Fund encourages applicants to review the interim rule and the Preamble to the NOFAs, all of the application content requirements and the evaluation criteria set forth in the interim rule are set forth in the application.

DATES: Simultaneously with or shortly following the publication of this NOFA, the Fund will make available the FY 2003 funding application on its Web site at <http://www.cdfifund.gov>. Applicants may download the application from the Fund's Web site or request application packages by contacting the Fund, as described below.

The Fund will accept and review applications under this Technical Assistance Component NOFA as they are submitted and in the order in which they are submitted. Applications may be submitted at any time, commencing with the date of the publication of this NOFA. Applications must be received in the specific Bureau of the Public

Debt—Franchise Services (BPD) office designated below not later than 5 p.m. ET on May 31, 2004. Any applicant whose application is declined may submit a new application before May 31, 2004. Applications received in the specific BPD office designated below after that date and time will be rejected and returned to the sender.

Applications sent by facsimile or e-mail will not be accepted; however, an electronic application may be made available for this NOFA at a later date and, if so, its availability and related guidance will be announced on the Fund's Web site.

ADDRESSES: Applications must be sent to: CDFI Fund Awards Manager, TA Component, 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 at the Fund's offices. Applications received in the Fund's offices will be rejected and returned to the sender.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have any questions about the programmatic requirements for this program, contact the Fund's Program Operations Manager. If you have questions regarding administrative requirements, contact the Fund's Awards Manager. The Program Operations Manager and the Awards Manager may be reached by e-mail at cdfihelp@cfdi.treas.gov, by telephone at (202) 622-6355, by facsimile at (202) 622-7754, or by mail at CDFI Fund, 601 13th Street, NW., Suite 200 South, Washington, DC 20005. These are not toll free numbers. Applications and other information regarding the Fund and its programs may be downloaded and printed from the Fund's Web site at <http://www.cdfifund.gov> or requested by contacting the Fund, as described above. Allow at least one to two weeks from the date the Fund receives the request for receipt of the application.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Eligibility

The Act and the interim rule specify the eligibility requirements that each applicant must meet in order to be eligible to apply for assistance under this NOFA. The following sets forth additional details and certain additional dates that relate to the submission of applications under this NOFA:

(1) *Eligible Applicants:* Eligible applicants for the Technical Assistance Component of the CDFI Program consist of CDFIs and entities proposing to become CDFIs.