

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.

While the Financial Assistance Component offers TA grants in conjunction with financial investments, entities seeking TA awards only should apply for funds through the Technical Assistance Component.

The interim rule governing the CDFI Program (12 CFR part 1805), revised and 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. 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:** Applicants may submit applications under this Financial Assistance Component NOFA either electronically or in paper form. In order to expedite application review, however, the Fund expects applicants to submit Financial Assistance Component applications electronically (via an Internet-based application) per the instructions provided on the Fund's Web site. Submission of an electronic application will facilitate the processing and review of applications and the selection of awardees.

Shortly following the publication of this NOFA, the Fund will make available the FY 2003 Financial Assistance Component funding electronic application on its Web site at <http://www.cdfifund.gov>. If an applicant is unable to submit an electronic application, it must submit to the Fund a request for a paper application and the request must be received by the Fund by February 21, 2003. The request must contain the applicant's name; the name and phone number of a contact person; a mailing address (provide a physical address for overnight deliveries) for delivery of the paper application; and an explanation of why the applicant cannot complete the electronic application. The request for a paper application should be directed to the Fund's Program Operations Manager

and must be sent by e-mail to [paper\\_request@cdfi.treas.gov](mailto:paper_request@cdfi.treas.gov) or by facsimile to (202) 622-6453.

Applicants will need access to Internet Explorer 5.5 or higher or Netscape Navigator 6.0 or higher and at least a 56Kbps Internet connection in order to meet the electronic application submission requirements. Electronic applications must be submitted solely by using the format made available at the Fund's Web site for the Financial Assistance Component. Additional information, including instructions relating to the submission of signature forms and supporting information, is set forth in further detail in the electronic application.

The Fund will provide program and technical support for the Financial Assistance Component application between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. starting Monday, February 3, 2003, through Friday, March 7, 2003. The Fund will not respond to phone calls or e-mails concerning the application that are received after 5 p.m. on March 7, 2003, until after the Financial Assistance Component application deadline of March 10, 2003. Program support can be obtained by calling (202) 622-6355. Technical support can be obtained by calling (202) 622-2455 and selecting option 1, then option 2, and then option 9. Program or technical support can also be obtained by e-mail at [cdfihelp@cdfi.treas.gov](mailto:cdfihelp@cdfi.treas.gov).

The deadline for receipt of either paper or electronic applications is 5 p.m. ET on March 10, 2003. Paper applications must be received in their entirety by this time and date, including attachments. Electronic applications timely submitted may submit an original signature page not later than 5 p.m. ET on March 12, 2003. See application instructions, provided in the electronic application, for further detail. Applications received after this date and time will be rejected and returned to the sender.

Applications sent by facsimile or by e-mail will not be accepted.

**ADDRESSES:** Paper applications must be sent to: CDFI Fund Awards Manager, Financial Assistance 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 in Washington, DC. Applications received in the Fund's offices will be rejected and returned to the sender. Electronic applications must be submitted solely by using the Fund's Web site and must

be sent in accordance with the submission instructions provided in the electronic application form.

**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@cdfi.treas.gov](mailto:cdfihelp@cdfi.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.

#### **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 detail and certain additional dates that relate to the submission of applications under this NOFA:

(1) *Certification:* For purposes of this Financial Assistance Component NOFA, an application for an award will not be considered unless:

(a) An applicant is already certified as a CDFI with a certification expiration date after June 30, 2003; or

(b) The Fund receives from an applicant a complete CDFI certification application no later than February 14, 2003, evidencing that the applicant can be certified as a CDFI. With respect to any CDFI that is currently certified by the Fund and whose certification expiration date is on or before June 30, 2003, the Fund must receive an application for re-certification no later than February 14, 2003, evidencing that the applicant can be re-certified as a CDFI. Applicants may obtain CDFI certification applications through the Fund's Web site at <http://www.cdfifund.gov>. Applications for certification and re-certification must be submitted as instructed in the application form.

(2) *Previous Awardees:* Applicants must be aware that success in a previous round of the CDFI Program or the Native American CDFI Technical Assistance ("NACTA") Program is not indicative of success under this NOFA. Previous awardees are eligible to apply under this NOFA, except as follows:

(a) Any entity that has received a Notice of Award from the Fund for a previous CDFI Program or NACTA Program funding round, but that has not