

cycle must be received before 3 p.m. eastern time, January 15, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Application packages may be obtained by calling the Coast Guard Infoline at 800-368-5647. Submit proposals to: Commandant (G-OPB-1), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street SW., Room 3100, Washington, DC 20593-0001. This notice is available from the Coast Guard Infoline and on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov> in docket USCG-2003-16200 or at the Web site for the Office of Boating Safety at <http://www.uscgboating.org>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Vickie Hartberger, Office of Boating Safety, U.S. Coast Guard (G-OPB-1/room 3100), 2100 Second Street, SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001; 202-267-0974. The points of contact for the nine project areas are listed at the end of the description of each project area.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Title 46, United States Code, section 13103, allocates funds available from the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund for boating safety grants. The majority of funds are allocated to the States, and up to 5 percent of these funds may be distributed by the Coast Guard for grants and cooperative agreements to national, nonprofit, public service organizations for national recreational boating safety activities. It is anticipated that up to \$2,950,000 will be made available for fiscal year 2004. Thirty-two awards totaling \$2,994,500 were made in fiscal year 2003 ranging from \$7,000 to \$370,000. Nothing in this announcement should be construed as committing the Coast Guard to dividing available funds among qualified applicants or awarding any specified amount.

It is anticipated that several awards will be made by the Director of Operations Policy, U.S. Coast Guard. Applicants must be national, nongovernmental, nonprofit, public service organizations and must establish that their activities are, in fact, national in scope. An application package may be obtained by writing or calling the point of contact listed in **ADDRESSES** on or after October 8, 2003. The application package contains all necessary forms, an explanation of how the grant program is administered, and a checklist for submitting a grant application. Specific information on organization eligibility, proposal requirements, award procedures, and financial administration procedures may be obtained by contacting the person listed in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Prospective grantees may propose up to a 5-year grant with 12-month (fiscal

year) increments. In effect, an award would be made for the first year and thereafter renewal is optional. Each annual increment would not be guaranteed. Under a continuation (multi-year) grant type of award the Coast Guard agrees to support a grant project at a specific level of effort for a specified period of time, with a statement of intention to provide certain additional future support, provided funds become available, the achieved results warrant further support, and are in support of the needs of the government. Award of continuation grants will be made on a strict case-by-case basis to assist planning certain large scale projects and ensure continuity. Procedures also provide for awarding noncompetitive grants or cooperative agreements on a case-by-case basis. This authority is judiciously used to fund recurring annual projects or events which can only be carried out by one organization, and projects that present targets of opportunity for timely action on new or emerging program requirements or issues.

The following list includes items of specific interest to the Coast Guard, however, potential applicants should not be constrained by the list. We welcome any initiative that supports the organizational objectives of the Recreational Boating Safety Program to save lives, reduce the number of boating accidents, injuries and property damage, and lower associated health care costs. Some project areas of continuing and particular interest for grant funding include the following:

1. *Develop and Conduct a National Annual Safe Boating Campaign.* The Coast Guard seeks a grantee to develop and conduct the year 2005 National Annual Safe Boating Campaign that targets specific boater market segments and recreational boating safety topics. This year-round campaign must support the organizational objectives of the Recreational Boating Safety Program and the nationwide grassroots activities of the many volunteer groups who coordinate local media events, education programs, and public awareness activities, as well as compliment the Coast Guard "You're In Command" campaign. The major focus of the campaign will be to affect the behavior of all boaters with special focus on boat operators being responsible for their own safety as well as the safety of their passengers. A significant emphasis should be placed on life jacket wear, safety and security issues, and the dangers of carbon monoxide, as well as boating under the influence of alcohol or a dangerous drug. Efforts will also be coordinated,

year-round, with other national safety activities and special media events. Point of Contact: Ms. Jo Calkin, (202) 267-0994.

2. *Develop and Conduct a National Recreational Boating Safety Outreach and Awareness Conference.* The Coast Guard seeks a grantee to plan, implement, oversee, and conduct a National Recreational Boating Safety Outreach and Awareness Conference that supports the organizational objectives of the Recreational Boating Safety Program. The overall conference focus should have promotional strategies with special focus on boat operators being responsible for their own safety as well as the safety of their passengers. Significant emphasis should be placed on offering multiple subject matter areas that afford the participants professional development opportunities and educational enhancement. Areas should focus on, but not be limited to: life jacket wear, safety and security issues, the dangers of carbon monoxide, boating education, vessel safety, as well as boating under the influence of alcohol or a dangerous drug. Point of Contact: Ms. Jo Calkin, (202) 267-0994.

3. *State/Federal/Boating Organizations Cooperative Partnering Efforts.* The Coast Guard seeks a grantee to provide programs to encourage greater participation and uniformity in boating safety efforts. Applicants would provide a forum to encourage greater uniformity of boating laws and regulations, reciprocity among jurisdictions, and closer cooperation and assistance in developing, administering, and enforcing Federal and State laws and regulations pertaining to boating safety. Point of Contact: Ms. Audrey Pickup, (202) 267-0872.

4. *Voluntary Standards Development Support.* The Coast Guard seeks a grantee to carry out a program to encourage active participation by members of the public and other qualified persons in the development of technically sound voluntary safety standards for boats and associated equipment. Point of Contact: Mr. Peter Eikenberry, (202) 267-6984.

5. *Develop and Conduct Boating Accident Seminars.* The Coast Guard seeks a grantee to develop, provide instructional material, and conduct training courses nationwide for boating accident investigators, including three courses at the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve Training Center in Yorktown, Virginia. Point of Contact: Mr. Rick Gipe, (202) 267-0985.

6. *National Estimate of Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) Wear Rate.* The Coast Guard seeks a grantee to develop