

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the NASD.

All submissions should refer to file number SR-NASD-2003-152 should be submitted by November 10, 2003.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹¹

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-26352 Filed 10-17-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Program: Cooperative Agreements for Benefits Planning, Assistance, and Outreach Projects; Program Announcement No. SSA-OESP-03-1

AGENCY: Social Security Administration.

ACTION: Announcement of the availability of fiscal year 2004 cooperative agreement funds and request for applications.

SUMMARY: The Social Security Administration (SSA) announces its intention to award competitively a cooperative agreement to continue a community-based benefits planning, assistance, and outreach project in the State of Wyoming. The purpose of this project is to disseminate accurate information to beneficiaries with disabilities (including transition-to-work aged youth) about work incentives programs and issues related to such programs, to enable them to make informed choices about work.

DATES: The closing date for receipt of cooperative agreement applications under this announcement is December 4, 2003.

Prospective applicants are also asked to submit, preferably by November 4, 2003, an e-mail, a fax, post card, or letter of intent that includes (1) the program announcement number (SSA-OESP-03-1) and title (Benefits Planning, Assistance, and Outreach Program); (2) the name of the agency or organization that is applying; and (3) the name, mailing address, e-mail address, telephone number, and fax number for the organization's contact person. The notice of intent is not required, is not binding, and does not enter into the review process of a subsequent application. The purpose of the notice of intent is to allow SSA staff to estimate the number of independent reviewers needed and to avoid potential conflicts of interest in the review. The notice of intent should be faxed to (410) 966-1278; mailed to Social Security Administration, Office of Employment Support Programs, Division of Employment Policy, 107 Altmeyer Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235-6401; or e-mailed to jenny.deboy@ssa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Send questions about this announcement to the following Internet e-mail address: jenny.deboy@ssa.gov. When sending in a question, reference program announcement number SSA-OESP-03-1 and the date of this announcement.

Although the Internet is the preferred method of communication, applicants who have questions about the program content of the application may also contact: Jennifer DeBoy, Program Analyst, or Natalie Funk, Team Leader, Social Security Administration, Office of Employment Support Programs, Division of Employment Policy, 107 Altmeyer Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235-6401. The telephone number for Jennifer DeBoy is (410) 965-8658; for Natalie Funk, (410) 965-0078. The fax number is (410) 966-1278.

To obtain an application kit, see the instructions under Part VI, Section A. Although the Internet is SSA's preferred method of communication, for information regarding the application package, you may also contact: Phyllis Y. Smith or Gary Stammer, Social Security Administration, Office of Acquisition and Grants, Grants Management Team, 1-E-4 Gwynn Oak Building, 1710 Gwynn Oak Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21207-5279. The telephone numbers are: Phyllis Y.

Smith, (410) 965-9518, or Gary Stammer, (410) 965-9501. The fax number is (410) 966-9310.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Public Law 106-170 was enacted on December 17, 1999, to expand the availability of health care coverage for working individuals with disabilities, to establish a Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program in SSA to provide beneficiaries with disabilities meaningful opportunities to work, and to provide benefits planning and assistance services, and outreach to beneficiaries with disabilities, among other purposes. SSA must ensure that benefits planning, assistance, and outreach are available to all beneficiaries with disabilities nationally, on a statewide basis.

On May 31, 2000, and January 5, 2001, SSA made announcements of cooperative agreement funds and requested applications. SSA's intent was to establish benefits planning, assistance and outreach services in every State and U.S. Territory, and in the District of Columbia, and to ensure that services are available to all SSA beneficiaries with disabilities throughout each. The current awardee for the State of Wyoming has decided not to renew their cooperative agreement beyond December, 2003.

This announcement is to request applications for fiscal year (FY) 2004 funds to provide direct benefits planning, assistance and outreach services to all SSA disability beneficiaries in the State of Wyoming for the period January 1, 2004, to December 31, 2004. Funding after FY 2004 is contingent upon funding availability.

Note: SSA has awarded separate contracts to three organizations (Cornell University, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), and the University of Missouri-Columbia (UMO-C)) to provide technical assistance and training on SSA's programs and work incentives, Medicare and Medicaid, and on other Federal work incentives programs, to Benefits Planning, Assistance, and Outreach Program cooperative agreement awardees. The contractor for Wyoming is UMO-C: C. David Roberts, RobertsC@missouri.edu, (573) 882-3807.

SSA will conduct a pre-application seminar to provide interested applicants with guidance and technical assistance in preparing their applications. Information about where and when the seminar will be held will be on our Web site: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work/ServiceProviders/providers.html#Contract>.

Table of Contents

Part I. Program Description

¹¹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).