

with those applicants not selected in the first or second priority will be considered in the third funding priority. Of those eligible entities that are legally fundable, the highest-ranked applications for which funding is available, will be selected for eligibility to receive per diem payment in accordance with their ranked order until enough projects totaling approximately 450 beds are identified for funding or until funding is expended.

*Methodology:* VA will review all [non-capital] grant *applicants* in response to this notice of funding availability. Then VA will group the applicants into the funding priorities categories. Applicants will then be ranked within their respective funding category based on score and any ranking criteria set forth in that funding category only if the applicant scores at least 500 cumulative

points from paragraphs (b) (c) (d) (e) and (i) of the Final Rule published in the **Federal Register**, September 26, 2003, § 61.13.

The highest-ranked application for which funding is available, within the highest funding category, will be conditionally selected for eligibility to receive per diem payment in accordance with their ranked order until VA reaches the projected bed totals for each category. If funds are still available after selection of those applications in the highest priority group, VA will continue to conditionally select applicants in lower priority categories in accordance with the selection method set forth in the Final Rule § 61.32.

*Application Requirements:* The specific grant application requirements will be specified in the application package. The package includes all

required forms and certifications. Selections will be made based on criteria described in the application, Final Rule, and NOFA. Applicants who are selected will be notified of any additional information needed to confirm or clarify information provided in the application. Applicants will then be notified of the deadline to submit such information. If an applicant is unable to meet any conditions for grant award within the specified time frame, VA reserves the right to not award funds and to use the funds available for other grant and per diem applicants.

Dated: November 3, 2003.

**Anthony J. Principi,**

*Secretary of Veterans Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 03-28178 Filed 11-7-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320-01-P**