

not meet one of the above elements will be determined to be ineligible and excluded from the competitive review process. Ineligible applicants will be notified by mail within 30 business days from the closing date of this program announcement. ANA staff cannot respond to requests for information regarding funding decisions prior to the official applicant notification. After the Commissioner has made funding decisions, unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing within 90 days. Applicants are not ranked based on general financial need. Applicants, who are initially excluded from competition because of ineligibility, may appeal the Agency's decision. Likewise, applicants may also appeal an ANA decision that an applicant's proposed activities are ineligible for funding consideration. The appeals process is stated in the final rule published in the **Federal Register** on August 19, 1996 (61 FR 42817 and 45 CFR part 1336, subpart C). ANA has a policy of not funding duplicative projects or allowing any one community to receive a disproportionate share of the funds available for award. When making decisions on awards of grants the Agency will consider whether the project is essentially identical or similar, in whole or significant part, to projects in the same community previously funded or being funded under the same competition. The Agency will also consider whether the grantee is already receiving funding for a SEDS project or for another project from ANA. The Agency will also take into account in making funding decisions whether a proposed project would require funding on indefinite or recurring basis.

Competitive Review Process: Applications that pass the initial ANA screening process will be analyzed, evaluated and rated by an independent review panel on the basis of the Evaluation Criteria specified. The evaluation criteria were designed to analyze and assess the quality of a proposed community-based project, the likelihood of its success, and the ability to monitor and evaluate community impact and long-term results. The evaluation criteria and analysis are closely related and are wholly considered in judging the overall quality of an application. In addition, the evaluation criteria will standardize the review of each application and distribute the number of points more equitably.

Application Review Criteria: ANA has expanded the review criteria to allow for a more equitable distribution of points during the application review and competition process. ANA will

improve the competitive review process through the use of six criteria that will evenly distribute evaluation points. The use of six criteria will standardize the review of each application and distribute the number of points more equitably. Based on the ACF Uniform Project Description, ANA's criteria categories are Project Introduction; Objectives and Need for Assistance; Project Approach; Organizational Capacity; Results and Benefits Expected; and Budget and Budget Narrative.

Application Consideration: The Commissioner's funding decision is based on an analysis of the application by the review panel, the panel review scores, recommendations of the ANA staff, comments of State and Federal agencies having contract and grant performance related information, and other interested parties. The Commissioner makes grant awards consistent with the purpose of the Native American Programs Act (NAPA), all relevant statutory and regulatory requirements, this program announcement, and the availability of appropriated funds.

The Commissioner reserves the right to award more, or less, than the funds described or under such circumstances as may be deemed to be in the best interest of the federal government. Applicants may be required to reduce the scope of projects based on the amount of approved award.

VI. Award Administration Information

Anticipated Announcement and Award Date: 120 days after the due date of applications.

Award Notices: 120 days after the due date of applications.

Administrative and National Policy Requirements: 45 CFR part 74 and 45 CFR part 92 and 45 CFR part 1336, subpart C) and 42 U.S.C. 2991 *et seq.*—Native American Programs Act of 1974;

Reporting Requirements:

Programmatic Reports: Quarterly.

Financial Reports: Quarterly.

Special Reporting Requirements: An original and one copy of each performance report and financial status report must be submitted to the Grants Officer. Failure to submit these reports when required will mean the grantee is non-compliant with the terms and conditions of the grant award and subject to administrative action or termination. Performance reports are submitted 30 days after each quarter (3-month intervals) of the project period. The final performance report, due 90 days after the project period end date, shall cover grantee performance during the entire project period. All grantees shall use the SF 269 (Long Form) to

report the status of funds. Grantees shall submit semi-annual Financial Status Reports that shall be due 30 days after the end of the second and fourth quarter of each budget period. The final report shall be due 90 days after the end of the project period. (*Legal authority: Sections 803(a) of the Native Americans Programs Act of 1974, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2991b; 45 CFR 1336.50(a); 45 CFR 74.51 and 74.52; 45 CFR 92.40 and 92.41*)

VII. Agency Contacts

Program Office Contact: ANA
Applicant Help Desk at 202-690-7776 or toll free at 1-877-922-9262 for assistance.

Grants Management Office Contact:
Lois B. Hodge, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW., Aerospace Building 8th Floor-West, Washington, DC 20447-0002, Telephone: (202) 401-2344, E-mail: Lhodge@acf.dhhs.gov.

VIII. Other Information

Training and Technical Assistance: All potential ANA applicants are eligible to receive free T&TA in the SEDS, Language, or Environmental program areas. Prospective applicants should check ANA's Web site for training and technical assistance dates and locations, or contact the ANA Help Desk at 1-877-922-9262. Due to the new application and program additions and modifications, ANA strongly encourages all prospective applicants to participate in free pre-application training. (*Legal authority: Sections 804 of the Native Americans Programs Act of 1974, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2991c*)

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13): Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13, the Department is required to submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval of any reporting and record keeping requirements in regulations including program announcements. This program announcement does not contain information collection requirements beyond those approved for ANA grant applications under the Program Narrative Statement by OMB (Approval Number 0980-0204).

I. Program Area: 2

Alaska Social and Economic Development Strategies for Native Americans

In fiscal year 1984, ANA implemented a special Alaska Social and Economic Development initiative to support activities at the village level. This special effort was designed to provide small amounts of project seed money for