

it is seeking ANA funds and not utilizing its available resources to support the project. (*Legal authority: Sections 803(a) of the Native Americans Programs Act of 1974, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2991b.*)

The non-federal budget share should identify the source and be supported by letters of commitment (*see* Definitions). Letters of commitment are binding when they specifically state the nature, the amount, and conditions under which another agency or organization will support a project funded with ANA funds. These resources may be human, natural, or financial, and may include other Federal and non-Federal resources. For example, a letter from another Federal agency or foundation pledging a commitment of \$200,000 in construction funding to complement proposed ANA funded pre-construction activity is evidence of a firm funding commitment. Statements that additional funding will be sought from other specific sources are not considered a binding commitment of outside resources. Letters of Support merely express another organization's endorsement of a proposed project. Support letters are not binding commitment letters. They do not factually establish the authenticity of other resources and do not offer or bind specific resources to the project. (*Legal authority: Sections 803(a) of the Native Americans Programs Act of 1974, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2991b.*)

If an applicant plans to charge or otherwise seek credit for indirect costs in its ANA application, a current copy of its Indirect Cost Rate Agreement should be included in the application, with all cost broken down by category so ANA reviewers can determine what is included in the indirect cost pool. (*Legal authority: Sections 803(a) of the Native Americans Programs Act of 1974, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2991b.*)

The budget includes sufficient funds for principal representatives, such as the chief financial officer or project director from the applicant organization to travel to one ANA post-award grant training and technical assistance workshop. This expenditure is mandatory for new grant recipients and optional for grantees that have had previous ANA grant awards. Applicants may also include costs to travel to an ANA grantee conference. (*Legal authority: Sections 803(a) of the Native Americans Programs Act of 1974, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2991b.*)

For business development projects, the proposal should demonstrate that the expected return on the ANA funds used to develop the project will provide a reasonable operating income and investment return within a specified

time period. If a profit-making venture is being proposed, profits should be reinvested in the business in order to decrease or eliminate ANA's future participation. Such revenue should be reported as general program income. A decision will be made at the time of the grant award regarding appropriate use of program income. (See 45 CFR part 74 and part 92). (*Legal authority: Sections 803(a) of the Native Americans Programs Act of 1974, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2991b.*)

Criteria Six: Project Introduction and Summary/Abstract (5 Points)

The applicant should provide a Project Introduction. The Introduction will provide the reader an overview and some details of the proposed project. This is where the project is introduced to the peer review panel. Identify the name of the applicant, location of the community to be served by the proposed project, the project activities, amount requested, amount of matching funds to be provided, the length of time required to accomplish the project, and the outcomes or outputs to be achieved. (*Legal authority: Sections 803(a) of the Native Americans Programs Act of 1974, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2991b.*)

Review and Selection Process

Initial Screening: Each application submitted under this program announcement will undergo a pre-review screening to determine if (a) the application was received by the Program Announcement closing date; (b) the application was submitted in accordance with Section VI, "Application Submission Requirements"; (c) the applicant is eligible for funding in accordance with Section I of this program announcement; (d) the applicant has submitted the proper support documentation such as proof of non-profit status, resolutions, and required government forms; and (e) an authorized representative has signed the application. An application that does not meet one of the above elements will be excluded from the competitive review process. Ineligible applicant 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 decisions on all applications, 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 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). (*Legal authority: Sections 803(a) of the Native Americans Programs Act of 1974, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2991b.*)

Competitive Review Process:

Applications that pass the initial screening process will be analyzed, evaluated and rated by an independent review panel on the basis of the evaluation criteria specified below. 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. Applications will be evaluated in accordance with the program announcement criteria and ANA's program areas of interest. An evaluation is made if the project presented is an effective use of federal funds. (*Legal authority: Sections 803(a) of the Native Americans Programs Act of 1974, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2991b.*)

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. (*Legal authority: Sections 803(a) of the Native Americans Programs Act of 1974, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2991b.*)

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