

To assist NOFA applicants in reviewing their state and local regulatory environments so they can effectively address the questions above that are proposed to be incorporated in all FY2004 NOFAs, the Department recommends visiting HUD's Regulatory Barriers Clearinghouse (RBC) at <http://www.huduser.org/rbc/>. This Web site was created to support state, local, and tribal governments and other organizations seeking information about laws, regulations, and policies affecting the development, maintenance, improvement, availability and cost of affordable housing. To encourage better understanding of the impact of regulatory issues on housing affordability the Web site includes an extensive bibliography of major studies and guidance materials to assist state, local and tribal governments in fashioning solutions and approaches to expanding housing affordability through regulatory reform at [http://www.huduser.org/rbc/relevant\\_publications.html](http://www.huduser.org/rbc/relevant_publications.html).

#### **V. Solicitation of Public Comment**

Again, HUD welcomes comments from prospective applicants that may be

eligible for the higher rating points offered under this initial proposal, from other applicants, and from other interested members of the public. HUD seeks comments on the process for obtaining the points as proposed in this notice, and alternative ideas or suggestions on how this priority matter may be addressed through HUD's NOFA or other processes, such as HUD's Consolidated Plan. HUD also invites comments as to whether the regulatory barrier questions being posed to applicants would be accurate indicators of regulatory reform. HUD also invites comments as to whether there are other changes in local government developmental approval processes, land use or building regulations, subdivision regulations, or administrative procedures that can significantly reduce the cost of new housing development or rehabilitation that have not been included. During the public comment period, HUD may meet with representatives of state, local, and tribal governmental officials, as well as nonprofit organizations, to discuss this proposal and solicit more directly views, suggestions, and alternatives on

how incentive criteria can work effectively with respect to HUD's award and allocation of funds or other processes.

HUD will publish a second notice advising of the responses to the solicitation of public comment, and announcing if HUD intends to proceed with this proposal for the FY 2004 competitive funding process. If HUD decides to proceed with this proposal, the second notice will also advise of any significant changes that HUD intends to make in the implementation of the proposal. HUD also anticipates publishing additional notices on this or other methods of utilization of incentive criteria for removal of regulatory barriers in HUD funding allocations, and in this regard HUD welcomes ideas from the public on other proposals that should be considered.

Dated: October 28, 2003.

**A. Bryant Applegate,**

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