

Community Services Network—refers to the various organizations involved in planning and implementing programs funded through the CSBG or providing training, technical assistance or support to them. The network includes local CAAs and other eligible entities; State CSBG offices and their national association; CAA State, regional and national associations; and related organizations that collaborate and participate with CAAs and other eligible entities in their efforts on behalf of low-income people.

Cooperative Agreement—an award instrument of financial assistance when substantial involvement is anticipated between the awarding office, (the Federal government) and the recipient during performance of the contemplated project. Substantial involvement may include collaboration or participation by OCS staff in activities specified in the award and, as appropriate, decision-making at specified milestones related to performance. The involvement may range from joint conduct of a project to OCS approval prior to the recipient's undertaking the next phase in a project.

Nationwide—refers to the scope of the technical assistance, training, data collection, or other capacity-building projects to be undertaken with grant funds. Nationwide projects must provide for the implementation of technical assistance, training or data collection for all or a significant number of States, and the CAAs and other local service providers who administer CSBG funds.

Non-profit Organization—refers to an organization, including faith-based and community-based, which meets the requirement for proof of non-profit status in the "Additional Information on Eligibility" section of this announcement and has demonstrated experience in providing training to individuals and organizations on methods of effectively addressing the needs of low-income families and communities.

Outcome Measures—are indicators that focus on the direct results one wants to have on customers and on communities.

Performance Measurement—is a tool used to assess how a program is accomplishing its mission through the delivery of products, services and activities.

Results-Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) System—ROMA is a system, which provides a framework for focusing on results for local agencies funded by the CSBG Program. It involves setting goals and strategies and developing plans and techniques that focus on a result-

oriented performance based model for management.

State—means all of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Except where specifically noted, for purposes of this program announcement, it also includes Territories as defined below.

Technical assistance—is an activity, generally utilizing the services of an expert (often a peer), aimed at enhancing capacity, improving programs and systems, or solving specific problems. Such services may be provided proactively to improve systems or as an intervention to solve specific problems.

Territories—refers to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and American Samoa for the purpose of this announcement.

Training—is an educational activity or event that is designed to impart knowledge, understanding or increase the development of skills. Such training activities may be in the form of assembled events such as workshops, seminars, conferences or programs of self-instructional activities.

Priority Area

Collection, Analysis, Dissemination and Use of Data and Other Information about Community Services Block Grant Activities and Effective Approaches for Ameliorating Poverty.

Program Purpose, Scope and Focus

The purpose of this new grant is to improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of quantitative data and other information about: (1) CSBG activities specifically; and (2) successful approaches for ameliorating the effects of poverty generally.

The grant will support four important component activities. The first is to revise and enhance the existing CSBG data collection instrument and to develop and administer an improved strategy for collecting, analyzing and disseminating information about quantitative, statistical and results-oriented data nationwide using a process of continuous collaboration with States and CAAs. The strategy must include relevant technical assistance and training on data issues for States and CAAs.

The second component is to assist in the development and implementation of procedures for establishing performance targets for anti-poverty programs at the State and local level. The information should be comprehensive enough and disseminated in such formats as to enable States and local service providers to improve their planning, management and delivery of services. The information should also be appropriate

to assure that the public has a clear understanding of the CSBG program and other anti-poverty programs and their outcomes. Of particular importance is the continued knowledge building and development of the concepts and technologies for results-oriented management in order to meet the requirements of the CSBG Act and the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993.

The third component is to assist in expanding the use of computer-based technologies by CAAs and other Community Services Network partners. This will include providing training and technical assistance and other technical expertise directed at two objectives: (1) Increasing the entire Community Services Network's ability to participate fully on the information highway; and (2) Enhancing the network's ability to use and disseminate data, research and information regarding poverty issues, particularly activities and outcomes produced by CAAs and the entire Community Services Network.

A fourth component will be to provide training and technical assistance to CAAs and other Community Services Network partners concerning a new system-wide integrated program management system. The project supported with this grant will be expected to coordinate and collaborate with the organizations that are planning and designing the system to make it more likely that the CAAs and Community Services Network partners will use the system for authorized CSBG purposes.

II. Award Information

Funding Instrument Type: Cooperative Agreement.

Anticipated total Priority Area Funding: \$500,000.

Anticipated Number of Awards: One.

Ceiling on amount of individual Awards: \$500,000.

An application that exceeds the upper value of the dollar range specified will be considered "non-responsive" and be returned to the applicant without further review.

Floor of Individual Award Amounts: \$500,000.

Average projected Award Amount: \$500,000.

III. Eligibility Information

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are Community Services Block Grant Eligible Entities, statewide or local organizations or associations including faith-based organizations, for-profit organizations and non-profit organizations with