

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Veterans' Employment and Training Services****Funding Opportunity: Incarcerated Veterans Transition Program (IV-TP) Pilot Competitive Grants for FY 2004**

Announcement Type: Initial announcement of availability of funds and Solicitation for Grant Applications (SGA) for Incarcerated Veteran Transition Programs.

Funding Opportunity Number: SGA 04-01.

Catalogue of Federal Assistance Number: 17-805.

Dates: Applications are due on January 21, 2004. Period of Performance is February 24, 2004, through February 23, 2005.

Application and Amendments: If copies of the standard forms are needed, they can be downloaded from http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/grants_forms.html.

To receive amendments to this solicitation (please reference SGA 04-01) all applicants must register their name and address with the Grant Officer at below listed address.

Cassandra Willis, Department of Labor: Procurement Services Center, Room N-5416, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210; Telephone (202) 693-4570.

Summary: Applicants for grant funds should read this notice in its entirety. The U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS), announces a grant competition for up to four pilot programs that comply with the requirements of 38 U.S.C. section 2022, as added by section 5 of Pub. L. 107-95. Pub. L. 107-95, the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act (HVCAA) of 2001 requires the Department of Labor and the Department of Veteran Affairs to partner in the development, support, and operation of at least six demonstration projects designed to support incarcerated veterans at risk of homelessness. This demonstration is being funded under the authority of the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, 38 U.S.C. section 2021.

Applicants will be required to design programs which assist eligible veterans (who are incarcerated and at risk of homelessness) that provide career counseling, employment training, job search assistance, and life skills support services.

Under this solicitation, VETS anticipates that up to \$250,000 will be available for each of the grant awards in fiscal year (FY) 2004 and expects to

award up to four (4) grants. Projects will be selected that provide services to incarcerated veterans at one or more levels of the correctional system, *i.e.*, Federal, State and local. This notice contains all of the necessary information and forms needed to apply for grant funding.

The Incarcerated Veterans Transition Programs (IV-TP) are to be designed to be flexible in addressing the national, regional, and/or local issues that prevent previously incarcerated veterans from reintegrating into the workforce.

VETS will seek applicants that provide direct services through a case management approach that networks with Federal, State, and local resources for veteran support programs that have clear strategies for employment and retention and/or life skills treatment of the previously incarcerated veteran.

I. Funding Opportunity Description (Background)

Section 5 of Pub. L. 107-95, the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act (HVCAA) of 2001 amended title 38, United States Code, "to revise, improve, and consolidate provisions of law providing benefits and services for homeless veterans' and required that the Department of Labor and Department of Veteran Affairs partner in at least six (6) demonstration projects to serve incarcerated veterans at risk of homelessness. The Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Project (HVRP) was the first nationwide Federal program that concentrated on placing homeless veterans into jobs. This extension of the HVRP project, designed to support and evaluate programs that focus principally on previously incarcerated veterans, will provide invaluable information on approaches that assist in the prevention of homelessness among that population.

II. Award Information

Under this solicitation, VETS anticipates that up to \$250,000 will be available for each grant awarded in Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 and expects to award up to four (4) grants.

Projects will be selected that provide services to incarcerated veterans at one or more levels of the correctional system, *i.e.*, Federal, State and local, in order for the participants to transition into the workforce. VETS will seek applicants that provide direct services through a case management approach that networks with Federal, State, and local resources for veteran support programs that have clear strategies for employment and retention and/or life

skills treatment of the previously incarcerated veteran.

We anticipate awarding at least one (1) grant for each type of correctional facility program (Federal, State, and local).

III. Eligibility Information**1. Eligible Applicants**

Applications for funds will be accepted from State and local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBS), public agencies, for-profit/commercial entities, and nonprofit organizations, including faith-based and community organizations, who are familiar with the population to be served and can demonstrate expertise in administering an effective program. Eligible applicants will fall into one of the following categories:

A. State and local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBS), established under section 111 and 117 of the Workforce Investment Act.

B. Public agencies meaning any public agency of a State or of a general purpose political subdivision of a State which has the power to levy taxes and spend funds, as well as general corporate and police powers. (This typically refers to cities and counties.) A State agency may propose in its application to serve one or more of the potential jurisdictions located in its State. This does not preclude a city or county agency from submitting an application to serve its own jurisdiction.

Applicants are encouraged to utilize, through partnerships or sub-awards, experienced public agencies, private nonprofit organizations, private businesses and faith-based and community organizations that have an understanding of unemployment and the barriers to employment unique to previously incarcerated veterans, a familiarity with the area to be served, and the capability to effectively provide the necessary services.

C. For-profit/commercial entities and private nonprofit organizations that have operated a VWIP, HVRP or similar employment and training program for the homeless or veterans and have a proven competence to manage grants and have or will provide the necessary linkages with other service providers.

D. Non-profit organizations that have received 501(c) (3) status from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). If claiming 501(c) (3) status, the IRS statement indicating 501(c) (3) status approval must be submitted.

Entities described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Codes that engage in lobbying activities are not eligible to receive funds under this