

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**Economic Development
Administration**

[Docket No. 950302065-6173-03]

RIN 0610-ZA03

**National Technical Assistance,
Research and Evaluation—Request for
Proposals****AGENCY:** Economic Development
Administration (EDA), Department of
Commerce (DoC).**ACTION:** Notice of availability of funds.

SUMMARY: A total of \$328,500,000 is available to EDA for all of its programs for FY 1996 (See Notice of Funding Availability for FY 1996 at 61 FR 29526), of which approximately \$2,125,000 (including funds to be transferred to EDA from the Department of Defense's Office of Economic Adjustment, DOD/OEA,) is or will be available for National Technical Assistance and for Research and Evaluation for specific projects which will aid in better understanding the causes of and solutions to economic distress/underemployment and unemployment throughout the Nation in the specific priority areas described herein. Additional funding may or may not be available. EDA issues this Notice describing the conditions under which eligible applications for these National Technical Assistance under 13 CFR Part 307, Subpart C, and Research and Evaluation under 13 CFR Part 307, Subpart D, projects will be accepted and selected for funding. EDA is soliciting proposals for the specific projects described herein which will be funded if acceptable proposals are received. Remaining funding, if any, may be used to fund additional projects.

DATES: Prospective applicants are advised that EDA will conduct a pre-proposal conference on June 27, 1996, at 2:00 p.m., in the Department of Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover Building, 14th & Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230, Room 7419, at which time questions on the National Technical Assistance and Research and Evaluation projects can be answered. Please provide written questions (See Addresses section below) by June 24, 1996. Background information packets relevant to each of the projects will be made available.

Initial proposals for funding under this program will be accepted through July 22, 1996. Initial proposals received after that time will not be considered for funding.

By July 22, 1996, EDA will advise successful proponents to submit full applications, (containing complete proposals as part of the application) OMB Control Number 0610-0094. Completed applications must be submitted to EDA by August 15, 1996. EDA will make these awards no later than September 30, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Send initial proposals and full applications, as applicable, to either: Lewis R. Podolske, Acting Director, Technical Assistance Program, Economic Development Administration, Room 7315, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 200230 (National Technical Assistance); or John J. McNamee, Acting Director, Research and Evaluation Program, Economic Development Administration, Room 7315, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230 (Research and Evaluation).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lewis R. Podolske, (202) 482-2127 (National Technical Assistance); or John J. McNamee, (202) 482-4085 (Research and Evaluation).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Introduction****A. Authority**

The Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, (Pub. L. 89-136, 42 U.S.C. 3121-3246h), as amended (PWEDA) at § 3151 authorizes EDA as follows: to provide technical assistance which would be useful in reducing or preventing excessive unemployment or underemployment by conducting, among other things, studies evaluating the needs of, and the development of potential for economic growth in distressed areas (42 U.S.C. 3151(a)); and a program of research to assist in the formulation and implementation of national, state and local programs to raise income levels and other solutions to the problems of unemployment, underemployment, underdevelopment and chronic depression in distressed areas and regions (42 U.S.C. 3151(c)(B)). The Omnibus Appropriations Act of 1996, Public Law 104-134, makes funds available for these programs.

B. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

11.303 Economic Development-Technical Assistance; 11.312 Economic Development—Research and Evaluation Program.

C. Program Descriptions

For descriptions of these programs see EDA's final rule at 13 CFR chapter III, 61 FR 7979, March 1, 1996, as corrected

at 61 FR 15371, April 8, 1996, and its interim-final rule at 60 FR 49670, September 26, 1995.

D. Additional Information and Requirements

No award of Federal funds will be made to an applicant who has an outstanding delinquent Federal debt until either: 1. The delinquent account is paid in full; 2. A negotiated repayment schedule is established and at least one payment is received; or 3. Other arrangements satisfactory to DoC are made.

Unsatisfactory performance under prior Federal awards may result in an application not being considered for funding.

Applicants seeking an early start, i.e., to begin a project before EDA approval, must obtain a letter from EDA allowing such early start. Such approval may be given with the understanding that an early start does not constitute project approval. Applicants should be aware that if they incur any costs prior to an award being made they do so solely at their own risk of not being reimbursed by the Government. Notwithstanding any verbal or written assurance that may have been received, there is no obligation on the part of EDA to cover pre-award costs.

The total dollar amount of the indirect costs proposed in an application under any EDA program must not exceed either the indirect cost rate negotiated and approved by a cognizant Federal agency prior to the proposed effective date of the award, or 100 percent of the total proposed direct costs dollar amount in the application, which ever is less.

If an application is selected for funding, EDA has no obligation to provided any additional future funding in connection with an award. Renewal of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the sole discretion of EDA.

Unless otherwise noted below, eligibility, program objectives and descriptions, application procedures, selection procedures, evaluation criteria and other requirements for all programs are set forth in EDA's final rule at 13 CFR Chapter III, 61 FR 7979, March 1, 1996, as corrected at 61 FR 15371, April 8, 1996, and its interim-final rule at 60 FR 49670, September 26, 1995.

II. Areas of Special Emphasis

EDA seeks proposals for the specific projects described as follows:

A. National Technical Assistance Program

- State Technology Planning.

EDA invites technical assistance proposals pertaining to innovative and useful science and technology planning programs by states to assist distressed communities.

Background: EDA awards planning grants under section 302(a) of PWEDA, (42 U.S.C. 3151a(a)) to strengthen the economic development planning capability of states, cities and substate entities to ensure a more productive use of resources in reducing the effect of economic problems, particularly those resulting in high unemployment and low incomes. EDA has awarded approximately 15 state grants since 1990 that relate to state technology planning as a tool for economic development. The scopes of work of these grants, the project files and final reports are available at the six EDA regional offices. Other Federal programs also provide assistance to states to prepare statewide technology plans. Among these programs are the U.S. Department of Commerce (DoC) National Institute of Standards and Technology's State Technology Extension Program (STEP), and the National Science Foundation's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). In addition, other technology plans have been developed by national organizations, by states, or as regional or local efforts.

Scope of Work: Under this grant award the recipient is expected to canvas the universe of planning efforts undertaken by states to use science and technology to assist distressed communities to enhance their economic development capabilities. As part of the project, the recipient must review EDA and other Federal and state efforts to promote the establishment of science and technology plans that support regional, state, or substate economic development. The task will include the review of project files, final reports, and plans, and interviews with staff by means of site visits and telephone conversations.

Science and technology plans compiled during the canvass may encompass coordination of data bases, education plans related to technology, manufacturing extension services, telecommunications improvement and coordination, electronic commerce, business development using cyberspace, or other objectives. The recipient of this award is expected to compare and evaluate these science and technology plans for their impact on distressed areas, the best practices employed in targeting distressed areas, their innovative approach, their successful implementation, their economic

development impact, and their replicability in other states.

The resulting data must be appropriately analyzed and the results, with recommendations as appropriate, presented in a final report to be available for use by all states and other interested parties.

The applicant will also be required to conduct briefings and training workshops for organizations interested in using the approaches compiled and examined under this project. These briefings and training workshops will be conducted in Washington, D.C., and the six EDA regional offices and will total no more than one such briefing/workshop for each of the seven locations.

Cost: If properly justified, the Assistant Secretary may consider a waiver of the required 25 percent local share of the total project cost.

Timing: The project should be completed and the final report submitted by March 31, 1997.

- Impact of Incubator Investments.

EDA invites technical assistance proposals to develop criteria to evaluate the impact of the incubator on the community.

Background: In North America there are about 540 business incubation programs serving more than 8,000 in-house clients and affiliates. Over 5,000 companies have "graduated" from these incubation programs. Fifty-three percent of the incubators are considered urban, 28 percent rural, and 19 percent suburban. The basic types of incubators are: mixed use 47 percent, technology 20 percent, light manufacturing 13 percent, service 9 percent and micro enterprise/empowerment 11 percent.

Local, state and Federal Government agencies, economic development agencies, colleges and universities, for-profit firms, nonprofit organizations such as neighborhood revitalization organizations, as well as combinations of all these groups have provided financial assistance to construct and operate business incubation programs. Each sponsor may have its own goals for participation in the incubation programs. These goals may include diversification of the economy, development or expansion of small business sector of the local economy, increased employment and income in general and sometimes in specific neighborhoods, increased property usage and values, business retention, maintenance of population in particular areas, transfer of technology from universities and research laboratories, and development of a targeted technology infrastructure.

Many incubation programs fail to keep records of incubator outcomes related to firm growth, employment, revenues, achievements of goals, and other community benefits. This may be due to failure to develop evaluation criteria, or the lack of resources to measure performance and determine outcomes. This project may require the development of performance measures and outcomes in such instances to be used by economic development organizations.

Most performance outcome information that will be developed or gathered will provide only a "score" of how well the characteristic being measured is doing. Outcome indicators, in general, will not tell the extent to which the program has actually caused the observed outcomes. Only a substantive in-depth program evaluation can determine the extent to which program activity caused the measured results—the impact of the program on the local economy.

An incubator's impact on a local community and economy comes from its ability to create a dynamic environment for the creation of new enterprises, and hence, new work. These goals are rarely realized over the time-span a firm is in an incubator, but extend into the long-term because of the nature of the business development cycle. Therefore, the goal of an external evaluation should be to determine progress toward long-term developmental goals. Proposals sought hereby will determine the appropriate evaluation methodology for the impact of various kinds of incubation programs on their local economies.

Scope of Work: The successful applicant will: (1) develop performance measures for different types of incubator programs if not already available; (2) test the measures against a representative sample of 50 to 100 diverse incubator programs; (3) determine and analyze in depth the impact of the incubator investments on the local economy; (4) prepare a final report on the methodology developed and the analysis performed, as well as the long-term policy implications of different kinds of incubation programs; and (5) conduct briefings and training workshops in Washington, D.C., and EDA's six Regional Offices on the methodology developed, the analysis performed and the policy implications and will total no more than one such briefing/workshop for each of the seven locations.

Cost: If properly justified, the Assistant Secretary may consider a waiver of the required 25 percent local share of the total project cost.

Timing: The project should be completed and the final report submitted by June 30, 1997.

B. Research and Evaluation Program

• Performance Measure Testing and Impact of Public Infrastructure Investments.

EDA invites a research and evaluation proposal pertaining to performance measurement testing and the impact of public infrastructure investments. The primary purpose of this project is to develop a methodology that local, state and other Federal agencies can adapt and replicate to analyze the impacts that result from their public infrastructure and other investments. The test subjects for this project will be EDA grant projects. There are dual components. Each component has its own scope of work and deadline, although the two components are inherently related. The two components are:

(I) Performance Measure Testing—to gather and analyze data to test newly-developed program core performance measures; and (II) Impact of Public Infrastructure Investment—to develop and test a methodology for determining the impacts (economic benefits) resulting from public infrastructure investments on local economies. While the ultimate objective is a workable methodology, an essential prerequisite is the determination of the effectiveness of performance measures.

I. Performance Measure Testing—Background: EDA has recently established a core set of performance measures for each of its grant program areas. These measures can be tested by reviewing two groups of projects that have been approved in previous years to determine the extent to which these specific performance measures are valid or need refining. The project will involve a review of project files, interviews with EDA staff and grantees, site visits, surveys (written or phone), etc. The resulting data must be appropriately analyzed and the results presented in a separate final report for each group of projects.

A. *The Performance Measures.* The following core measures are to be tested under this project:

• Performance and outcomes at project completion—Construction Projects.

1. Construction schedule met as to start and finish dates.
2. Private sector dollars invested in the EDA Project (proposed, at time of approval).
3. Private sector dollars invested in the EDA project (actual, at time of completion).

4. Other dollars (Federal, state and local) invested in the EDA Project.

5. Other dollars invested (nonfederal, local and private) directly related to, but not part of the EDA Project.

6. Local capacity improved Diversification of local economy.

7. Local capacity improved: Intended beneficiary(ies) actually established in the community.

• Performance and outcomes at project completion—Capacity-Building Projects.

1. For Research/Evaluation and Technical Assistance projects: Project start and finish dates met.

2. For Planning projects: Annual update of Overall Economic Development Program (OEDP) completed.

3. For all capacity-building projects, grantee comment: with 1 to 10 (10=best) numerical response for following questions:

a. Quality of local OEDP/Adjustment Assistance (Title IX) Strategy.

b. Extent of participation by government, business and community leaders, i.e., building of community partnerships.

c. Extent projects implemented are based on OEDP/Title IX Strategy.

d. Quality of evaluation or feasibility study.

e. Impact of feasibility study on project planning.

• Performance and outcomes at project completion—Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Projects.

1. Implementation schedule for disbursement of RLF dollars met.

2. Jobs created and retained (actual) through RLF loans.

3. Number of businesses assisted by the RLF.

4. Non-EDA dollars invested.

a. Private sector dollars invested.

b. Other dollars invested.

5. RLF capital base (grant+local share+net income generated—write-offs).

• Project outcomes at 2 and 4 years after completion—Construction Projects.

1. Jobs created and retained, as estimated on application.

2. Jobs created and retained—actual.

3. Private sector dollars invested in the EDA project—actual.

4. Other dollars (Federal, state and local) invested in the EDA project—actual.

5. Other dollars invested (nonfederal, local and private) directly related to, but not part of the EDA project.

6. Other dollars invested indirectly related to the EDA project.

7. Increase in local tax base (percentage) (actual or based on recognized multiplier).

Project outcomes at 2 and 4 years after completion—Capacity-Building Projects.

For all capacity-building projects, grantee comment: with 1 to 10 (10=best) numerical response for following questions:

1. Quality of local OEDP/Title IX Strategy.

2. Extent of participation by government, business and community leaders, i.e., building of community partnerships.

3. Extent projects implemented are based on OEDP/Title IX Strategy.

4. Quality of evaluation or feasibility study.

5. Impact of feasibility study on project planning.

• Project outcomes at 2 and 4 years after completion—RLF Projects.

1. Jobs created and retained (actual) through RLF loans.

2. Number of businesses assisted by the RLF.

3. Private sector dollars invested.

4. Other dollars invested.

5. RLF capital base (grants+local share+net income generated—write-offs).

B. *The Projects.* The core measures are to be tested on the following two groups of projects:

1. Fiscal Year (FY) completed Public Works projects.

Under its Public Works program, EDA makes infrastructure grants to help distressed communities generate long-term, private sector jobs and diversity their economies. Among the types of projects funded are water and sewer facilities, access roads to industrial sites, and business incubator buildings. The universe of projects for the analysis sought is approximately 175 EDA public works grants for which final construction activities and project closeout were completed between October 1, 1989, and September 30, 1990. The individual projects are located throughout the U.S. The project files are retained in the six EDA regional offices.

2. Defense Adjustment Assistance Projects.

Under this program EDA makes grants to help communities design and implement strategies for adjustment to changes in their economic situation that cause or threaten to cause serious structural damage to their economic base due to defense downsizing or base closures. Grants under this program include infrastructure improvements similar to those in 1 above, strategically-targeted business development and financial assistance, assistance for developing adjustment strategies (planning), or technical assistance.

This group of projects includes grants approved in FY 1993 through FY 1995 as follows:

FY 1993 36 projects for \$48 million
FY 1994 81 projects for \$162 million
FY 1995 73 projects for \$135 million

Many of these grants are currently active, that is, the grant-funded project is not yet completed. The projects are located throughout the U.S. The project files are retained in the six EDA regional offices.

Scope of Work: The successful applicant will determine, on both a project-by-project basis and in the aggregate, the extent to which the two groups of projects met the core performance measurement standards that EDA has established, how effective the standards measure the program's performance, and what adjustments to the core measures may be necessary based on this analysis.

In separate final reports on the public works and defense adjustment assistance project components, the applicant must fully document how the tests were conducted and provide the basis for any changes recommended.

The applicant will also be required to conduct briefings and training workshops for organizations interested in learning about the results of the performance measurement project. These workshops will be conducted in Washington, and in EDA's six regional offices and will total no more than one such briefing/workshop for each of the seven locations.

Cost: No local share match is required for this project. Half of the funding for the testing of performance measures on the defense program will be provided by the Office of Economic Adjustment of the Department of Defense.

Timing: This component of the project should be completed and the final reports submitted by February 28, 1997.

II. Impact of Public Infrastructure Investments—Backgrounds: The Federal Government and states administer several grant programs that provide financial assistance to communities for constructing or expanding public infrastructure facilities, although only EDA projects and performance measures are being analyzed in this project. These grant programs may strive toward various social goals, such as ensuring the availability of safe drinking water by replacing water lines, expanding communications links by building or maintaining public highways, or, in the case of the EDA public works program, reducing economic distress by fostering the creation of new employment opportunities. Some of these programs

have begun to measure their own performances. EDA has developed and will apply a core set of performance measures to its programs on a prospective basis beginning October 1, 1996. These measures are expected to produce quantifiable outcomes of EDA's programs.

The component of this two-part project described in the previous section will test EDA's core performance measures to gain knowledge for the economic development community of how performance measures can be applied, tested, analyzed and adjusted. Most outcomes measured by the core performance measures, however, will provide only a "score" of how well the particular characteristics being measured are doing. The outcome indicators will *not* generally tell the extent to which the program has actually caused the observed outcomes. Only a substantive in-depth program evaluation can reasonably uncover the link between performance indicators and program activities. There is, moreover, no widely accepted methodology for determining the economic and social benefits—the economic impacts on the local community—that actually result from public works infrastructure investments.

Previous evaluations of EDA's public works program have suggested that criteria such as project utilization, job creation/retention efficiency, job quality, shift-share analysis, attribution (whether EDA's contribution was necessary for the implementation of the project), related private sector investments, increases in the tax revenues, and other outcomes could be used to measure the economic impact of public works projects on the local economy. The second component of this project will develop an appropriate methodology for evaluating the economic impacts of EDA's infrastructure investments.

Much of the economic impacts from public infrastructure investments are believed to occur a considerable time after the completion of project construction. To maximize the probability that these impacts will have been realized, EDA proposes that approximately 175 EDA public works grants, for which final construction activities and project closeout were completed between October 1, 1989 and September 30, 1990, serve as the universe for this economic impact analysis. This is the same group of projects referred to in I.B.1. above.

In the development of the methodology, EDA suggests that the analysis of impacts be targeted and focused to realistic boundaries within

which economic impacts on a local economy can reasonably be attributed to the EDA infrastructure investment. In many instances, the area of measurable and reasonably attributable impacts may be smaller than traditional areas of socioeconomic measurement such as city or county or state boundaries. Boundaries targeted for this analysis may have to be focused down to the level of census tracts. In the process of conducting the analysis, developing the methodology and subsequently testing it upon the specified universe of infrastructure projects, therefore, EDA expects the recipient to limit to the greater extent possible any broad-scale comparison of local impacts to unreasonably large and/or national boundaries.

Communities that received grants under the public works program are dispersed across the Nation. The project files for these grants are located in EDA's six regional offices.

Scope of Work: The successful applicant will develop a methodology for determining and measuring the economic impacts of specific public infrastructure investments. The methodology will be tested on the previously-mentioned 175 EDA public works grants completed in FY 1990. EDA expects the methodology to reflect the core measures that will be applied to EDA's programs, as well as other relevant measures suggested by the analysis of the public works projects.

The final report must fully document the methodology used for the project as well as revisions suggested by testing the methodology on the 175 public works projects. Actual impacts identified for each of the 175 public works projects must also be documented in the final report.

The applicant will also be required to conduct briefings and training workshops for organizations interested in using the methodology developed under this project. These briefings and training workshops will be conducted in Washington, D.C., and the six EDA regional offices and will total no more than one such briefing/workshop for each of the seven locations.

Cost: No local match is required for this project.

Timing: This second component of the project should be completed and the final report submitted by June 30, 1997.

- Performance Measurement Bibliography.

EDA invites research proposals to develop an annotated bibliography of current literature on economic development performance measurement and economic impact studies.

Background: With the current emphasis on improved program performance measured by results, service quality, and customer satisfaction, economic development funders at the Federal, state and local level are faced with the challenge of developing measures and methods for determining how well their programs perform. EDA has recently established a program performance and evaluation system to measure the output and outcomes of its program funding. This system builds on existing efforts at measuring the performance of economic development programs at the Federal and state levels.

The bibliography should chronicle the universal principles and standards for measuring the outcomes and impacts of economic development investments, with reference to current and recent benchmarking, performance measurement and economic impact studies.

Scope of Work: The successful applicant will (1) survey current and recent literature on economic development performance measurement and impact studies; (2) organize the literature in appropriate groupings; (3) in a final report, provide brief comments on the content of each article or book; (4) assemble a prototype public library containing copy of each article or book included in the annotated bibliography, including a computer disk version, where available, for inclusion in a future on-line public library; and (5) conduct a briefing on the findings in the Washington, D.C., office of EDA.

Cost: No local match is required for this project.

Timing: This project should be completed and the final report submitted by December 31, 1996.

- EDA/DOD-OEA/Federal Government Role in Cluster-Based Economic Development.

EDA invites research and evaluation proposals to determine the role EDA, the Department of Defense's Office of Economic Adjustment (DOD/ OEA) or other Federal agencies might play in promoting cluster development as an economic development tool, particularly as it relates to defense conversion.

Background: Industry or business clusters are important economic development tools to the extent that they facilitate regional competitive advantages in the development and production of high-value, large-market goods or services. Some proponents suggest that a successful cluster development requires the presence of three specific elements: (1) Collaborative and competitive networks

that form the supporting infrastructure for technology-based businesses; (2) a strong, basic manufacturing base characterized by multiple competing firms rather than several large, vertically integrated firms; and (3) a strong commitment among business and government leaders to reinforcing the region's viability as a regional hub for high value manufacturing.

EDA has promoted cluster development as an economic development tool in communities whose economies have been adversely affected by defense expenditures reductions. In the case of flat panel display development in Florida and efficient pollution-free vehicle development in California, EDA provided funding to assist already-established, cluster-oriented organizations construct or equip test facilities for products produced by the members of the organizations. California organizations, including, but not limited to the Goldstrike Partnership and Regional Technology Alliance, Bay Area Economic Forum, Joint Venture Silicon Valley, and the High Technology Council of Los Angeles, received EDA funding for the development of a collaborative process involving the members of certain industries and stakeholders. EDA also awarded DRI/McGraw-Hill a grant to define and identify the industry clusters that drive the U.S. economy; explore the emerging practices of states and regions in fostering cluster development; and convene the first national conference on cluster-driven regional economic development.

Scope of Work: The successful applicant will (1) analyze the role of cluster development in economic development in general and in defense adjustment, in particular; (2) document the degree to which the three elements thought to be necessary for cluster development were present in the EDA-supported cluster development projects and whether the EDA assistance facilitated or followed the development of those elements; (3) determine if all three elements must be present for the formation of a successful technology-based business or industry cluster; (4) determine if, how, and at what cost Federal support can influence the development of those elements; (5) estimate the time-frame required for the development of those elements; (6) suggest the appropriate role, if any, the Federal Government should play in promoting cluster development. The applicant will be required to submit a final report documenting its findings from this project and to conduct briefings and training workshops for

entities interested in the results of this project. These briefings and training workshops will be conducted in Washington, D.C., and the six EDA regional offices and will total no more than one such briefing/workshop for each of the seven locations.

In undertaking this analysis, the applicant will review the cluster projects that EDA has funded to identify the various stages of organization and project development of the cluster process in different communities. This will require examining EDA grant files and contacting various people who were involved in developing the cluster-oriented organizations and projects. Files for these projects are located in EDA's Seattle, Atlanta and Austin regional offices.

Costs: No local match is required for this project. Half of the funding for this project will be provided by the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) of the Department of Defense.

Timing: The project should be completed and final report submitted by June 20, 1997.

- Leveraging Capital for Defense Adjustment Infrastructure Assistance.

EDA invites research proposals to examine the potential for new and innovative techniques for leveraging significant capital for increased defense adjustment infrastructure assistance, including construction related to military base reuse.

Background: The capital required for most defense adjustment infrastructure (re)development exceeds the ability of many communities to raise. Public funding for defense adjustment appropriation is modest compared with the current need for infrastructure assistance. This project would evaluate and recommend, if appropriate, alternative approaches to financing defense adjustment infrastructure projects, such as partially securing large bond issues, or providing for the first several years of payment on large bond issues until new tenants, etc., can pick up the costs. It would also evaluate what role other Federal financing mechanisms might play. The limitations and feasibility of such alternatives are not known, but could possibly serve to greatly extend the impact of limited defense program public works funds.

Scope of Work: The successful applicant will (1) bring together a panel of public and private sector financial experts to explore the full range of realistic, innovative financing alternatives, and (2) prepare a comprehensive report and conduct briefings and training for interested parties, which document the alternatives and recommendations.

These briefings and training workshops will be conducted in Washington, D.C., and the six EDA regional offices and will total no more than one such briefing/workshop for each of the seven locations.

Cost: No local match is required for this project. Half of the funding for this report will be provided by DOD/OEA.

Timing: This project should be completed and the final report submitted by January 31, 1997.

III. How To Apply

A. Eligible Applicants

- **National Technical Assistance**—See 13 CFR 307.12 in EDA's final rule at 13 CFR chapter III, 61 FR 7979, March 1, 1996, as corrected in 61 FR 15371, April 8, 1996, and its interim-final rule at 60 FR 49670, September 26, 1995. Eligible applicants are as follows: public or private nonprofit organizations including nonprofit national, state, area, district, or local organizations; accredited educational institutions or nonprofit entities representing them; public sector organizations; and Native American organizations, including American Indian tribes; local governments and state agencies. Technical Assistance grant funds may not be awarded to private individuals or for-profit organizations.

- **Research and Evaluation**—See 13 CFR 307.17 in EDA's final rule at 13 CFR chapter III, 61 FR 7979, March 1, 1996, as corrected in 61 FR 15371, April 8, 1996, and its interim-final rule at 60 FR 49670, September 26, 1995. Eligible applicants are as follows: private individuals, partnerships, corporations, associations, colleges and universities, and other suitable organizations with expertise relevant to economic development research.

B. Proposal Submission Procedures

The initial proposals submitted by potential applicants may not exceed ten pages in length and should be accompanied by a proposed budget, resumes/qualifications of the key staff, and proposed time line.

IV. Selection Process and Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will receive initial reviews by EDA to assure that they meet all requirements of this announcement, including eligibility and relevance to the specified projects as described herein. The Office of Economic Adjustment of the Department of Defense will participate in evaluating proposals submitted for the Cluster Development and Leveraging Capital for Defense Adjustment Infrastructure Assistance projects described above. If a proposal is selected, EDA will provide

proponent with an Application Form, and EDA will carry out its selection process and evaluation criteria as described at 13 CFR part 304 and §§ 307.13, 307.14, 307.18, and 307.19 in EDA's final rule at 13 CFR chapter III, 61 FR 7979, March 1, 1996, as corrected in 61 FR 15371, April 8, 1996, and its interim-final rule at 60 FR 49670, September 26, 1995.

From the full proposals and application, EDA will select the applicants it deems most qualified and cost effective. EDA anticipates that more full proposals and applications will be invited than will eventually be funded.

All project records are located in or are accessible through the six EDA regional offices. Unless otherwise specified in other sections of this RFP, EDA staff support will be limited to providing access to the records.

Paperwork Reduction Act

OMB has approved these information collection requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 under OMB Control Number 0610-AA47.

Dated: June 13, 1996.

Phillip A. Singerman,
Assistant Secretary for Economic Development.

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