

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. I), this notice announces a meeting of the Ruffe Control Committee, a committee of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force established under the authority of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-646, 104 Stat. 4761, 16 U.S.C. 4701 *et seq.*, November 29, 1990). Minutes of meeting will be maintained by Coordinator, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Room 840, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203 and the Chairperson, Ruffe Control Committee, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fishery Resources Office, 2800 Lake Shore Drive East, Ashland, Wisconsin 54806, and will be available for public inspection during regular business hours, Monday through Friday within 30 days following the meeting.

Dated: June 21, 1996.

Gary Edwards,

Co-Chair, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force.

[FR Doc. 96-17225 Filed 7-5-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Fiscal Year (FY) 1996 Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Grant Program, Availability of Title II ICWA Funds for Off-Reservation Indian Organizations

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of grant funds.

SUMMARY: Title II of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, Public Law 95-608, makes grant funds available to off-reservation Indian organizations from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Department of the Interior, for the purpose of establishing and operating off-reservation Indian child and family service programs.

DATES: The closing date for the receipt of applications for all applicants is August 2, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Applications must be mailed or hand-delivered to the appropriate Area Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs listed in Part IV of this announcement.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Bureau of Indian Affairs' area office nearest to the applicant, or Betty Tippeconnie, BIA Office of Tribal Services, Mail Stop 4603-MIB, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240. Telephone (202) 208-2721.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published in exercise of authority delegated by the Secretary of the Interior to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs (Assistant Secretary) by 209 DM 8. Pursuant to 25 CFR Part 23, the Assistant Secretary hereby announces procedures necessary for eligible off-reservation Indian organizations to compete for a national allocation of \$866,000 in FY 1996 Title II ICWA grant funds.

ICWA applications for one year grants will be accepted under this notice. Applications must comply with all applicable requirements and criteria specified in Subpart D, 25 CFR Part 23. Copies of 25 CFR Part 23 ICWA grant regulations may be obtained from the Area Social Workers listed in Part IV of this notice. It is important that applicants carefully review all requirements detailed in this notice relative to application contents, deadlines, and other special instructions. Applications not received by Close of Business on August 2, 1996 will not be considered in the competition.

In accordance with 25 CFR Part 23.42, it is incumbent upon prospective grant applicants to request technical assistance from the appropriate Area Director. The deadline for the receipt of requests for technical assistance is 10 days prior to the close of the application deadline.

Part I. General Information

A. Background

It is the policy of the BIA to emphasize and facilitate the comprehensive design, development and implementation of Indian child and family service programs in coordination with other Federal, state, and local programs which strengthen and preserve Indian families and Indian tribes. Thus, applicants are encouraged to design their ICWA programs/activities to integrate with or complement existing child and family service programs or those administered by the applicant.

Section 202 of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-608, 25 U.S.C. 1932) authorizes the Secretary to make grants to off-reservation Indian organizations to establish and operate off-reservation Indian child and family service programs for the purpose of stabilizing and preventing the breakup of Indian families and, in particular, to ensure that the permanent removal of an Indian child from the custody of his/her Indian parent or custodian shall be an action of last resort. These programs are intended

to promote the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. chapter 21).

This notice provides information on the FY 1996 ICWA grant application process for eligible off-reservation Indian organizations to compete for FY 1996 ICWA grant funds.

B. Eligible Applicants

The Board of Directors of any nonprofit off-reservation Indian organization may apply for a grant under this announcement. A new application for projects of one year's duration may be submitted in response to this announcement. An applicant may not submit more than one application nor be a beneficiary of more than one grant under this or other prior notices.

C. Purpose of Off-Reservation Grants

The purpose of every Indian child and family services program shall be to prevent the breakup of Indian families, and ensure that the permanent removal of an Indian child from the custody of his/her Indian parent or custodian shall be a last resort. Off-reservation Indian child and family service programs may include, but are not limited to:

(1) A system for regulating, maintaining, and supporting Indian foster and adoptive homes, including a subsidy program under which Indian adoptive children may be provided support comparable to that for which they would be eligible as Indian foster children, taking into account the appropriate state standards of support maintenance and medical needs;

(2) The operation and maintenance of facilities and services for the counseling and treatment of Indian families and Indian foster and adoptive children with the goal of strengthening and stabilizing Indian families;

(3) Family assistance (including homemaker services and home counselors), protective day care and after school care, employment support services, recreational activities, and respite care with the goal of strengthening Indian families and contributing toward family stability; and

(4) Guidance, legal representation and advice to Indian families involved in state child custody proceedings.

Part II

A. Available Funds

In FY 1996, off-reservation Indian organizations will compete for a national allocation of \$866,000, which will be evenly distributed to the BIA's twelve area offices in the amount of \$72,166.66 per area. Pursuant to 25 CFR 23.34, Area Directors will determine

and award the appropriate grant amounts to approved off-reservation Indian organizations within their respective jurisdictions. The grant amounts awarded shall be based on an applicant's service area population and shall not exceed the funding levels identified in the table below:

Applicant's service area population	Maximum ICWA grant amount
500-1,500	\$10,000
1,501-3,000	15,000
3,001-5,000	20,000
5,001-8,000	25,000
8,001-20,000	30,000
20,001-40,000	35,000
40,001-60,000	40,000
60,001-90,000	45,000
90,001-150,000	55,000
150,001-200,000	65,000
over 200,001	72,166.66

Under no circumstances may any off-reservation Indian organization receive Indian Child Welfare Act grant funds greater than the maximum grant amount of \$72,166.66 either through a direct grant or through subgranting procedures with approved applicants.

No ICWA grant funds will be withheld at the Central Office for appeals related to off-reservation funding levels; therefore, approved applications will be funded strictly on the basis of funds available to each area office and in accordance with the funding amounts published in this grant notice. The decisions of Area Directors on funding levels are final and are not subject to appeal.

B. Service Eligibility

The service area population is the total number of Indians eligible for services under 25 CFR 23.50(b) in the geographical area to which an off-reservation Indian organization can realistically provide the services proposed in the application. The service area population is used only to determine the maximum grant amount for which an applicant may be eligible.

For purposes of eligibility for services provided under 25 U.S.C. 1932 and 1933 of the Act, any person meeting the definition of Indian, Indian child, Indian custodian, or Indian parent of any unmarried person under the age of 18 as defined in 25 CFR Section 23.2, or the definition of Indian as defined in 25 U.S.C. 1603(c), shall be eligible for ICWA services.

The applicant's service area population figures must be based upon substantiated, identifiable statistical sources. Applicants must submit copies of recent statistical data from sources which support their service area figures,

such as off-reservation State/county population figures, U.S. Census data, or off-reservation service area population data maintained by the Indian Health Service for urban Indian populations.

Part III. Application Selection Criteria

A. Statutory Authority

The BIA's Indian Child Welfare Act grants program is authorized by Title II of Public Law 95-608, the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1901 *et seq.*; 25 CFR Part 23). All grant applications submitted under this notice shall be scored individually and recommended for grant awards in compliance with the application procedures, mandatory application requirements, and the application selection criteria specified in Subpart D, 25 CFR Part 23.

B. Closing Date for Receipt of Applications for All Applications

The closing date for receipt of applications under this grant notice is Close of Business on August 2, 1996, for all applicants. All applications for off-reservation Indian Child Welfare Act grants must be received by the appropriate BIA Area Director, as specified in 25 CFR 23.31 and 25 CFR 23.11, on or before 5:00 p.m. or the official Close of Business for that office on the closing date of the application period. The names and addresses of all BIA area offices are listed in Part IV of this notice. Hand-delivered applications will be accepted during normal work hours, Monday through Friday. Postmarks *will not* be considered as meeting the deadline. Applications that do not meet the deadline for the receipt of applications will not be considered in the competitive review.

C. Mandatory Application Requirements for All Applicants

Pursuant to 25 CFR 23.33(a), an application for a one-year competitive grant under Subpart D, 25 CFR Part 23, shall be submitted to the appropriate Area Director. All mandatory application requirements for Indian organization applicants specified at 25 CFR 23.33(b) must be met. An application missing any of the mandatory requirements will not be reviewed further.

In addition to the foregoing requirements, existing ICWA grantees must submit a copy of a satisfactory program evaluation for the previous year of operation from the appropriate area office in order to be considered for funding in FY 1996 (25 CFR 23.33(e)).

The grant application shall be no longer than 40 double-spaced pages,

excluding the appendix. The table of contents and appendices will not be counted toward the maximum length. It is recommended that the appendix be no longer than 20 pages. If an application is longer than the established page limitation, only the first 40 double-spaced or first 20 single-spaced pages will be reviewed. All applicants must submit one original application and three copies of the complete application to the respective Area Director.

Information included in the appendix should relate specifically to the application. The appendix may include, but is not limited to the following: resolutions, support letters, position descriptions, current or recent fiscal, management, or accounting certification, operational internal monitoring systems, and non-profit status documentation.

In accordance with 25 CFR 23.41, grantees must adhere to and comply with all the general and uniform grant administration provisions and requirements specified at 25 CFR Part 276 and those identified in Subpart E, 25 CFR 23. Failure to meet and comply with these regulatory requirements may result in suspension, cancellation and/or termination of program funds.

D. Competitive Application Selection Criteria

The Area Director or his/her designated representative shall select those proposals which will in his/her judgment best promote the purposes of the Indian Child Welfare Act. Selection shall be made through the area review committee process in which each application will be scored individually and ranked according to score, taking into consideration the mandatory requirements as specified above and the competitive application selection criteria specified at 25 CFR 23.33.

E. Scoring and Grant Application Selection Criteria

Upon receipt of an application for an off-reservation grant under Subpart D, 25 CFR 23, the appropriate Area Director shall comply with the application review and decision making procedures specified at 25 CFR 23.33 and 23.34.

An application shall not receive approval for funding under the area competitive review and scoring process unless a review of the application determines that it:

(1) Contains all the information required in 25 CFR 23.33(b) and which must have been received by the close of the application period. Modifications of the grant application received after the

close of the application period shall not be considered in the competitive review process; and

(2) Receives at least a minimum score of 85 points in an area competitive review, using the competitive application selection criteria and scoring process set out in 25 CFR 23.33 and 23.34.

If two or more applications receive the same competitive score, the applicant with the largest service area population will receive priority funding consideration. At least one approved applicant per area will be funded, provided, that the applicants fully meet the competitive selection criteria cited above.

The actual funding amounts awarded for the FY 1996 grant year shall be subject to appropriations available nationwide and the amount of funds available within the respective area office. Final funding decisions for all approved grant applications under Subpart D, 25 CFR 23, rest with respective Area Director and are not subject to appeal.

F. Grant Review and Award Process

The Area Director shall review each application through a competitive process and take the appropriate course of action on all off-reservation ICWA grant applications received in response to this notice in accordance with the established requirements and time frames in 25 CFR Parts 23.33(a) and 23.34, respectively. Grant award documents shall be executed and actual grant amounts awarded as expeditiously as possible by the respective Area Director.

No ICWA grant funds will be withheld at the Central Office for purposes of appeals related to funding levels.

G. Appeals

A grantee or applicant may appeal any decision made or action taken by the Area Director under Subpart D, 25 CFR 23, that is alleged to be in violation of the U.S. Constitution, Federal statutes, or regulations of this part. These appeals shall be filed with the Interior Board of Indian Appeals in accordance with 25 CFR 2.4(e); 43 CFR 4.310 through 4.318 and 43 CFR 4.330 through 4.340. An applicant may not appeal a score assigned to its application or the amount of grant funds awarded.

A notice of appeal must be filed within 30 days of the appellant's receipt of the decision being appealed. The notice must be filed in the office of the official whose decision is being appealed. The date of filing is the date

the notice of appeal is postmarked or the date it is personally delivered to the official's immediate office (25 CFR 2.9(a); 25 CFR 2.13(a)). The burden of proof of timely filing is on the appellant. No extension of time will be granted for filing a notice of appeal (25 CFR 2.9(a) and 2.16).

Within 30 days of the filing of the notice of appeal, a statement of reasons must be filed in the office of the official whose decision is being appealed. The statement of reasons may, however, be included in or filed with the notice of appeal (25 CFR 2.10). Appeals will be handled in accordance with the provisions set forth at 25 CFR 2.20.

Part IV. BIA Area Offices—Area Social Workers

All application materials must be submitted in person or mailed to the appropriate Bureau of Indian Affairs' Area Director. The following is a listing of the 12 BIA Area Social Workers designated by the Area Directors to receive ICWA grant applications from off-reservation Indian organizations.

Aberdeen Area Office: Gerald Gallegos; 115 4th Avenue, S.E.; Aberdeeen, SD 57401; 605/226-7351.

Albuquerque Area Office: Joseph Naranjo; 615 1st Street N.W.; P.O. Box 26567; Albuquerque, NM 87125-6567; 505/766-3321.

Anadarko Area Office: Retha Murdock; 1½ mile North Highway 281; WCD Office Complex; P.O. Box 368; Anadarko, OK 73005; 405/247-6673 ext. 257.

Billings Area Office: Louise Zokan-Delos Reyes; 316 North 26th Street; Billings, MT 59101; 406/247-7988.

Eastern Area Office: James Sanders; 3701 N. Fairfax Drive; Suite 260; Arlington, VA 22203; 703/235-2353.

Juneau Area Office: Jimmie Clemmons; 709 West 9th Street; Federal Building, Room 301A; Juneau, AK 99801; 907/586-7628.

Minneapolis Area Office: Rosalie Clark; 331 South Second Avenue; 7th floor; MN 55401; 612/373-1182.

Muskogee Area Office: Lafonda Mathews; Federal Courthouse Building; 101 North 5th Street; Muskogee, OK 74401-6206, 918/687-2507.

Navajo Area Office: Vivian Hailstorm; 301 West Hill St.; P.O. Box 1060; MC-440, Gallup, NM 87301; 505/863-8215.

Phoenix Area Office: Evelyn S. Roanhorse; 1 North First Street; P.O. Box 10; Phoenix, AZ 85001; 602/379-6785.

Portland Area Office: Robert C. Carr; 911 N.E. 11th Avenue; Portland, OR 97232-4169; 503/231-6783.

Sacramento Area Office: Kevin Sanders; Federal Office Building; 2800

Cottage Way; Sacramento, CA 95825; 916/978-2545.

Dated: June 28, 1996.

Ada E. Deer,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 96-17171 Filed 7-5-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-02-M

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-960-1990-00]

Butte District Resource Advisory Council Meeting

AGENCY: Butte District Office, Bureau of Land Management.

ACTION: Notice of Butte District Resource Advisory Council meeting, Butte, Montana.

SUMMARY: The Council will convene at 8 a.m. on July 31, 1996, and will continue through August 1, 1996, if all business is not completed on the 31st. This is a regularly scheduled meeting; topics to be discussed will include Westslope Cutthroat Trout, current cooperative weed management efforts, and a presentation by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks personnel on Bighorn Sheep pneumonia and its implications. The meeting will be held at the Copper King Inn, 4655 Harrison Avenue in Butte.

The meeting is open to the public and written comments may be given to the Council. Oral comments may be presented to the Council at 11 a.m. The time allotted for oral comment may be limited, depending on the number of persons wishing to be heard. Individuals who plan to attend and need further information about the meeting; or need special assistance, such as sign language or other reasonable accommodations, should contact the Butte District, 106 North Parkmont (PO Box 3388), Butte Montana 59702; telephone 406-494-5059.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Owings at the above address or telephone number.

Dated: June 24, 1996.

James R. Owings,

District Manager.

[FR Doc. 96-17185 Filed 7-5-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DN-M

[CO-050-1020-00]

Front Range Resource Advisory Council (Colorado) Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.