

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, February 17, 1998.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 98-4386 Filed 2-20-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-F

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841 *et seq.*) (BHC Act), Regulation Y (12 CFR Part 225), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The application also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)). If the proposal also involves the acquisition of a nonbanking company, the review also includes whether the acquisition of the nonbanking company complies with the standards in section 4 of the BHC Act. Unless otherwise noted, nonbanking activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than March 19, 1998.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland (Paul Kaboth, Banking Supervisor) 1455 East Sixth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44101-2566:

1. *First Citizens Banc Corp.*, Sandusky, Ohio; to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of The Farmers State Bank of New Washington, New Washington, Ohio.

B. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta (Lois Berthaume, Vice President) 104 Marietta Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2713:

1. *First American Corporation, and First American National Bank*, both of Nashville, Tennessee; to merge with Victory Bancshares Inc., Memphis, Tennessee, and thereby indirectly

acquire Victory Bank and Trust Company, Memphis, Tennessee. Comments regarding this application must be received by March 9, 1998.

C. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (Karen L. Grandstrand, Vice President) 90 Hennepin Avenue, P.O. Box 291, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55480-0291:

1. *Farmers State Corporation*, Mountain Lake, Minnesota; to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of Community Bank New Ulm, New Ulm, Minnesota.

D. Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas (Genie D. Short, Vice President) 2200 North Pearl Street, Dallas, Texas 75201-2272:

1. *First Azle Bancshares, Inc.*, *Employee Stock Ownership Plan*, Azle, Texas; to become a bank holding company by acquiring 26.20 percent of the voting shares of First Azle Bancshares, Inc., Azle, Texas, and thereby indirectly acquire First Bank, Azle, Texas.

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GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Office of Acquisition Policy; Determination of Executive Compensation Benchmark Amount Pursuant to Section 808 of the FY 1998 Defense Authorization Act

AGENCY: General Services Administration (GSA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Acting Administrator of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) has requested that the General Services Administration publish the following notice regarding his determination pursuant to Section 808 of the FY 1998 Defense Authorization Act related to the allowability of certain personal compensation costs covered by the Federal Acquisition Regulation at 48 CFR 31.205-6.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr. Richard C. Loeb, Executive Secretary, Cost Accounting Standards Board, OFPP, on (202) 395-3254.

Dated: February 13, 1998.

Edward C. Loeb,

Director, Federal Acquisition Policy Division.

Executive Office of the President

Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503

February 12, 1998.

To the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Determination of Executive Compensation Benchmark Amount Pursuant to Section 808 of the FY 1998 Defense Authorization Act, Pub. L. 105-85

This memorandum sets forth the "benchmark compensation amount" as required by Section 39 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) Act (41 U.S.C. 435), as amended. Under Section 39, the "benchmark compensation amount" is "the median amount of the compensation provided for all senior executives of all benchmark corporations for the most recent year for which data is available." The "benchmark compensation amount" established as directed by Section 39 limits the allowability of compensation costs under government contracts. The "benchmark compensation amount" does not limit the compensation that an executive may otherwise receive.

Based on a review of commercially available surveys of executive compensation and after consultation with the Director of the Defense Contract Audit Agency, I have determined pursuant to the requirements of Section 39 that the benchmark compensation amount for contractor fiscal year 1998 is \$340,650. This benchmark compensation amount is to be used for contractor fiscal year 1998, and subsequent contractor fiscal years, unless and until revised by OFPP. This benchmark compensation amount applies to contract costs incurred after January 1, 1998, under covered contracts of both the defense and civilian procurement agencies as specified in Section 808 of the FY 1998 Defense Authorization Act.

Questions concerning this memorandum may be addressed to Richard C. Loeb, Executive Secretary, Cost Accounting Standards Board, OFPP, on (202) 395-3254. Allan E. Brown,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 98-4291 Filed 2-20-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820-EP-M

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Public Buildings Service Notice of Availability of Agency Record of Decision for a New Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Fresno, CA

The United States General Services Administration (GSA) announces its decision, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Regulations issued by the Council on Environmental Quality,

November 29, 1978, to construct a new United States Courthouse in downtown Fresno, California.

The new Courthouse will be 360,000 gross square feet, with 392 parking spaces. The project will be developed on a site of approximately 4.5 acre. This site size will accommodate possible building expansion to meet the U.S. Courts long term requirements.

The General Services Administration has prepared a Record of Decision (ROD) for the proposed project and believes that there are no outstanding issues to be resolved. Copies of the ROD are available and can be obtained from Mr. Javad Soltani, GSA, Portfolio Management (9PT), Public Building, Services, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102, at (415) 522-3493.

Ken Schreiber,

Portfolio Management (9PT), PBS, GSA, Pacific Rim Region.

[FR Doc. 98-4429 Filed 2-20-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

State Offices of Rural Health Grant Program

AGENCY: Health Resources and Services Administration. HHS.

ACTION: Notice of availability of funds.

SUMMARY: The Office of Rural Health Policy, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), announces that applications are being accepted for matching grants to States for the purpose of improving health care in rural areas through the continued operation of State Offices of Rural Health. This program is authorized by section 338J of the Public Health Service Act 42 U.S.C. 254r. Awards will be made from funds appropriated under Public Law 105-78 (HHS Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1998). Approximately \$3.0 million will be available to support 50 grants in fiscal year (FY) 1998.

Background

This Federal-State partnership helps America's rural communities rebuild their health care system by supporting initiatives and partnerships in rural health development. Begun in 1991, the State Office of Rural Health Grant Program has spurred the development of State offices by providing matching funds for their creation and a forum for exchanging information and strategies

among States, providing an institutional framework that links small rural communities with State and Federal resources and developing long-term solutions to rural health problems.

Other Award Information

Grant applications should be submitted for a five-year project period. Funding will be for a single year. Continued funding is contingent upon the availability of Federal funds and satisfactory performance by the grantee. Only one grant application may be submitted from each State. It must indicate approval by a senior official of the State Health Department or their designee.

This is a renewal of an existing grant program that features a single grantee from each of the 50 States. A list of these grantees may be obtained by contacting Roberto Anson, Office of Rural Health Policy, HRSA, at (301) 443-0835.

Requesting Applications

Call the HRSA Grants Application Center at 1-888-300-4772 to request a grant application kit and program guidance for the State Office of Rural Health Grant Program (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) No. 93.913). Applications and guidance will be available following publication of this notice.

The standard application form and general instructions for completing applications (Form PHS-5161-1, OMB 0937-0189) have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget.

Deadline for Submitting Applications

Application deadline for this program is March 23, 1998. The application must be postmarked no later than March 23, 1998. Applicants should submit the signed original and two copies of the application to the: HRSA GRANTS APPLICATION CENTER, 40 West Gude Drive, Suite 100, Rockville, MD 20850.

Applications shall be considered as meeting the deadline if they are either: (1) Received on or before the deadline date; or (2) postmarked on or before the deadline date and received in time for orderly processing. A legibly dated receipt from a commercial carrier or U.S. Postal Service will be accepted in lieu of a postmark. Private metered postmarks will not be acceptable as proof of timely mailing. Late applications will be returned to the sender.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for technical or programmatic information should be directed to Roberto Anson, Director, State Offices of Rural Health Grant Program, Office of

Rural Health Policy, HRSA, (301) 443-0835.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

Program Objectives

The purpose of the program is to improve health care in rural areas. To receive a Federal grant, each State must agree that its State Office of Rural Health will carry out at least the following activities: (1) Establish and maintain a clearinghouse for collecting and disseminating information on rural health care issues; (2) coordinate the activities carried out in the State that relate to rural health care, including providing coordination for the purpose of avoiding duplication in such activities; (3) identify Federal, State and non-governmental programs regarding rural health, and provide technical assistance to public and nonprofit private entities regarding participation in such programs; and (4) help develop rural health policies through inter-organization collaborations and partnerships. In addition to these required activities, State Offices of Rural Health are encouraged to use Federal grant funds for activities that support, but do not directly fund, the recruitment and retention of health professionals to serve in rural areas. State Offices must also submit an annual report regarding its performance, progress and activities.

Federal funds under this grant program may not be used to: (1) Provide health care services; (2) purchase medical equipment, vehicles or real property; or (3) conduct certificate of need activities. Also, not more than 10% of grant funds may be expended on research.

Eligible Applicants

The fifty States.

The State (e.g., Department of Health, State University) can conduct the required and any discretionary activities directly or through grants or contracts to other public or nonprofit private entities (e.g., University, Area Health Education Center). To encourage States to commit their own resources, this program requires a match of three non-Federal dollars for every one Federal dollar to support the operation of their State Office of Rural Health.

Review Criteria

Grant applications will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- (1) The extent to which the application is responsive to the requirements and purposes of this Federal-State partnership program;
- (2) The extent to which the applicant has developed measurable goals,