

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4453-N-01]

Notice of Funding Availability; Economic Development and Supportive Services Carryover Funding Competition**AGENCY:** Office of Public and Indian Housing, HUD.**ACTION:** Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA).

SUMMARY: *Purpose of the Program.* The purpose of the Economic Development and Supportive Services (EDSS) program is to provide grants to public housing agencies (PHAs), and Tribes or tribally designated housing entities (TDHEs) to enable them to establish and implement programs that increase resident self-sufficiency, and support continued independent living for elderly or disabled residents.

Available Funds. Approximately \$23.5 million in carryover funding is being made available for the EDSS program under this NOFA.

Eligible Applicants. PHAs, and Tribes or TDHEs that have not received a previous EDSS grant are eligible recipients under this NOFA.

Application Deadline. Completed applications (one original and two copies) must be submitted, no later than 12:00 midnight local time on April 26, 1999 for this Program;

Match. All grants require a match of at least 25% of the grant amount. This match does not have to be a cash match. It can be in-kind and/or cash contributions. (See section IV. (A)(3) for more detailed requirements.)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: If you are interested in applying for funding under this program, please review carefully the following information:

I. Application Due Date, Application Kits, and Technical Assistance

Application Due Date: Completed applications (one original and two copies) must be submitted, no later than 12:00 midnight local time on April 26, 1999 for this Program;

Address for Submitting Applications: An original and two copies of the application must be received by the application due date at the local Field Office with delegated public housing responsibilities, attention: Director, Office of Public Housing or, in the case of Tribes or TDHEs, to the Administrator, Area Office of Native American Programs (AONAP), as appropriate. A list of HUD Field Office addresses is available as part of the application kit.

Mailed Applications: Applications will be considered timely if postmarked on or before 12:00 midnight on the application due date and received by the local HUD Field Office or AONAP.

Applications Sent by Overnight/Express Mail Delivery: Applications sent by overnight delivery or express mail will be considered timely filed if received on or before the application due date, or upon submission of documentary evidence that they had been placed in transit with the overnight delivery service by no later than the specified application due date.

Hand Carried Applications: Hand carried applications to Local HUD Field Offices or AONAPs will be accepted during normal business hours on or before the application due date.

For Application Kits, Further Information and Technical Assistance

For Application Kits. For an application kit and any supplemental information please call the Public and Indian Housing Information and Resource Center at 1-800-955-2232. Persons with hearing or speech impairments may call the Center's TTY number at 1-800-HUD-2209. When requesting an application kit, please refer to EDSS and provide your name, address (including zip code), and telephone number (including area code). The application kit also will be available on the Internet through the HUD web site at <http://www.hud.gov>.

For Further Information and Technical Assistance. For answers to your questions, you have several options. You may call the local HUD field office with delegated responsibilities over the pertinent housing agency/authority, or in the case of a Tribe or a TDHE applying for EDSS grants, the AONAP with jurisdiction over the Tribe/TDHE. Answers may also be obtained by calling the Public and Indian Housing Information and Resource Center at 1-800-955-2232. Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access this number via TTY (text telephone) by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 (this is a toll free number). Information on this NOFA may also be obtained through the HUD web site on the Internet at <http://www.hud.gov>.

II. Amount Allocated

(A) *Total Amount.* Approximately \$23.5 million in funding is being made available under this NOFA for eligible PHAs, Tribes and TDHEs. This amount is comprised of \$6,727,034 from the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and

Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1997, (Pub. L. 104-204, 110 Stat. 2874, approved September 26, 1996), and \$16,772,966 from the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998 (Pub. L. 105-65, 111 Stat. 1344, approved October 27, 1997). To the extent that there are a sufficient number of qualified applications from Tribes/TDHEs, HUD is setting aside up to \$1.4 million to fund applications from Tribes/TDHEs. The remaining funds will be awarded to eligible applications from PHAs in accordance with the requirements set forth in this NOFA.

(B) *Allocation By Grant Category.* Both the amount for Tribes/TDHEs and PHAs will be allocated as follows: 60% will be allocated to Family Economic Development and Supportive Services (EDSS) category grants; and the remaining 40% will be allocated to Elderly and Disabled Supportive Services (SS) category grants.

(C) *Maximum Grant Awards.* The maximum grant awards are limited as follows:

(1) For the Family EDSS category, no more than \$250 per occupied unit up to the below listed maximums:

(a) For PHAs, Tribes/TDHEs with 1 to 780 occupied units, the maximum grant award is \$150,000.

(b) For PHAs, Tribes/TDHEs with 781 to 7,300 occupied units, the maximum grant award is \$500,000.

(c) For PHAs, Tribes/TDHEs with 7,301 or more occupied units, the maximum grant award is \$1,000,000.

(2) For Elderly and Disabled SS category, no more than \$250 per occupied unit up to the below listed maximums:

(a) For PHAs, Tribes/TDHEs with 1 to 217 units occupied by elderly residents or persons with disabilities, the maximum grant award is \$54,250.

(b) For PHAs, Tribes/TDHEs with 218 to 1,155 units occupied by elderly residents or persons with disabilities, the maximum grant award is \$200,000.

(c) For PHAs, Tribes/TDHEs with 1,156 or more units occupied by elderly residents or persons with disabilities, the maximum grant award is \$300,000.

(D) *Units Counted.* Tribes/TDHEs should use the number of units counted as Formula Current Assisted Stock for Fiscal Year 1998 as defined in 24 CFR 1000.316. Tribes who have not previously received funds from the Department under the 1937 Act should count housing units under management that are owned and operated by the tribe and are identified in their housing inventory as of September 30, 1997.

(E) *Limitation on Multiple Applications.* A PHA, Tribe/TDHE may submit one application under the Family EDSS grant category and/or one application under the Elderly and Disabled SS grant category. The maximum number of applications that a HA may submit is two. If an applicant is applying for both funding categories, then it must submit two separate applications in which the total amount requested must not exceed the maximum grant amount available for its size under the Family EDSS category.

III. Program Description; Eligible Applicants; Eligible Activities

(A) *Program Description.* The Economic Development and Supportive Services program is designed to provide PHAs, Tribes, or TDHEs with a range of resources that broaden the number of opportunities for families to overcome barriers to economic self-sufficiency, particularly those affected by welfare reform. EDSS funding also provides resources that address the needs of elderly or disabled persons so that they can continue independent living without institutionalization.

EDSS represents a major HUD initiative to improve the targeting and management of available resources for resident self-sufficiency. The goal is to most effectively focus these resources on "welfare to work" and on independent living for the elderly or persons with disabilities. HUD believes that it is imperative that housing authorities and residents work together to meet the challenge of welfare reform. Therefore, HUD is interested in innovative approaches that demonstrate collaboration with other resource providers at the local, State and Federal levels.

Applicants should take care in reviewing section III. of this NOFA to ensure they are eligible to apply for funds and that they meet the program requirements and limitations described for this program.

(B) *Eligible Applicants.* PHAs, Tribes or their TDHEs that have not received a previous EDSS grant are eligible applicants.

(C) *Eligible Activities.* EDSS Program funds may be used for the activities described below in this section. At least 75 percent of the persons participating and receiving benefits from these activities must be residents of conventional Public Housing, or HUD-assisted Indian Housing. Any other persons (up to 25 percent per grantee) participating or receiving benefits from these programs must be recipients of Section 8 assistance.

(1) *Economic Development Activities.* These are activities essential to facilitate economic uplift and provide access to the skills and resources needed for self-development and business development. Economic development activities may include:

(a) *Entrepreneurship Training*—which may include literacy training, computer skills training, and business development planning.

(b) *Entrepreneurship Development*—which may include developing an entrepreneurship training curriculum and entrepreneurship courses.

(c) *Micro/Loan Fund Development.* Developing a strategy for establishing a revolving micro/loan fund and/or capitalizing a loan fund for economic development costs including licensing, bonding, and insurance needed to operate a business.

(d) *Developing credit unions.* Developing a strategy to establish on-site credit union(s) to provide financial and economic development initiatives to PHA/Tribal/TDHE residents. (EDSS grant funds cannot be used to capitalize a credit union.) The credit union could support the normal financial management needs of the community (i.e., check cashing, savings, consumer loans, micro-businesses and other revolving loans).

(e) *Employment training and counseling*—including job training (such as Step-Up programs), preparation and counseling, job search assistance, job development and placement, and continued follow-up assistance.

(f) *Employer linkage and job placement.*

(2) *Supportive Services Activities.* These activities consist of the provision of services to assist eligible residents to become economically self-sufficient, particularly families with children where the head of household would benefit from the receipt of supportive services and is working, seeking work, or is preparing for work by participating in job-training or educational programs. Supportive services may include:

(a) Child care, of a type that provides sufficient hours of operation and serves appropriate ages as needed to facilitate parental access to education and job opportunities.

(b) Computer based educational opportunities and skills training.

(c) Homeownership training and counseling, development of feasibility studies and preparation of homeownership plans/proposals.

(d) Educational services and assistance, including but not limited to: remedial education; computer skills training; career counseling; literacy training; assistance in the attainment of

certificates of high school equivalency; two-year college tuition assistance; trade school assistance; youth leadership skills training and related activities, which may include training in peer leadership roles for youth counselors, peer pressure reversal, life skills, and goal planning).

(e) Youth mentoring of a type that mobilizes a potential pool of role models to serve as mentors to public or Indian housing youth. Mentor activities may include after-school tutoring, help with problem resolution issues, illegal drugs avoidance, job counseling, or mental health counseling.

(f) Transportation costs, as necessary to enable any participating family member to commute to his or her training or supportive services activities or place of employment.

(g) Personal well being (e.g., family/parental development counseling, parenting skills training for adult and teenage parents, and self-development counseling).

(h) Supportive health care services (e.g., outreach and referral services to mental health or substance and alcohol abuse treatment and counseling).

(i) Contracting for case management services contracts or employment of case managers, either of which must ensure confidentiality about resident's disabilities.

(3) *Elderly and Disabled Supportive Services Activities.* Supportive Services for the elderly or for persons with disabilities include:

(a) Meal service adequate to meet nutritional need;

(b) Assistance with daily activities;

(c) Housekeeping aid;

(d) Transportation services;

(e) Wellness programs, preventive health education, referral to community resources;

(f) Personal emergency response; and

(g) Congregate services—includes supportive services that are provided in a congregate setting at a conventional HA development.

(4) *Employment of or Contracting for Service Coordinators.* For the purposes of this NOFA, a service coordinator is any person who is responsible for one or more of the following functions:

(a) Under Family EDSS category grants, assessing the training and supportive service needs of eligible residents;

(b) Working with community service providers to coordinate the provision of services and to tailor services to the needs and characteristics of eligible residents;

(c) Establishing a system to monitor and evaluate the delivery, impact, effectiveness and outcomes of supportive services under this program;

(d) Coordinating this program with other independent living or self-sufficiency, education and employment programs;

(e) Performing duties and functions that are appropriate to assist eligible public and Indian housing residents to become economically self-sufficient;

(f) Performing duties and functions to assist residents to remain independent, and to prevent unnecessary institutionalization;

(g) Mobilizing national and local public/private resources and partnerships; and

(h) Providing any other services and resources, appropriate to assist eligible residents, that are proposed by the applicant, approved by HUD, and authorized by the 1998 Appropriations Act.

(D) *Ineligible Activities.* The following activities are ineligible for funding under the EDSS Program:

(1) Payment of wages or salaries to participants receiving supportive services or training programs, except that grant funds may be used to hire a resident(s) to coordinate training program activities.

(2) Purchase or rental of land or buildings or any improvements to land or buildings.

(3) Building material and construction costs.

(4) The hiring of service coordinators for the same housing development under the Elderly and Disabled SS category in this NOFA if the applicant received a Service Coordinators Program grant under the FY 1998 NOFA.

(5) The purchase of vehicles.

IV. Program Requirements

(A) *Adhere to the Grant Agreement.* After an application has been approved, HUD and the applicant shall enter into a grant agreement (Form HUD-1044 and attachments) incorporating the entire application except as modified by HUD and setting forth the amount of the grant and its applicable terms, conditions, financial controls, payment mechanism (which except under extraordinary conditions will operate under HUD's Line of Credit Control System (LOCCS) and special conditions, including requiring adherence to the appropriate OMB requirements and other government wide requirements and specifying sanctions for violation of the agreement. The grant agreement will include additional information regarding Insurance/Indemnification, Freedom of Information Act, grant staff personnel, exclusion period, earnings and benefits, reports, closeouts, and treatment of income.

(B) *Internet Access.* Prior to the initial draw down, all EDSS grantees shall have secured on-line access to the internet as a means to communicate with HUD on grant matters and EDSS grantees shall have provided 75% of the required MTCS data to HUD. Tribes and TDHEs are exempt from MTCS reporting.

(C) *Risk Management.* Grantees and subgrantees are required to implement, administer and monitor programs so as to minimize the risk of fraud, waste, abuse, and liability for losses from adversarial legal action.

(D) *Administrative Costs.* Administrative costs must not exceed 15% of the grant amount.

(E) *Stipends.* No more than \$200 per participant per month of the grant award may be used for stipends for active trainees and EDSS program participants to cover the reasonable costs related to participation in training and other EDSS activities.

(F) *Grant Term.* The grantee must complete its grant activities within two years of the execution of the grant agreement.

(G) *Definitions.* The following definitions apply for this NOFA:

Community Facility means a non-dwelling structure that provides space for multiple supportive services for the benefit of public and Indian housing residents (as well as others eligible for the services provided) that may include but are not limited to:

- (1) Child care;
- (2) After-school activities for youth;
- (3) Job training;
- (4) Campus of Learner activities; and
- (5) English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.

Contract Administrator means an overall administrator and/or a financial management agent that oversees the financial aspects of a grant and assists in the entire implementation of the grant. Examples of qualified organizations that can serve as a Contract Administrator are:

- (1) Local housing authorities; and
- (2) Community based organizations such as Community Development Corporations (CDCs), community churches, and State/Regional Associations/Organizations.

Development has the same meaning as the term "Project" below.

Firmly Committed means there must be a signed, written agreement to provide the resources. This written agreement may be contingent upon an applicant receiving an award.

Elderly person means a person who is at least 62 years of age.

Person with disabilities means an adult person who:

(1) Has a condition defined as a disability in section 223 of the Social Security Act;

(2) Has a developmental disability as defined in section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance Bill of Rights Act. Such a term shall not exclude persons who have the disease of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or any conditions arising from the etiologic agent for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; or

(3) Is determined, pursuant to regulations issued by the Secretary, to have a physical, mental, or emotional impairment which:

(i) Is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration;

(ii) Substantially impedes his or her ability to live independently; and

(iii) Is of such a nature that such ability could be improved by more suitable housing conditions.

(4) The definition provided above for persons with disabilities is the proper definition for determining program qualifications. However, the definition of a person with disabilities contained in section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its implementing regulations must be used for purposes of the requirements of Fair Housing laws, including providing reasonable accommodations.

Project is the same as "low-income housing project" as defined in section 3(b)(1) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 *et seq.*) (1937 Act).

(H) *Statutory Requirements.* To be eligible for funding under this NOFA, you, the applicant, must meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements. If you need copies of regulations, they are available at the HUD web site located at <http://www.HUD.gov>. HUD may reject an application from further funding consideration if the activities or projects proposed in the application are not eligible activities and projects, or HUD may eliminate the ineligible activities from funding consideration and reduce the grant amount accordingly.

(I) *Threshold Requirements—Compliance with Fair Housing and Civil Rights Laws.* With the exception of Federally recognized Indian tribes, all applicants and their subrecipients must comply with all Fair Housing and civil rights laws, statutes, regulations and executive orders as enumerated in 24 CFR 5.105(a). If you are a Federally recognized Indian tribe, you must comply with the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Indian Civil Rights Act.

If you, the applicant: (a) have been charged with a systemic violation of the Fair Housing Act by the Secretary alleging ongoing discrimination; (b) are the defendant in a Fair Housing Act lawsuit filed by the Department of Justice alleging an ongoing pattern or practice of discrimination; or (c) have received a letter of noncompliance findings under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, your application will not be evaluated under this NOFA if, prior to the application deadline, the charge, lawsuit, or letter of findings has not been resolved to the satisfaction of the Department. HUD's decision regarding whether a charge, lawsuit, or a letter of findings has been satisfactorily resolved will be based upon whether appropriate actions have been taken necessary to address allegations of ongoing discrimination in the policies or practices involved in the charge, lawsuit, or letter of findings.

(J) *Additional Nondiscrimination Requirements.* You, the applicant, must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972.

(K) *Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing.* If you are a successful applicant, you will have a duty to affirmatively further fair housing. You, the applicant, should include in your application or work plan the specific steps that you will take to:

- (1) Address the elimination of impediments to fair housing that were identified in the jurisdiction's Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing Choice;
- (2) Remedy discrimination in housing; or
- (3) Promote fair housing rights and fair housing choice.

Further, you, the applicant, have a duty to carry out the specific activities provided in your responses to the NOFA rating factors that address affirmatively furthering fair housing.

(L) *Economic Opportunities for Low and Very Low-Income Persons (Section 3).* Recipients of HUD assistance in certain programs must comply with section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, 12 U.S.C. 1701u (Economic Opportunities for Low and Very Low-Income Persons) and the HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 135, including the reporting requirements subpart E. Section 3 requires recipients to ensure that, to the greatest extent feasible, training, employment and other economic opportunities will be directed to (1) low and very low income persons, particularly those who are recipients of

government assistance for housing and (2) business concerns which provide economic opportunities to low and very low income persons.

(M) *Relocation.* Any person (including individuals, partnerships, corporations or associations) who moves from real property or moves personal property from real property directly (1) because of a written notice to acquire real property in whole or in part, or (2) because of the acquisition of the real property, in whole or in part, for a HUD-assisted activity is covered by Federal relocation statute and regulations. Specifically, this type of move is covered by the acquisition policies and procedures and the relocation requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended (URA), and the implementing governmentwide regulation at 49 CFR part 24. The relocation requirements of the URA and the governmentwide regulations cover any person who moves permanently from real property or moves personal property from real property directly because of rehabilitation or demolition for an activity undertaken with HUD assistance.

(N) *Forms, Certifications and Assurances.* You, the applicant, are required to submit signed copies of the standard forms, certifications, and assurances, listed in this section, as follows:

- (1) Standard Form for Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424);
- (2) Standard Form for Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A);
- (3) Standard Form for Assurances—Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B);
- (4) Drug-Free Workplace Certification (Form HUD-50070);
- (5) Certification and Disclosure Form Regarding Lobbying (SF-LLL); (Tribes and tribally designated housing entities (THDEs) established by an Indian tribe as a result of the exercise of the tribe's sovereign power are not required to submit this certification. Tribes and TDHEs established under State law are required to submit this certification.)

(6) Applicant/Recipient Disclosure Update Report (HUD-2880);

(7) Certification that the applicant will comply with the requirements of the Fair Housing Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and will affirmatively further fair housing. CDBG recipients also must certify to compliance with section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act. Federally recognized Indian tribes

must certify that they will comply with the requirements of the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Indian Civil Rights Act.

(8) Certification required by 24 CFR 24.510. (The provisions of 24 CFR part 24 apply to the employment, engagement of services, awarding of contracts, subgrants, or funding of any recipients, or contractors or subcontractors, during any period of debarment, suspension, or placement in ineligibility status, and a certification is required.)

(O) *OMB Circulars.* Certain OMB circulars also apply to this NOFA. The policies, guidances, and requirements of OMB Circular No. A-87 (Cost Principles Applicable to Grants, Contracts and Other Agreements with State and Local Governments), OMB Circular No. A-122 (Cost Principles for Nonprofit Organizations), 24 CFR part 84 (Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and other Non-Profit Organizations) and 24 CFR part 85 (Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State, Local, and Federally recognized Indian tribal governments) may apply to the award, acceptance and use of assistance under this program, and to the remedies for noncompliance, except when inconsistent with the provisions of the FY 1999 HUD Appropriations Act, other Federal statutes or the provisions of this NOFA. Copies of the OMB Circulars may be obtained from EOP Publications, Room 2200, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 10503, telephone (202) 395-7332 (this is not a toll free number).

(P) *Environmental requirements.* In accordance with 24 CFR 50.19(b)(3),(9), (12) and (14) of the HUD regulations, activities assisted under the EDSS program are categorically excluded from the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and are not subject to environmental review under related laws and authorities.

(Q) *Conflicts of Interest.* If you are a consultant or expert who is assisting HUD in rating and ranking applicants for funding under this NOFA, you are subject to 18 U.S.C. 208, the Federal criminal conflict of interest statute, and the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch regulation published at 5 CFR part 2635. As a result, if you have assisted or plan to assist applicants with preparing applications for this NOFA, you may not serve on a selection panel and you may not serve as a technical advisor to HUD for this NOFA. All individuals involved in rating and ranking this NOFA, including experts and

consultants, must avoid conflicts of interest or the appearance of conflicts. Individuals involved in the rating and ranking of applications must disclose to HUD's General Counsel or HUD's Ethic Law Division the following information if applicable: the selection or non-selection of any applicant under this NOFA will affect the individual's financial interests, as provided in 18 U.S.C. 208; or the application process involves a party with whom the individual has a covered relationship under 5 CFR 2635.502. The individual must disclose this information prior to participating in any matter regarding this NOFA. If you have questions regarding these provisions or if you have questions concerning a conflict of interest, you may call the Office of General Counsel, Ethics Law Division, at 202-708-3815 and ask to speak to one of HUD's attorneys in this division.

V. Application Selection Process

Three types of reviews will be conducted: a screening to determine if the application submission is complete and on time; a threshold review to determine applicant eligibility; and a technical review to rate the application based on the rating factors in section V.(B) of this NOFA.

(A) *Additional Threshold Criteria For Funding Consideration.* In addition to the threshold requirements listed in section IV.(I) of this NOFA, under the threshold review, the applicant will be rejected from the competition if the applicant is not in compliance with the threshold requirements of this NOFA and if the following additional standards are not met:

(1) *Focus on Residents Affected by Welfare Reform.* The Family EDSS application must demonstrate that at least 51% or more of the public or Indian housing residents to be included in the proposed program are affected by the welfare reform legislation, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients, legal immigrants, and disabled SSI recipients.

(2) *Accessible Community Facility.* The application must provide evidence (e.g. through an executed use agreement if the facility is to be provided by an entity other than the PHA/Tribe/TDHE) that a majority of the proposed activities will be administered at community facilities within easy transportation access of the applicant's property. These facilities must be within walking distance or accessible by direct (no transfers required), convenient, inexpensive and reliable transport. The community facilities must also meet the structural accessibility requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act

and the Americans With Disabilities Act.

(3) *Match Requirement.* (a) The applicant must supplement grant funds with an in-kind and/or cash match of not less than 25% of the grant amount. This match does not have to be a cash match. The match may include: the value of in-kind services, contributions or administrative costs provided to the applicant; funds from Federal sources (but not EDSS funds); funds from any State, Tribal or local government sources; and funds from private contributions.

(b) The application must demonstrate that the cash or in-kind resources and services, which the applicant will use as match amounts (including resources from the applicant's Comprehensive Grant, other governmental units/agencies of any type, and/or private sources, whether for-profit or not-for-profit), are firmly committed and will support the proposed grant activities. "Firmly committed" means there must be a signed, written agreement to provide the resources and services. The written agreement may be contingent upon an applicant receiving a grant award.

(c) The following are guidelines for valuing certain types of in-kind contributions:

(i) The value of volunteer time and services shall be computed at a rate of six dollars per hour except that the value of volunteer time and services involving professional and other special skills shall be computed on the basis of the usual and customary hourly rate paid for the service in the community where the EDSS activity is located.

(ii) The value of any donated material, equipment, building, or lease shall be computed based on the fair market value at time of donation. Such value shall be documented by bills of sales, advertised prices, appraisals, or other information for comparable property similarly situated not more than one-year old taken from the community where the item or EDSS activity is located, as appropriate.

(4) *Compliance with Current Programs.* The applicant must provide certification in the format provided in the application kit that it is not in default at the time of application submission with respect to grants for the following programs: the Family Investment Center Program; the Youth Development Initiative under the Family Investment Center Program; the Youth Apprenticeship Program; the Apprenticeship Demonstration in the Construction Trades Program; the Urban Youth Corps Program; the HOPE 1 Program; the Public Housing Service

Coordinator Program; the Public Housing Drug Elimination Program; and the Youth Sports Program. "Default" for purposes of this certification means any unresolved findings and/or outstanding recommendations from prior HUD reviews or audits undertaken by HUD, HUD-Office of Inspector General, the General Accounting Office (GAO) or independent public accountants (IPAs).

(5) *PHMAP Score.* In the case of a PHA that is designated as "troubled" as a result of its PHMAP score, the PHA must provide documentation that a Contract Administrator (or equivalent organization that is qualified to administer federal grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements as evidence by information submitted in this document) will be deployed in the administration of this proposed grant. An applicant cannot have a PHMAP score less than a "C" for Indicator #6, Financial Management, and Indicator #7, Resident Initiatives and Community Building, on its most recent PHMAP.

(B) *Factors for Award Used to Evaluate and Rate EDSS Applications.* The factors for rating and ranking applicants and maximum points for each factor are provided below. The maximum number of points for this program is 102. This includes two Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community (EZ/EC) bonus points, as described in the General Section of the SuperNOFA. An EDSS application must receive a total of 75 points to be eligible for funding.

Rating Factor 1: Capacity of the Applicant and Relevant Organizational Experience (20 Points)

This factor addresses the extent to which the applicant has the organizational resources necessary to successfully implement the proposed activities in a timely manner. In rating this factor HUD will consider the extent to which the proposal demonstrates:

(1) Proposed Program Staffing (7 Points)

(a) *Experience.* (4 Points): The knowledge and experience of the proposed project director and staff, including the day-to-day program manager, sub-recipients and partners in planning and managing programs for which funding is being requested. Experience will be judged in terms of recent, relevant and successful experience of the applicant's staff to undertake eligible program activities.

(b) *Sufficiency.* (3 Points): The applicant, its sub-recipients, and partners have sufficient personnel or will be able to quickly access qualified experts or professionals, to deliver the proposed activities in each proposed

service area in a timely and effective fashion, including the readiness and ability of the applicant to immediately begin the proposed work program. To demonstrate sufficiency, the applicant must submit the proposed number of staff years to be allocated to the project by employees and experts, the titles and relevant professional background and experience of each employee and expert proposed to be assigned to the project, and the roles to be performed by each identified employee and expert.

(2) Program Administration and Fiscal Management (7 Points)

(a) Program Administration. (4 Points): The soundness of the proposed management of the proposed EDSS program. In order to receive a high score, an applicant must provide a comprehensive description of the project management structure. The narrative must provide a description of how any co-applicants, subgrantees and other partner agencies relate to the program administrator as well as the lines of authority and accountability among all components of the proposed program.

(b) Fiscal Management. (3 Points): The soundness of the applicant's proposed fiscal management. In order to receive a high score an applicant must provide a comprehensive description of the fiscal management structure, including, but not limited to, budgeting, fiscal controls and accounting. The application must identify the staff responsible for fiscal management, and the processes and timetable for implementation during the proposed grant period.

(3) Applicant/Administrator Track Record (6 Points): Based on the applicant's, or if a Contract Administrator is proposed, the Administrator's, prior performance in successfully carrying out grant programs designed to assist residents in increasing their self-sufficiency, security or independence. In order to receive a high score, the applicant must demonstrate its (or the proposed Administrator's) program compliance and successful implementation of any resident self-sufficiency, security or independence oriented grants (including those listed below) awarded to the applicant or overseen by the Administrator. Applicants or Administrators with no prior experience in operating programs that foster resident self-sufficiency, security or independence will receive a score of 0 on this factor. The applicant's past experience may include, but is not limited to, administering the following grants: the Family Investment Center Program; the Youth Development

Initiative under the Family Investment Center Program; the Youth Apprenticeship Program; the Apprenticeship Demonstration in the Construction Trades Program; the Urban Youth Corps Program; the HOPE I Program; the Public Housing Service Coordinator Program; the Public Housing Drug Elimination Program; and the Youth Sports Program.

Rating Factor 2: Need/Extent of the Problem (20 Points)

This factor addresses the extent to which there is a need for funding the proposed program activities to address a documented problem in the target area. Applicants will be evaluated on the extent to which they document a critical level of need in the development or the proposed activities in the area where activities will be carried out. In responding to this factor, applicants will be evaluated on:

(1) A Needs Assessment Document (18 Points): HUD will award up to 18 points based on the quality and comprehensiveness of the needs assessment document.

(a) In order to obtain maximum points for Family EDSS Category applications, this document must contain statistical data which provides:

(i) A thorough socioeconomic profile of the eligible residents to be served by the grant, in relationship to PHA-wide and national public and Indian housing data on residents who are on TANF, SSI benefits, or other fixed income arrangements; in job training, entrepreneurship, or community service programs; and employed.

(ii) Specific information on training, contracting and employment through the PHA.

(iii) An assessment of the current service delivery system as it relates to the needs of the target population, including the number and type of services, the location of services, and community facilities currently in use;

(iv) A description of the goals, objectives, and program strategies that will result in successful transition of residents from welfare-to-work.

(b) In order to obtain maximum points for Elderly and Disabled SS Category applications, the needs assessment document should contain statistical data which provides:

(i) The numbers of residents indicating need for assistance for activities of daily living.

(ii) An assessment of the current service delivery system as it relates to the needs of the target population, including the number and type of services, the location of services, and community facilities currently in use.

(iii) A description of the goals, objectives, and program strategies that will result in increased independence for proposed program participants.

(2) Level of Priority in Consolidated Plan. (2 Points): Documentation of the level of priority the locality's, or in the case of small cities, the State's, Consolidated Plan has placed on addressing the needs. Applicants may also address needs in terms of fulfilling the requirements of court actions or other legal decisions or which expand upon the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) to further fair housing. Applicants that address needs that are in the community's Consolidated Plan, AI, or a court decision, or identify and substantiate needs in addition to those in the AI, will receive a greater number points than applicants who do not relate their proposed program to the approved Consolidated Plan or AI or court action. There must be a clear relationship between the proposed activities, community needs and the purpose of the program funding for an applicant to receive points for this factor. For Tribes/TDHEs, the Indian Housing Plan would be the document to review for this information.

Rating Factor 3: Soundness of Approach (40 Points)

This factor addresses the quality and cost-effectiveness of the applicant's proposed work plan. In rating this factor HUD will consider: the viability and comprehensiveness of strategies to address the needs of residents; budget appropriateness/efficient use of grant; the speed at which the applicant can realistically accomplish the goals of the proposed EDSS program; the soundness of the applicant's plan to evaluate the success of its proposed EDSS program at completion and during program implementation; and resident and other partnerships; and policy priorities.

(1) Viability and comprehensiveness of the strategies to address the needs of residents (19 Points): The score under this subfactor will be based on the viability and comprehensiveness of strategies to address the needs of residents. HUD will award up to 19 points based on the following:

(a) Services (13 Points for Family EDSS applicants and 19 Points for Elderly and Disabled SS applicants; more points are awarded in the Elderly and Disabled SS application in order to balance other sections of the rating criteria where points are not applicable to an Elderly and Disabled SS applicant) The score under this subfactor will be based on the following:

(i) For Family EDSS Category applications, the extent to which an applicant's plan provides services that specifically address the successful transition from welfare to work of non-elderly families. To receive a high score, the applicant's plan should include case management/counseling, job training/development/placement (and/or business training/development/startup), child care, and transportation services. Also, in order to receive maximum points, the goals and objectives of the proposed plan must represent significant achievements related to welfare-to-work and other self-sufficiency/independence goals. Specifically for those residents affected by welfare reform, the number of residents employed or resident businesses started are preferable to the number of residents receiving training.

(ii) For Elderly and Disabled SS Category applications, services in the applicant's plan should include case management, health care, congregate services and transportation. To obtain maximum points, the services must be located in a community facility and be available on a 12 hour basis or as needed by the eligible residents.

(b) *Resident Contracting and Employment* (3 Points): The score in this factor will be based on the extent to which residents will achieve self-sufficiency through the applicant's contracts with resident-owned businesses and through resident employment. A high score will be awarded where there is documentation (a letter or resolution from the applicant's governing body) describing the applicant's commitment to hire or contract with at least 15% of residents and a narrative describing the number of resident jobs or contracts involved, as well as the training processes related to the Comprehensive Plan. Elderly and Disabled SS Category applications will not be scored on the criterion in this subcategory.

(c) *Rent and Occupancy Incentives*. (3 Points): The score in this factor will be based on the degree to which the applicant has implemented, proposes to implement, or collaborates with, a public welfare department to implement incentives designed to promote resident self-sufficiency, including but not limited to: ceiling rents, rent exclusions, rent escrows, occupancy preferences for applicants who work or who are in a self-sufficiency program, stipends, or income disregards. A high score is received if the applicant can show how the incentives complement the purposes of the program activities for which the applicant is seeking funding. Elderly

and Disabled SS Category applications will not be scored on this criterion.

(2) *Budget Appropriateness/Efficient Use of Grant* (5 Points): The score in this factor will be based on the following:

(a) *Detailed Budget Break-Out*. The extent to which the application includes a detailed budget break-out for each budget category in the SF-424A.

(b) *Reasonable Administrative Costs*. The extent to which the application includes administrative costs below the 15% administrative cost ceiling.

(c) *Budget Efficiency*. The extent to which the application requests funds commensurate with the level of effort necessary to accomplish the goals and objectives, and the extent to which the requested funding is reasonable in relationship to the anticipated results.

(3) *Reasonableness of the Timetable* (2 Points for Family EDSS applicants and 4 Points for Elderly and Disabled SS applicants; more points are awarded in the Elderly and Disabled SS application in order to balance other sections of the rating criteria where points are not applicable to Elderly and Disabled SS applicant):

The score in this factor will be based on the speed of response at which the applicant can accomplish the goals of the proposed EDSS program. To receive a high score, the applicant must demonstrate that it will make substantial program implementation progress within the first six months after grant execution, including putting staff in place, finalizing partnership arrangements, completing the development of requests for proposals, and achieving other milestones that are prerequisites for implementation of the program. In addition the applicant must demonstrate that the proposed timetable for all components of the proposed program is reasonable considering the size of the grant and its activities and that it can accomplish its objectives within the 24 month time limit.

(4) *Program Assessment*. (3 Points for Family EDSS and Elderly and Disabled SS): The score in this factor will be based on the soundness of the applicant's plan to evaluate the success of its proposed EDSS program both at the completion of the program and during program implementation. At a minimum, the applicant must track the goals and objectives of the proposed work plan program, which must include, if applicable, a plan for monitoring the applicant's Contract Administrator. HUD will rate more favorably applicants who can track specific measurable achievements for the use of program funds, such as number of residents employed, salary scales of jobs obtained, persons removed

from welfare roles 12 months or longer, number of elderly or disabled residents receiving from supportive services, and number of persons receiving certificates for successful completion of training in careers such as computer technology.

(5) *Resident and Other Partnerships* (9 Points for Family EDSS applicants and 7 Points for Elderly and Disabled SS applicants)

(a) *Resident Involvement in ED/SS Activities* (3 Points for Family EDSS applicants and 4 Points for Elderly and Disabled SS applicants; more points are awarded in the Elderly and Disabled SS application in order to balance other sections of the rating criteria where points are not applicable to and Elderly and Disabled SS applicants): The score in this factor will be based on the extent of resident involvement in developing the proposed EDSS program as well as the extent of proposed resident involvement in implementing the proposed EDSS program. In order to receive a high score on this factor the applicant must provide documentation that describes the involvement of residents in the planning phase for this program, and a commitment to provide continued involvement in grant implementation. In order to receive the maximum number of points, a memorandum of understanding or other written agreement between the applicant and Resident Associations must be included.

(b) *Other Partnerships* (3 Points): The score in this factor will be based on the successful integration of partners into implementation of the proposed EDSS program. In order to receive a high score, an applicant must provide a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or other equivalent signed documentation that delineates the roles and responsibilities of each of the parties in the program and the benefits they will receive. In assessing this subfactor, HUD will examine a number of aspects of the proposed partnership, including:

(i) The division of responsibilities/management structure of the proposed partnership relative to the expertise and resources of the partners;

(ii) The extent to which the partnership as a whole addresses a broader level of unmet resident needs; and

(iii) The extent to which the addition of the partners provides the ability to meet needs that the applicant could not meet without the partner(s).

(c) *Overall Relationship/TOP Coordination* (3 Points for Family EDSS only): For Family EDSS applicants, the score in this factor will be based on the extent of coordination between the

applicant's proposed EDSS program and any existing or proposed TOP programs sponsored by RAs within the applicant's jurisdiction. In order to receive a high score, the application must contain an MOU that describes collaboration between the applicant's staff and residents on all of the specific components related to the work plan of both the proposed or current TOP and EDSS programs. To receive points, at a minimum, there must be a narrative description of this collaboration. If there are no existing and no proposed TOP grants within the jurisdiction of the applicant, the score for this factor will be 0. Elderly and Disabled SS applications will not be scored on this criterion. In addition, if all of the resident groups eligible to apply for TOP within the applicant's jurisdiction have already received TOP grants and will have completed the activities, the applicant will not be scored on this criterion.

(6) *Policy Priorities* (2 Points for Family EDSS and Elderly and Disabled SS): Documentation of the extent to which policy priorities of the Department are furthered by the proposed activities. Such Department policy priorities are: affirmatively furthering fair housing by promoting greater opportunities for housing choice for minorities and the disabled; promoting healthy homes; providing opportunities for self-sufficiency, particularly for persons enrolled in welfare to work programs; providing enhanced economic, social and/or living environments in Empowerment Zones or Enterprise communities; and, providing educational and job training opportunities through such initiatives as Neighborhood Networks or Campus of Learners, and linking programs to AmeriCorps activities. To obtain the full two points in this category, at least three of these five policy priorities must be addressed.

Rating Factor 4: Leveraging Resources (10 Points)

This factor addresses the ability of the applicant to secure community resources (note: financing is a community resource) which can be combined with HUD's program resources to achieve program purposes. In evaluating this factor HUD will consider:

The extent to which the applicant has partnered with other entities to secure additional resources to increase the effectiveness of the proposed program activities. The budget, the work plan, and commitments for additional resources and services, other than the grant, must show that these resources

are firmly committed, will support the proposed grant activities and will, in combined amount (including in-kind contributions of personnel, space and/or equipment, and monetary contributions) equal at least 25% of the EDSS grant amount proposed in this application. "Firmly committed" means there must be a signed, written agreement with the provider of resources. The signed, written agreement may be contingent upon an applicant receiving a grant award. Other resources and services may include: the value of in-kind services, contributions or administrative costs provided to the applicant; funds from Federal sources (not including EDSS funds); funds from any State or local government sources; and funds from private contributions. Applicants may also partner with other program funding recipients to coordinate the use of resources in the target area.

Applicants must provide evidence of leveraging/partnerships by including in the application letters of firm commitments, memoranda of understanding, or agreements to participate from those entities identified as partners in the application. To be firmly committed there must be a signed, written agreement with the provider of resources. This agreement may be contingent upon an applicant receiving a grant award. Each letter of commitment, memorandum of understanding, or agreement to participate should include the organization's name, proposed level of commitment and responsibilities as they relate to the proposed program. The commitment must also be signed by an official of the organization legally able to make commitments on behalf of the organization.

Rating Factor 5: Comprehensiveness and Coordination (10 Points)

This factor addresses the extent to which the applicant's program reflects a coordinated, community-based process of identifying needs and building a system to address the needs by using available HUD funding resources and other resources available to the community.

In evaluating this factor HUD will consider the extent to which the application addresses:

(1) *Coordination with the Consolidated Plan* (2 Points for Family EDSS applicants and 6 points for Elderly and Disabled SS applicants; more points are awarded in the Elderly and Disabled SS application in order to balance other sections of the rating criteria where points are not applicable to an Elderly and Disabled SS application.) Demonstrates the applicant

has reviewed the community's Consolidated Plan and/or Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, and has proposed activities that address the priorities, needs, goals or objectives in those documents; or substantially further fair housing choice in the community. For tribes/TDHEs the Indian Housing Plan would be the document to review for information.

(2) *For Family EDSS Applications, Coordination with the State or Tribal Welfare Plan* (4 Points): Provides evidence that the proposed EDSS program has been coordinated with and supports the applicant's efforts to increase resident self-sufficiency and is coordinated and consistent with the State or Tribal Welfare Plan.

(3) *Coordination with Other Activities* (4 Points): Demonstrates that the applicant, in carrying out program activities, will develop linkages with: other HUD funded program activities proposed or on-going in the community; or other State, Federal or locally funded activities proposed or on-going in the community which, taken as a whole, support and sustain a comprehensive system to address the needs.

(C) *Selections*. In order to be considered for funding under the EDSS program, an applicant must receive a minimum score of 75. Applications will be rated and ranked under the rating factors in section V.(B), above, and funded in rank order. If two or more applications have the same number of points, the application with the most points for Factor 3, Soundness of Approach shall be selected. If there is still a tie, the application with the most points for Factor 4, Leveraging Resources shall be selected.

VI. Application Submission Requirements

The applicant must submit the following, which are further described in the application kit:

(A) Needs Assessment Report which includes statistical or survey information on the needs of the recipient population; please use the appropriate format provided in the application kit.

(B) A two-year work plan for implementing EDSS activities which includes goals, budget, timetable and strategies. In addition to a narrative, please use the formats provided in the application kits to chart the following:

- (1) Activity plan summary;
- (2) Activity breakout;
- (3) Budget breakout;
- (4) Summary budget;
- (5) Program resources; and
- (6) Program staffing;

(C) Information on the applicant's and/or administrator's track record. Please provide the chart and/or certification format provided in the application kit;

(D) Signed certifications and assurances referenced in this NOFA.

(E) Signed memorandum of Understanding/Agreement; commitment letters; and other required documentation of partnerships.

VII. Correction to Deficient Applications

After the application due date, HUD may not, consistent with 24 CFR part 4, subpart B, consider unsolicited information from an applicant. HUD may contact an applicant, however, to clarify an item in the application or to correct technical deficiencies.

Applicants should note, however, that HUD may not seek clarification of items or responses that improve the substantive quality of the applicant's response to any eligibility or selection criterion. Examples of curable technical deficiencies include failure to submit the proper certifications or failure to submit an application containing an original signature by an authorized official. In each case, HUD will notify the applicant in writing by describing the clarification or technical deficiency. HUD will notify applicants by facsimile or by return receipt requested.

Applicants must submit clarifications or corrections of technical deficiencies in accordance with information provided by HUD within 14 calendar days of the date of receipt of the HUD notification. If the deficiency is not corrected within this time period, HUD will reject the application as incomplete.

VIII. Findings and Certifications

(A) *Paperwork Reduction Act Statement.* The information collection requirements contained in this NOFA have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under OMB Approval No. 2577-0211. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection displays a valid control number.

(B) *Environmental Impact.* This NOFA does not direct, provide for assistance or loan and mortgage insurance for, or otherwise govern or regulate property acquisition, disposition, lease, rehabilitation, alteration, demolition, or new construction, or set out or provide for standards for construction materials, manufactured housing, or occupancy. Accordingly, under 24 CFR 50.19(c)(1),

this NOFA is categorically excluded from environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321).

(C) *Federalism, Executive Order 12612.* The General Counsel, as the Designated Official under section 6(a) of Executive Order 12612, *Federalism*, has determined that the policies contained in this NOFA will not have substantial direct effects on States or their political subdivisions, or on the relationship between the Federal Government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Specifically, the NOFA solicits applicants to help eligible families make the transition from welfare to work, and does not impinge upon the relationships between the Federal government and State and local governments. As a result, the NOFA is not subject to review under the Order.

(D) *Prohibition Against Lobbying Activities.* You, the applicant, are subject to the provisions of section 319 of the Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation Act for Fiscal Year 1991, 31 U.S.C. 1352 (the Byrd Amendment), which prohibits recipients of Federal contracts, grants, or loans from using appropriated funds for lobbying the executive or legislative branches of the Federal Government in connection with a specific contract, grant, or loan. You are required to certify, using the certification found at Appendix A to 24 CFR part 87, that they will not, and have not, used appropriated funds for any prohibited lobbying activities. In addition, you must disclose, using Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," any funds, other than Federally appropriated funds, that will be or have been used to influence Federal employees, members of Congress, and congressional staff regarding specific grants or contracts. Tribes and tribally designated housing entities (THDEs) established by an Indian tribe as a result of the exercise of the tribe's sovereign power are excluded from coverage of the Byrd Amendment, but tribes and TDHEs established under State law are not excluded from the statute's coverage.)

(E) *Section 102 of the HUD Reform Act; Documentation and Public Access Requirements.* Section 102 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989 (42 U.S.C. 3545) (HUD Reform Act) and the regulations codified in 24 CFR part 4, subpart A, contain a number of provisions that are designed to ensure greater accountability and integrity in the provision of certain types of

assistance administered by HUD. On January 14, 1992 (57 FR 1942), HUD published a notice that also provides information on the implementation of section 102. The documentation, public access, and disclosure requirements of section 102 apply to assistance awarded under this NOFA as follows:

(1) *Documentation and public access requirements.* HUD will ensure that documentation and other information regarding each application submitted pursuant to this NOFA are sufficient to indicate the basis upon which assistance was provided or denied. This material, including any letters of support, will be made available for public inspection for a 5-year period beginning not less than 30 days after the award of the assistance. Material will be made available in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and HUD's implementing regulations in 24 CFR part 15.

(2) *Disclosures.* HUD will make available to the public for 5 years all applicant disclosure reports (Form HUD-2880) submitted in connection with this NOFA. Update reports (also Form HUD-2880) will be made available along with the applicant disclosure reports, but in no case for a period less than 3 years. All reports—both applicant disclosures and updates—will be made available in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and HUD's implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 5.

(3) *Publication of Recipients of HUD Funding.* HUD's regulations at 24 CFR 4.7 provide that HUD will publish a notice in the **Federal Register** on at least a quarterly basis to notify the public of all decisions made by the Department to provide:

(i) Assistance subject to section 102(a) of the HUD Reform Act; or

(ii) Assistance that is provided through grants or cooperative agreements on a discretionary (non-formula, non-demand) basis, but that is not provided on the basis of a competition.

(F) *Section 103 HUD Reform Act.* HUD's regulations implementing section 103 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989 (42 U.S.C. 3537a), codified in 24 CFR part 4, apply to this funding competition. The regulations continue to apply until the announcement of the selection of successful applicants. HUD employees involved in the review of applications and in the making of funding decisions are limited by the regulations from providing advance information to any person (other than an authorized employee of HUD)

concerning funding decisions, or from otherwise giving any applicant an unfair competitive advantage. Persons who apply for assistance in this competition should confine their inquiries to the subject areas permitted under 24 CFR part 4.

Applicants or employees who have ethics related questions should contact the HUD Ethics Law Division at (202) 708-3815. (This is not a toll-free number.) For HUD employees who have specific program questions, the employee should contact the

appropriate field office counsel, or Headquarters counsel for the program to which the question pertains.

(G) *Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers*. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number for this program is 14.863.

IX. Authority

The Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1997 (Pub. L. 104-204, 110 Stat. 2874, at 2887, approved

September 26, 1996) and the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998 (Pub. L. 105-65, 111 Stat. 1344, at 1356, approved October 27, 1997).

Dated: March 4, 1999.

Harold Lucas,

Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.

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