

at least one payment is received, or other arrangements satisfactory to the Department of Commerce are made.

Name Check Policy—All non-profit and for-profit applicants are subject to a name check review process. Name checks are intended to reveal whether any key individuals associated with the applicant have been convicted of or are presently facing criminal charges such as fraud, theft, perjury or other matters which significantly reflect on the applicant's management honesty or financial integrity.

Award Termination—The Departmental Grants Officer may terminate any grant/cooperative agreement in whole or in part at any time before the date of completion whenever it is determined that the award recipient has failed to comply with the conditions of the grant/cooperative agreement. Examples of some of the conditions which can cause termination are failure to meet cost-sharing requirements; unsatisfactory performance of the MBDC work requirements; and reporting inaccurate or inflated claims of client assistance. Such inaccurate or inflated claims may be deemed illegal and punishable by law.

False Statements—A false statement on an application for Federal financial assistance is grounds for denial or termination of funds, and grounds for possible punishment by a fine or imprisonment as provided in 18 U.S.C. 1001.

Primary Applicant Certifications—All primary applicants must submit a completed Form CD-511, "Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements and Lobbying."

Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension—Prospective participants (as defined at 15 CFR Part 26, Section 26.105) are subject to 15 CFR Part 26, "Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension" and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies.

Drug Free Workplace—Grantees (as defined at 15 CFR Part 26, Section 26.605) are subject to 15 CFR Part 26, Subpart F, "Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants)" and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies.

Anti-Lobbying—Persons (as defined at 15 CFR Part 28, Section 28.105) are subject to the lobbying provisions of 31 U.S.C. 1352, "Limitation on use of appropriated funds to influence certain Federal contracting and financial transactions," and the lobbying section

of the certification form prescribed above applies to applications/bids for grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts for more than \$100,000, and loans and loan guarantees for more than \$150,000 or the single family maximum mortgage limit for affected programs, whichever is greater.

Anti-Lobbying Disclosures—Any applicant that has paid or will pay for lobbying using any funds must submit an SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," as required under 15 CFR Part 28, Appendix B.

Lower Tier Certifications—Recipients shall require applications/bidders for subgrants, contracts, subcontracts, or other lower tier covered transactions at any tier under the award to submit, if applicable, a completed Form CD-512, "Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion—Lower Tier Covered Transactions and Lobbying" and disclosure form, SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities." Form CD-512 is intended for the use of recipients and should not be transmitted to DOC. SF-LLL submitted by any tier recipient or subrecipient should be submitted to DOC in accordance with the instructions contained in the award document.

Buy American-made Equipment or Products—Applicants are hereby notified that they are encouraged, to the extent feasible, to purchase American-made equipment and products with funding provided under this program in accordance with Congressional intent as set forth in the resolution contained in Pub L. 103-121, Sections 606(a) and (b).

11.800 Minority Business

Development Center

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance).

Dated: April 18, 1997.

Frances B. Douglas,

*Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer,
Minority Business Development Agency.*

[FR Doc. 97-10589 Filed 4-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-21-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Minority Business Development Agency

Solicitation of Business Development Center Applications for Houston and Dallas/Ft. Worth/Arlington

AGENCY: Minority Business Development Agency, Commerce.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Executive Order 11625 15 U.S.C. 1512, the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is soliciting competitive

applications from organizations to operate the Minority Business Development Centers (MBDC) listed in this document.

The purpose of the MBDC Program is to provide business development assistance to persons who are members of groups determined by MBDA to be socially or economically disadvantaged, and to business concerns owned and controlled by such individuals. To this end, MBDA funds organizations to identify and coordinate public and private sector resources on behalf of minority individuals and firms; to offer a full range of client services to minority entrepreneurs; and to serve as a conduit of information and assistance regarding minority business.

In accordance with the Interim Final Policy published in the **Federal Register** on May 31, 1996, the cost-share requirement for the MBDCs listed in this notice has been increased to 40%. The Department of Commerce will fund up to 60% of the total cost of operating an MBDC on an annual basis. The MBDC operator is required to contribute at least 40% of the total project cost (the "cost-share requirement"). Cost-sharing contributions may be in the form of cash, client fees, third party in-kind contributions, non-cash applicant contributions or combinations thereof. In addition to the traditional sources of an MBDC's cost-share contribution, the 40% may be contributed by local, state and private sector organizations. It is anticipated that some organizations may apply jointly for an award to operate the center. For administrative purposes, one organization must be designated as the recipient organization.

DATES: The closing date for applications for each MBDC is May 30, 1997.

PRE-APPLICATION CONFERENCE: Pre-application conferences will be held. For the exact date, time and location, contact the Dallas Regional Office at (214) 767-8001. Proper identification is required for entrance into any Federal building.

ADDRESSES: Completed application packages should be submitted to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency, MBDA Executive Secretariat, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Room 5073, Washington, DC 20230.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following are MBDCs for which applications are solicited:

1. **MBDC Application:** Houston.
Metropolitan Area Served: Houston, Texas.

Award Number: 06-10-97005-01.

For Further Information and an Application Package, Contact: Bobby Jefferson at (214) 767-8001.

Contingent upon the availability of Federal funds, the cost of performance for the first budget period (13 months) from September 1, 1997 to September 30, 1998, is estimated at \$708,105. The total Federal amount is \$424,863 and is composed of \$414,500 plus the Audit Fee amount of \$10,363. The application must include a minimum cost share of 40%, \$283,242 in non-federal (cost-sharing) contributions for a total project cost of \$708,105.

2. *MBDC Application:* Dallas/Ft. Worth/Arlington.

Metropolitan Area Served: Dallas/Ft. Worth/Arlington, Texas.

Award Number: 06-10-97004-01.

For Further Information and an Application Package, Contact: Bobby Jefferson at (214) 767-8001.

Contingent upon the availability of Federal funds, the cost of performance for the first budget period (13 months) from September 1, 1997 to September 30, 1998, is estimated at \$628,702. The total Federal amount is \$377,221 and is composed of \$368,020 plus the Audit Fee amount of \$9,201. The application must include a minimum cost share of 40%, \$251,481 in non-federal (cost-sharing) contributions for a total project cost of \$628,702.

Standard Paragraphs—The Following Information and Requirements Are Applicable to the Listed MBDCs: Houston and Dallas/Ft. Worth/Arlington

The funding instrument for this project will be a cooperative agreement. If the recommended applicant is the current incumbent organization, the award will be for 12 months. For those applicants who are not incumbent organizations or who are incumbents that have experienced closure due to a break in service, a 30-day start-up period will be added to their first budget period, making it a 13-month award. Competition is open to individuals, non-profit and for-profit organizations, state and local governments, American Indian tribes and educational institutions.

Applications will be evaluated on the following criteria: the knowledge, background and/or capabilities of the firm and its staff in addressing the needs of the business community in general and, specifically, the special needs of minority businesses, individuals and organizations (45 points), the resources available to the firm in providing business development services (10 points); the firm's approach (techniques and methodologies) to performing the work requirements included in the

application (25 points); and the firm's estimated cost for providing such assistance (20 points). In accordance with Interim Final Policy published in the **Federal Register** on May 31, 1996, the scoring system will be revised to add ten (10) bonus points to the application of community-based organizations. Each qualifying application will receive the full ten points. Community-based applicant organizations are those organizations whose headquarters and/or principal place of business within the last five years have been located within the geographic service area designated in the solicitation for the award. Where an applicant organization has been in existence for fewer than five years or has been present in the geographic service area for fewer than five years, the individual years of experience of the applicant organization's principals may be applied toward the requirement of five years of organization experience. The individual years of experience must have been acquired in the geographic service area which is the subject of the solicitation. An application must receive at least 70% of the points assigned to each evaluation criteria category to be considered programmatically acceptable and responsive. Those applications determined to be acceptable and responsive will then be evaluated by the Director of MBDA. Final award selections shall be based on the number of points received, the demonstrated responsibility of the applicant, and the determination of those most likely to further the purpose of the MBDA program. Negative audit findings and recommendations and unsatisfactory performance under prior Federal awards may result in an application not being considered for award. The applicant with the highest point score will not necessarily receive the award. Periodic reviews culminating in year-to-date evaluations will be conducted to determine if funding for the project should continue. Continued funding will be at the total discretion of MBDA based on such factors as the MBDC's performance, the availability of funds and Agency priorities.

The MBDC shall be required to contribute at least 40% of the total project cost through non-federal contributions. To assist in this effort, the MBDC may charge client fees for services rendered. Fees may range from \$10 to \$60 per hour based on the gross receipts of the client's business.

Anticipated processing time of this award is 120 days. Executive order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs," is not applicable to

this program. Federal funds for this project include audit funds for non-CPA recipients. In event that a CPA firm wins the competition, the funds allocated for audits are not applicable. Questions concerning the preceding information can be answered by the contact person indicated above, and copies of application kits and applicable regulations can be obtained at the above address. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information, subject to the requirements of the PRA, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. The collection of information requirements for this project have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and assigned OMB control number 0640-0006.

Awards under this program shall be subject to all Federal laws, and Federal and Departmental regulations, policies, and procedures applicable to Federal financial assistance awards.

Pre-Award Costs

Applicants are hereby notified that if they incur any costs prior to an award being made, they do so solely at their own risk of not being reimbursed by the Government. Notwithstanding any verbal assurance that an applicant may have received, there is no obligation on the part of the Department of Commerce to cover pre-award costs.

Outstanding Account Receivable

No award of Federal funds shall be made to an applicant who has an outstanding delinquent Federal debt until either the delinquent account is paid in full, repayment schedule is established and at least one payment is received, or other arrangements satisfactory to the Department of Commerce are made.

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11.800 Minority Business Development Center

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance)

Dated: April 18, 1997.

Frances B. Douglas,

*Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer
Minority Business Development Agency.*

[FR Doc. 97-10588 Filed 4-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-21-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 041197A]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Additions to meeting agenda.

SUMMARY: The agenda for the meetings of the Gulf of Mexico Council, which are scheduled for May 12-15, 1997, in New Orleans, LA, was published on May 17, 1997. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for additions to the meeting agenda.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, 333 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA; telephone: 504-525-9444.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wayne E. Swingle, Executive Director; telephone: (813) 228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The initial agenda published on May 17, 1997 (62 FR 18756). The following additions are to be included in the agenda:

Council Meetings

May 15

8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.—Receive a report of the Mackerel Management Committee.

11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.—Receive a report of the Habitat Protection Committee.

Committee Meetings

May 12

10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon—Convene the Habitat Protection Committee to review proposed Essential Fishery Habitat Guidelines.

All other information previously published remains unchanged.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by May 5, 1997.

Dated: April 18, 1997.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 97-10593 Filed 4-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Chicago Board of Trade Futures Contracts in Corn and Soybeans; Notice That Delivery Point Specifications Must be Amended

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice of, and request for public comment on, response of the Chicago Board of Trade to Notification to amend delivery specifications.

SUMMARY: The Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("Commission") by letter dated December 19, 1996,