

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the urgent need to meet timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

The meeting will be closed in accordance with provisions set forth in secs. 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5, U.S.C. The applications and/or proposals and the discussions could reveal confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material and personal information concerning individuals associated with the applications and/or proposals, disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Numbers: 93.277, Drug Abuse Research Scientist Development and Research Scientist Awards; 93.278, Drug Abuse National Research Service Awards for Research Training; 93.279, Drug Abuse Research Program)

Dated: May 12, 1998.

Anna Snouffer,

Acting NIH Committee Management Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

Refugee Resettlement Program: Availability of FY 1998 Targeted Assistance and Social Services Discretionary Funding

AGENCY: Office of Refugee Resettlement, ACF, DHHS.

ACTION: Notice of availability of FY 1998 Targeted Assistance discretionary funds to States and of the availability of FY 1998 Social Services discretionary funds for services to refugees.

SUMMARY: This program announcement governs the availability of and award procedures for \$9,900,000 in FY 1998 Targeted Assistance discretionary grants (TAG) for services to refugees.¹ Further,

this announcement governs the availability of, and award procedures for approximately \$1,300,000 in FY 1998 Social Services discretionary funds for the Community and Family Strengthening (CFS) Program.

Applicants may request a project period of up to two years, with an initial budget period of one year. Where awards are for multiple-year project periods, applications for continuation grants will be entertained in subsequent years on a non-competitive basis, subject to the availability of funds, successful progress of the project, and ACF's determination that this would be in the best interest of the government.

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) will accept competing applications for grants pursuant to the Director's discretionary authority under section 412(c)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), as amended by section 311 of the Refugee Act of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-212), 8 U.S.C. 1522(c); section 501(a) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-422), 8 U.S.C. 1522 note, insofar as it incorporates by reference with respect to Cuban and Haitian entrants the authorities pertaining to assistance for refugees established by section 412(c) of the INA, as cited above; and the Refugee Assistance Extension Act of 1986 (Pub. L. 99-605).

This Program Announcement consists of three parts:

Part I covers supplemental information on available funds, legislative authorities, eligible applicants, and the priority areas to be considered.

Part II, Priority Areas Under Which Grants and Cooperative Agreements Will Be Awarded, describes the four priority areas under which ORR is requesting applications. Grants and cooperative agreements will be awarded for the purposes described below under TAG and under the Social Services CFS program. ORR will make awards in the following priority areas:

- (1) Targeted assistance
- (2) Microenterprise development

L. 100-461), 1990 (Pub. L. 101-167), and 1991 (Pub. L. 101-513). For convenience, the term "refugee" is used in this notice to encompass all such eligible persons unless the specific context indicates otherwise.

Refugees admitted to the U.S. under admissions numbers set aside for private-sector-initiative admissions are not eligible to be served under the targeted assistance program (or under other programs supported by Federal refugee funds) during their period of coverage under their sponsoring agency's agreement with the Department of State—usually two years from their date of arrival or until they obtain permanent resident alien status, whichever comes first.

- (3) Self-sufficiency services to offset the impact of large refugee families on local communities
- (4) Refugee community and family strengthening social services.

Each Priority Area below includes the following sections which provide area-specific information to be used to develop an application for ORR funds: A. Purpose, B. Allowable Activities, and C. Review Criteria.

Part III, General Application Information and Guidance, describes application procedures for Priority Areas 1 through 4 and should be consulted in developing an application for any of the priority areas. It also contains information on the availability of forms, where and how to submit an application, instructions for completing the SF-424, the intergovernmental review, and reporting requirements.

CLOSING DATE: The closing date for submission of applications is July 10, 1998. Applications postmarked after the closing date will be classified as late and will not be considered in the current competition.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, CONTACT: Kathy Do, TAG Program Manager, at (202) 401-4579 for information regarding Priority Areas 1, and 3; for Priority Area 2, please contact Marta Brenden, Refugee Microenterprise Program Manager, at (202)-205-3589 or e-mail: mbrenden@acf.dhhs.gov; and for Priority Area 4, contact Anna Mary Portz, CFS Program Manager, telephone (202) 401-1196, or e-mail: aportz@acf.dhhs.gov. You may address correspondence to the contact person as follows: Administration for Children and Families, ORR/Division of Community Resettlement, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW, 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20447.

Part I

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Legislative Authority

Targeted assistance discretionary grants are awarded under the authority of section 412(c)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), as amended by the Refugee Assistance Extension Act of 1986 (Pub. L. 99-605), 8 U.S.C. 1522(c); section 501(a) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-422), 8 U.S.C. 1522 note, insofar as it incorporates by reference with respect to Cuban and Haitian entrants the authorities pertaining to assistance for refugees established by section 412(c)(2) of the INA, as cited above; section 584(c) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs

¹In addition to persons who meet all requirements of 45 CFR 400.43, "Requirements for documentation of refugee status," eligibility for targeted assistance includes: (1) Cuban and Haitian entrants, under section 501 of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-422); (2) certain Amerasians from Vietnam who are admitted to the U.S. as immigrants under section 584 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1988, as included in the FY 1988 Continuing Resolution (Pub. L. 100-202); and (3) certain Amerasians from Vietnam, including U.S. citizens, under title II of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Acts, 1989 (Pub.

Appropriations Act, 1988, as included in the FY 1988 Continuing Resolution (Pub. L. 100-202), insofar as it incorporates by reference with respect to certain Amerasians from Vietnam the authorities pertaining to assistance for refugees established by section 412(c)(2) of the INA, as cited above, including certain Amerasians from Vietnam who are U.S. citizens, as provided under title II of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1989 (Pub. L. 100-461), 1990 (Pub. L. 101-167), 1991 (Pub. L. 101-513), and 1998 (Pub. L. 105-118).

Background

Section 412(c)(1)(A) of the INA authorizes the Director of ORR "to make grants to, and enter into contracts with, public or private nonprofit agencies for projects specifically designed—(i) to assist refugees in obtaining the skills which are necessary for economic self-sufficiency, including projects for job training, employment services, day care, professional refresher training, and other recertification services; (ii) to provide training in English where necessary (regardless of whether the refugees are employed or receiving cash or other assistance); and (iii) to provide where specific needs have been shown and recognized by the Director * * * health, social adjustment services, social services, educational and other services."

The targeted assistance discretionary program reflects the requirements of section 412(c)(2)(A) of the INA, which provides authority for the Director of ORR "to make grants to States for assistance to counties and similar areas in the States where, because of factors such as unusually large refugee populations (including secondary migration), high refugee concentrations, and high use of public assistance by refugees, there exists and can be demonstrated a specific need for supplementation of available resources for services to refugees." Paragraph (2)(B) states, "Grants shall be made available * * * (ii) in a manner that does not supplant other refugee program funds and that assures that not less than 95 percent of the amount of the grant award is made available to the county or other local entity."

The Department's FY 1998 Appropriation (Pub. L. 104-134) provides \$415,000,000 for refugee and entrant assistance activities to be distributed by formula and through discretionary grants for special projects.

The Office of Refugee Resettlement has available an additional \$5,000,000 in FY 1998 funds for the targeted

assistance discretionary program through the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act (Pub. L. 104-107). These funds are to augment the discretionary program for localities most impacted by the influx of refugees such as Laotian Hmong, Cambodians and Soviet Pentecostals, and are included in this announcement.

Services Provided Through ORR Discretionary Programs Are Not Restricted to Refugees Arriving Within the Last Five Years

Availability of Funds

Approximately \$11.2 million will be awarded in FY 1998 through this Announcement. ORR expects to award approximately \$4,300,000 in FY 1998 TAG discretionary funds in Priority Area 1: Targeted Assistance Grants (TAG), through 15-20 grants and cooperative agreements ranging from \$150,000 to \$300,000 per budget period. In Priority Area 2: Microenterprise, ORR anticipates making three individual new awards ranging from \$150,000 to \$250,000 and totaling approximately \$600,000 from TAG funds. In Priority Area 3: Self-Sufficiency Services for Impacted Communities, ORR expects to make approximately 5 awards totaling \$5 million, with no single grant or cooperative agreement exceeding \$3,500,000. ORR expects to award a total of \$1,300,000 in FY 1998 Social Services discretionary funds in Priority Area 4: Community Family Strengthening (CFS), to approximately 10 projects ranging from \$80,000 to \$250,000.

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number Assigned to This Announcement is 93.576

The Director reserves the right to award less, or more, than the funds described, in the absence of worthy applications, or under such other circumstances as may be deemed to be in the best interest of the government. Applicants may be required to reduce the scope of selected projects to accommodate the amount of the approved grant award. Where ORR anticipates substantial involvement with the grantee during the performance of the project, the award action will include a cooperative agreement.

A State may not budget or retain for State administration more than 5% of a TAG discretionary grant award. Where the State chooses to implement the projects by awarding funds through county governments, States and counties may each retain a maximum of

5% of the funds awarded for administration.

Eligible State applicants may apply for more than one of Priority Areas 1-4 as described above; however each State should submit one application (e.g. a single SF 424A) with a full component description labeled by Priority Area including a budget justification and narrative for each distinct project. In addition, component budgets should be individually detailed on the SF 424B and the aggregate Total should correlate to the Estimated Funding on the SF 424A. Applicants applying for microenterprise development activities under Priority Areas 1 or 3 are referred to Priority 2 of this announcement for guidance in the preparation of the relevant section of their application.

Eligible Applicants and Grantees

States are the eligible recipients of TAG funds. Therefore, applications in Priority Areas 1-3 described below are restricted to States or their representatives. Applications will be considered from all States, regardless of whether any communities in the State qualify for funding under the formula TAP grant program.

Eligible TAG applicants are (a) those agencies of State governments which are responsible for the refugee program under 45 CFR 400.5, and (b) an agency which has State-wide responsibility for an alternative to the State-administered program in lieu of the State under a Wilson/Fish grant.

Eligible Applicants for Priority Area 4 Are any Public or Private, Nonprofit Organization

Current CFS grantees whose projects end by September 30, 1998 are encouraged to participate under Priority Areas 1, 2, 3 or 4, as appropriate.

Coalitions—Refugee programs and local organizations, which have not already done so, are encouraged to build coalitions for the purpose of providing services funded under this announcement. The activities funded by these grants are intended to serve as a catalyst to bring the community together to address the economic and social problems of refugee families and the refugee community. The goal in all cases should be to build and strengthen the community's capacity to serve its members in improving the quality of life and standard of living for refugee families.

ORR strongly encourages single applications from partnerships or consortia of three or more eligible organizations. Applicants must demonstrate that wherever potential

partners for collaboration exist, the applicant, at a minimum, has planned the proposed activities in collaboration with these potential partners. Partners may be in the refugee services provider community of organizations and institutions or in mainstream services organizations, e.g., adult basic education providers, child care coalitions, women's shelters. Collaboration might also include the Mayor's office, school parent-teacher groups, local police departments, and other mainstream community service organizations.

The process of coalition-building is key to strengthening cooperation and coordination among the local service providers, community leaders, Mutual Assistance Associations, voluntary agencies, churches, and other public and private organizations involved in refugee resettlement or community service. ORR intends that this process will be part of local efforts to build strategic partnerships among these groups to expand their capacity to serve the social and economic needs of refugees and to give support and direction to ethnic communities facing problems in economic independence and social adjustment.

In this context, ORR is defining partnership as a formal negotiated arrangement among organizations that provides for a substantive collaborative role for each of the partners in the planning and conduct of the project. Applications which represent a coalition of providers should include a signed partnership agreement stating a commitment or an intent to commit or receive resources from the prospective partner(s) contingent upon receipt of ORR funds. The agreement should state how the partnership arrangement relates to the objectives of the project. The applicant should also include: Supporting documentation identifying the resources, experience, and expertise of the partner(s); evidence that the partner(s) has been involved in the planning of the project; and a discussion of the role of the partner(s) in the implementation and conduct of the project.

Part I Priority Areas Under Which Grants and Cooperative Agreements Will Be Awarded

PRIORITY AREA 1: Targeted Assistance Grants (TAG)

A. Purpose

The purpose of funding for TAG grants is to encourage States to address special services needs which cannot be met with the formula social services or targeted assistance grants.

The objective of the activities proposed should be self-sufficiency for refugees and refugee families. A project may include a combination of outcomes designed to assist families to increase income and/or to avoid or end reliance on public assistance. Services should be linguistically and culturally appropriate and service providers should demonstrate staff capacity in this regard.

ORR is particularly interested in projects which propose to serve special refugee populations including youth, women, and Former Political Prisoners.

B. Allowable Activities

Listed below are examples of services. They are not intended to limit potential applicants in their consultation with the refugee communities to plan and design projects. Where projects include ELT technical assistance services, for example, ORR would anticipate substantial Federal involvement in the selection of service-recipient agencies and programs and in the selection of materials and subjects for the Internet web-site.

Applicants may propose all or some combination of the following or may propose other strategies to address refugee self-sufficiency:

Specialized English Language Training (ELT)

- Specialized classes for specific industries in conjunction with employers.

- Specialized instruction in pre-employment competency-based ELT for targeted groups, e.g., limited English speaking individuals with non-transferrable job skills, homebound women, pre-literate refugees, and the elderly.

- Occupational and vocational English language training, particularly in collaboration with specific employers and with their active participation; ELT at sites of employment; ELT as part of an integrated employment program (e.g., one stop services).

Specialized Training and Employment-Related Activities

- Training specific to the employment job opportunities through an employer or industry in the community. These activities should be jointly designed with the employer and show employer contribution and commitment to employing the trainees, e.g., training of bilingual education aides for the school system, training of health aides for placement in the health care system.

- On-the-job training and short-term skills training targeted to the local job market;

- Incentives for refugees to seek and maintain employment and to avoid welfare;

- Job placement and post-placement services to help refugees retain employment or sustain self-sufficiency. Examples include supportive services, such as transportation, interpreter assistance, access to childcare resources (e.g. kinship day care or care of dependents in the household), and job upgrades.

- Income generation through self-employment projects including assistance in small business creation or expansion, business training and technical assistance, credit in the form of microloans, and the administrative costs of managing a microloan fund.

Community Education

- Classes in parenting skills, including information about U.S. cultural and legal issues, e.g., corporal punishment, generational conflict, and child abuse.

- Assistance to parents in connecting with the school system and other local community organizations.

- Orientation to health care and assistance for accessing low-cost health service, including orientation on health insurance, health maintenance organizations, preventive health measures, and the availability of health services for low income families.

Community Centers and Organizing

- Assistance to refugee communities to enhance their ability to assimilate and acculturate to their new life in the U.S.

- Mentoring and Peer Support Programs, such as, pairing participant individuals or families with community volunteers. Programs should target refugees who are not otherwise receiving core services, and mentoring should target identified needs and provide peer support for resolution of problems. The purposes are to solve individual, family, and community problems with the support of peers and to solve common problems through group action.

- Operating community centers for the delivery of services to refugee individuals and families. Centers may also be used for recreation, child care, information and referral services, and community gatherings. (Costs related to construction or renovation will not be considered, and costs for food or beverages are not allowable).

Combating Violence in Families

- Information and training in preventing domestic violence, child abuse, sexual harassment and coercion,

roles of men and women in U.S. culture, and techniques for protection.

—Linkages to mainstream service-providers to ensure access to culturally appropriate services

—Training and providing bi-lingual staff for women's shelters.

Crime Prevention/Victimization

—Activities designed to improve relations between refugees and the law enforcement communities: (a) Public service officers or community liaisons; (b) neighborhood storefronts and/or watch programs; (c) refugee business watch program; (d) cross cultural training for the law enforcement community (police departments, court system, mediation/dispute resolution centers).

Note: Law enforcement activities, such as hiring sworn police officers (except those who are public service officers or community liaison officers), fingerprinting, incarceration, etc., are outside the scope of allowable services under the Refugee Act and will not be considered for funding. Other unallowable activities are those limited to, or principally focused on, parole counseling, court advocacy, and child protection services.

English Language Training (ELT) Technical Assistance

—For programs and teachers to assess and improve employment-related ELT and curriculum, or to develop programs (e.g., work-site ELT, performance-based ELT, family literacy).

—Training for ELT teachers in identifying issues of cultural and social adjustment, learning disabilities, and mental health, and in developing appropriate curricula to accommodate learning needs of the students.

—Multi-site consultation and information sharing training sessions where similar agencies and/or agencies serving similar groups of refugees can share experiences. This might include a component designed to bring together ELT providers and employment specialists, case managers, voluntary agency staff, and public health professionals, for the purpose of developing strategies for effective working relationships.

—Management of an ELT resource center including an Internet web-site.

All services should be planned around the refugees' availability (i.e., evening hours or other times not in conflict with work hours).

C. Priority 1—Applications Review Criteria

Each application in Priority 1, regardless of the number of projects therein, will be rated and scored by an independent review panel using the following criteria.

1. Target Population and Strategies (10 points)

Description of the targeted refugee population and its impact on the overall community.

The description of the target refugee population(s) includes their number, national origin, year of arrival, and other pertinent information. A comparison of the size of the target refugee population in relation to the size of the general population in the community is included.

2. Project Design and Approach (25 points)

Quality, appropriateness, and anticipated impact of proposed services. Rationale for the proposed activities as an effective approach in addressing the problem described.

The applicant clearly describes the services that will be provided and documents the extent to which other sources of funding, including TAP formula funds and other Federal, State, or local funding, are not sufficient or available to address the impact. The proposal adequately discusses how requested funds and proposed activities will relate to other funded services.

3. Timeline and Expected Outcomes (25 points)

Extent to which the timeline and expected outcomes of the project are appropriate and reasonable in relation to the funding cycle and the proposed activities.

The applicant has clear projected outcomes, e.g., if employment services are proposed, the number of refugee active participants, number expected to enter employment, the expected average hourly wage at employment entry, the number of jobs with health benefits, and the number who are employed 90 days following employment entry.

4. Organizational's Capability (25 points)

Demonstrated organizational experience, track record, and project management capability. Staff resumes or job descriptions are included. Organizational charts depict agency and staff roles and responsibilities.

5. Cost Effectiveness (15 points)

Reasonableness of budget proposed. Detailed budget and narrative justification, including State and/or local government administration. Unit costs for project services and expected outcomes are justified and reasonable.

Priority Area 2: Microenterprise Development

A. Purpose

The purpose of this program is to use microenterprise development to assist refugees in becoming economically independent and to help refugee communities in developing employment and capital resources.

State applicants will be expected to have identified local agencies interested in providing services under this Priority Area, prior to submitting requests for microenterprise development funds.

Successful grantees and subgrantees will be expected to coordinate their policies and procedures for developing and administering refugee microenterprise projects with the existing refugee microenterprise services network.

B. Allowable Activities

Microenterprise applicants may request funds to provide business technical assistance, business training, credit in the form of microloans, and administrative costs for managing a microloan fund to assist refugees to start or expand microbusinesses. Business targets may be start-ups, expansions, or both.

Microloans consist of small amounts of credit, generally in sums less than \$10,000, extended to low-income entrepreneurs for start-up or very small microenterprises. Typically, refugee borrowers should have few personal assets or savings and should not qualify for commercial loans.

Applicants should be familiar with and describe a profile of the refugee participants including employment and welfare status, length of time in the United States, interest in microbusinesses and English language proficiency. Applicants should be familiar with the capital needs and capital market gaps for refugee entrepreneurs and demonstrate how they will gain access to credit through this project.

States intending to subgrant activities under this category must require the submission of the following documents for each subgrantee prior to the award of a subgrant:

a. A copy of the IRS Tax Exemption Certificate and identification of IRS code citation of tax exempt status (nonprofit agencies only).

b. Copies of the last two fiscal year financial statements, including balance sheets and income statements.

c. A monthly cash flow chart for the loan fund for the three year period beginning October 1, 1998.

In addition to the above, States intending to continue microenterprise development in agencies which previously were funded for this purpose by ORR should include past microenterprise outcomes, such as business starts, business survivability, loan default rates, reductions in clients' welfare utilization, job creation, reported business income, and business expertise acquired through the project's intervention.

C. Priority 2—Application Review Criteria

Each project component in Priority 2 will be rated and scored by an independent review panel using the following criteria.

1. Quality of the description of the prospective refugee participants' profile with respect to welfare utilization, English language proficiency, length of time in the U.S., interest in microbusinesses, and the description of local capital needs and capital market gaps for refugee microentrepreneurs. (20 points)

2. Adequacy and appropriateness of the planning process and resulting program approach or design: project goals and structure (policies, procedures, activities); training and technical assistance; loan fund and lending criteria and fees, if included in the design; whether the business targets are start-ups, expansions, or both; affiliate agencies; and credit enhancements, such as loan loss reserves. (30 points)

3. Demonstrated organizational and management capacity, and experience serving refugees and other economically disadvantaged populations; description of experience in management of loan funds, collaboration with the specific refugee community(ies) and coalition building among refugee and non-refugee service providers. (20 points)

4. Extent to which the expected outcomes and unit costs of the project are appropriate, consistent with reported nationwide performance in microenterprise projects, and reasonable in relation to the proposed activities; the impact of loan funds, business income, and business assets on clients' welfare status, if applicable. Projected outcomes for business income, business survivability and reductions in welfare utilization. (20 points)

5. Appropriateness and reasonableness of the proposed budget, including the relative distribution of funds for administrative costs, training or technical assistance, and loan capital. Application should include project timelines and a narrative justification

supporting each budget line item. (20 points)

Priority Area 3: Self-Sufficiency Services to Offset the Impact of Large Refugee Families on Local Communities

A. Purpose

The purpose of this priority area is to promote services which enhance the ability of large refugee families to gain increases in household incomes significantly above the poverty level, and to reduce or offset the impact of refugee populations on local communities in States most heavily impacted by the influx of Laotian Hmong, Cambodian or Soviet Pentecostal refugees. To be competitive under this section, States must demonstrate and document a significant impact on local communities by the presence of a very large number of refugees in one of these three populations. That number is expected to exceed 15,000 refugees for a State to be able to substantiate its evidence of local impact. States may also document a significantly high proportion of refugees in one of these three groups relative to the area's non-refugee population.

A State that intends to apply for funds must also present evidence in its application of the severity of the impact by this population on a local community, (e.g., on local school districts, child care facilities, or family counseling services).

No State will be awarded more than \$3.5 million for these projects. The application should present a plan for the provision of services designed to assist refugee households in generating income and alleviating poverty. Funding decisions will be based on the quality of the plan and the evidence presented for likely success in achieving measurable goals, as well as on the determination of need in such areas as refugee impact on community services and documentation of refugee welfare dependency.

B. Allowable Activities

The types of projects which ORR may fund under this competitive area include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Employment services, such as job development, placement, and post-placement services. Projects may target the non-primary wage earner of families in a coordinated strategy to achieve a combined family income in excess of the poverty level.

- Vocational English Language Training, on-the-job-training, and skills training. Services may target assisting hard-to-place refugees, such as those

over the age of 50, or non-primary wage earners to gain skills as child care providers, recreational aides, health care aides, etc.

- Services to assist refugees in the generation of income apart from employment, such as self-employment. Projects may include assistance in small business creation and expansion, business training and technical assistance, credit in the form of microloans, and the administrative costs of managing a microloan fund.

- Projects which enhance the relationships between refugee households and services such as school-to-work programs, teen pregnancy prevention, domestic violence intervention, day care development, parenting, and youth-at-risk programs.

All services must be culturally and linguistically compatible and be planned around refugees' ability to attend activities (e.g. evening hours or other times not in conflict with work hours).

C. Priority 3—Application Review Criteria

Applications for this priority area will be reviewed and ranked against the following criteria:

1. Purpose and Extent of Impact on Local Community (40 points)

The description of the purposes for which funding is needed is sufficiently detailed and appropriate to this priority area.

Level, extent, and nature of the impact of Laotian Hmong, Cambodians and Soviet Pentecostal refugees on the State or local community targeted and description of the targeted population.

A description of the extent of the impact in the State and/or community for which the project is targeted. For purposes of this Priority Area only, and consistent with the purpose described above, discussions of impact must be limited to the impact of large populations of Laotian Hmong, Cambodians and Soviet Pentecostals. This impact statement must include a description of the target refugee population, including the numbers, national origins, and other pertinent information, and geographic location(s) for which funding is requested. It should also describe the extent to which refugees have significantly changed aspects of community life, with implications for long-term adjustment.

2. Project Design, Methodology, Timeline (20 points)

Appropriateness of the project design, methods of service delivery, and projected timelines to the needs of the targeted community(ies). Clear

description of the activities proposed to address the impact on local communities.

Projects which are expected to build new, or make use of existing, partnerships with other government or nonprofit agencies should describe the partnerships, as well as the partner agencies and their qualifications for participation in this program (e.g., history of outcomes in similar programs).

3. Project Outcomes (20 points)

The extent to which the expected outcomes and unit costs of the project are appropriate and reasonable in relation to the proposed activities and budget. A description of expected project outcomes and the estimated unit costs of the services are provided. This should focus on measurable outcomes, such as increases in household income, welfare grant terminations, etc., rather than on process outcomes, e.g., numbers of people to be served, number of sessions to be conducted.

If funding is to be used to expand or continue an existing project, discuss the outcomes to date of that project.

14. Budget (20 points)

Reasonableness of budget proposed. An estimated line-item budget and narrative justification, including State and/or local government administration.

Priority Area 4) Community and Family Strengthening (CFS)

A. Purpose

While employment and economic independence continue to be ORR's primary concern and the focus of the formula social services and targeted assistance funding, this Priority Area provides an opportunity for States and nonprofit organizations to request funding for activities which supplement and complement employment-related services by strengthening refugee families and communities.

ORR views the participation of the target population as particularly important. Project designing must include representatives of the target population. For example, a project designed to assist single mothers needs to be designed in consultation with single mothers.

Cultural and Linguistic Compatibility. All applicants should demonstrate existing refugee community support for their agency and their proposed project. If the applicant works in an area where no other organizations work with refugees, and a coalition with other organizations is not possible, this should be explained and documented.

Applicants and all private partners should provide evidence that their governing bodies, boards of directors, or advisory bodies are representative of the refugee communities being served, and have both male and female representation.

In all cases, regardless of the nature of the organization proposed to provide services or conduct activities funded under this announcement, the services/activities must be conducted by staff linguistically and culturally compatible with the refugee families or communities to be served. In addition, the applicant must describe how proposed providers will have access to the families and to the community to be served. If interpreters are proposed in the first budget period, applicant must demonstrate how these staff will be used and whether they will be trained to become bi-lingual service providers during the project period.

Cost-sharing. This announcement is intended to encourage service planners and providers to consider the various unmet needs of refugee families and communities relative to existing services, the capacity of the service-providing network, and ultimately the community's capacity to continue the activity without additional ORR resources beyond the three-year project period of this announcement. Long-range viability may depend on: Linkages to activities funded by other sources, the availability of expertise in the community, the relatedness of proposed activities to existing activities, the willingness of the community to participate actively in assuring the success of the activity—including volunteer commitment, and the likelihood of tangible results.

Because funding under this program announcement is limited, applicants are urged to plan for the use of these funds in conjunction with other Federal, State, and private funds available to assist the target populations and to carry out similar programs and activities (cost-sharing). To this end, successful applicants will propose and commit to a minimum cost-sharing of 10% of the original budget period (first year) costs. In subsequent year continuation applications, the grantee will be asked to document receipt of non-Federal funds from other sources. The requirement will be not less than 25% of the full budget for the second year award. For example, if the original budget is \$150,000, the federal share for that year may be \$135,000 (90%). The second year the federal award might be \$112,500 and the grantee would be required to provide at a minimum cost-sharing of \$37,500, 25% of the full

budget, in cash or in-kind support. Only in unusual circumstances will the Director of ORR entertain a request from the grantee to reduce or waive the cost-sharing requirement.

B. Allowable Activities

ORR will consider applications for services which an applicant justifies, based on an analysis of service needs and available resources, as necessary to address the social and economic problems of refugee families and of the refugee community. It should be clear how the proposed activity fits into the existing network of services; how it responds to the particular needs of families in that community or to a broader need of the community of families; who is committed to do what in order to accomplish this goal; and what is the goal or expected outcome of the activity.

The specific services proposed may be as diverse as the refugee populations and the resettlement communities themselves. Some examples follow which are not intended to be a comprehensive list but are intended to stimulate planning and community discussion. It will be the task of the local planning processes to determine what is needed to address the economic and social adjustment needs of families and the community. Activities and services proposed should be planned in conjunction with existing services and should supplement and complement these services. Special attention should be given in the planning process to the services available to all citizens, including community institutions which serve the elderly, youth and special needs populations.

Non-Allowable Activities: Funds will not be awarded to applicants who propose to engage in activities of a distinctly political nature or which are designed primarily to promote the preservation of cultural heritage, or which have an international objective. ORR supports refugee community efforts to preserve cultural heritage, but believes these are activities which communities should conduct without recourse to ORR resources.

SOME EXAMPLES OF ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES:

Community Education

—Activities designed to inform the refugee community about issues essential to effective participation in the new society.

—Classes in parenting skills, including information about U.S. cultural and legal issues, e.g., corporal punishment, generational conflict, and child abuse.

—Assistance to parents in connecting with the school system and other local community organizations.

—Orientation to health care and assistance for accessing low-cost health service, including orientation on health insurance, health maintenance organizations, preventive health measures, and the availability of health services for low income families.

Specialized English Language Training

—Specialized classes for specific industries in conjunction with employers.

—Specialized classes for groups outside the regular classes, e.g., homebound women, elderly. Use of volunteers is encouraged. Accessibility of site and time is important.

Mentoring Programs and Peer Support

—Pairing participant individuals or families with community volunteers. Programs should target refugees who are not otherwise receiving core services, and mentoring should target needs they identify.

—Assisting subgroups to form a common bond for resolution of peer-specific problems. The purposes are to solve individual, family, and community problems with the support of peers and to solve common problems through group action.

Combating Violence in Families

—Information and training against domestic violence, child abuse, sexual harassment and coercion, roles of men and women in U.S. culture, and techniques for protection.

—Linkages to mainstream service-providers to ensure access to culturally appropriate services.

—Training and/or bi-lingual staff for women's shelters.

Crime Prevention/Victimization

—Activities designed to improve relations between refugees and the law enforcement communities: (a) Public service officers or community liaisons; (b) neighborhood storefronts and/or watch programs; (c) refugee business watch programs; (d) cross cultural training for the law enforcement community (police departments, court system, mediation or dispute management centers).

Note: Law enforcement activities, such as hiring sworn police officers (except those who are public service officers or community liaison officers), fingerprinting, incarceration, etc., are outside the scope of allowable services under the Refugee Act and will not be considered for funding. Other unallowable activities are those limited to, or principally focused on, parole counseling, court advocacy, and child protection services.

Refugee Community Centers and Organizing

—Operating community centers for the delivery of services to refugee individuals and families. Centers may also be used for recreation, information and referral services, childcare, and community gatherings. (Costs related to construction or renovation will not be considered, and costs for food or beverages are not allowable).

—Communities might be organized for housing cooperatives, for youth activities, for services to elderly, for volunteer mentoring services, for crime prevention.

The above are only examples of services. They are not intended to limit potential applicants in community planning.

These examples are listed and generically described without regard to the population to be served. It will be necessary in the application to describe more specifically the target population. For example, one activity might be appropriately designed to serve only homebound women. Another might be designed for teenagers and their parents. Another might be for elderly. Some might be targeted for all members of the family. Applications should correlate a planned activity with specific target audiences and discuss the relationship between the proposed activities and the target population.

C. Application Review Criteria

1. Need and Scope (25 points)

Profile of refugee community and target population by geographic area or ethnic group of the refugee community to be served, including numbers, ethnicity, welfare utilization pattern, number of refugee families in the community, family characteristics, and an assessment of attitudes of the refugees and the general community toward each other. Clarity of description and soundness of rationale for selection of targeted community or population.

Adequacy and quality of data provided and quality of the analysis of data provided in the application with special regard to ethnic group, refugee families, women, youth, or the aged.

Clarity and comprehensiveness of needs identification and problem statement and of the description of the local context in which grant activities are proposed.

Comprehensiveness of description of existing services and community network and explanation of how the proposed services complement what is already in place.

Evidence of consultation with target population.

2. Proposed Strategy and Program Design (30 points)

Soundness of strategy and program design for meeting identified needs. Identification of projected performance outcomes and proposed milestones measuring progress, as appropriate to the services proposed by the end of the first budget period and over the entire requested project period. (ORR encourages applicants, to the extent possible, to develop innovative quantifiable measures related to the desired service impact for purposes of monitoring and project assessment.)

The quality of the outcomes proposed and the potential for achieving the outcomes within the grant's project period. The potential of the project to have a positive impact on the quality of the lives of refugee families and communities.

Adequate detail in the description of linkages with other providers and roles of collaborating agencies in project implementation.

Extent to which the need described is expected to be met and/or to which the services will be augmented, supplemented, or integrated with existing services.

The extent to which the award is projected to be augmented or supplemented by other funding during and beyond (i.e., in the second and any subsequent year of) the grant period, or can be integrated into other existing service systems.

3. Applicant/Coalition Capability (25 points)

Validity and reasonableness of the proposed coalition arrangement to perform the proposed activities. Commitment of coalition partners in implementing the activities as demonstrated by letters or the terms of the signed agreement among participants. (Where potential coalition partners are documented to be unavailable, the applicant will not be penalized under this criteria. However, the applicant should describe any consultation efforts undertaken and consultation with the refugee community.)

Experience of the applicant coalition in performing the proposed services.

Adequacy of gender balance and constituent representatives of board members of participant organizations or of the proposed project's advisory board.

Adequacy of assurance that proposed services will be delivered by staff linguistically and culturally appropriate to the target population.

Qualifications of the individual organization staff and any volunteers.

Detailed description of the administrative and management features of the project including a plan for fiscal and programmatic management of each activity, proposed start-up times, ongoing timelines, major milestones or benchmarks, a component/project organization chart, and a staffing chart.

A description of information collection (participant and outcome data) and monitoring proposed.

4. Budget and Financial Management (20 points)

Reasonableness of budget and narrative justification in relation to the proposed activities and anticipated results.

Adequacy of proposed monitoring and information collection.

Realistic plan for the continuation of services with a phase-out of ORR grant funding over the multi-year project period. Extent to which the application makes provision for cost-sharing (e.g. leveraging ORR funds with non-Federal funds or in-kind support) to maintain the full budget during the overall project. If available, the value of such leveraged funds or in-kind support and any preliminary commitments.

Part III. General Application Information and Guidance Forms and Certifications

Applicants for financial assistance under this announcement must file the Standard Form (SF) 424, Application for Federal Assistance; SF-424A, Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs; SF-424B, Assurances—Non-Construction Programs. The forms may be reproduced for use in submitting applications. An application with an original signature and two copies is required.

If an application represents a consortium (that is, the applicant includes other types of agencies among its membership), the single organization identified as applicant by the Authorized Representative's signature on the SF-424, Box 18.d, will be the grant recipient and will have primary administrative and fiscal responsibilities. An applicant entity must be a public or private nonprofit organization.

All applications which meet the stipulated deadline and other requirements will be reviewed competitively and scored by an independent review panel of experts in accordance with ACF grants policy and the criteria stated above. The results of the independent review panel scores and explanatory comments will assist the Director of ORR in considering competing applications. Reviewers'

scores will weigh heavily in funding decisions but will not be the only factors considered. Applications generally will be considered in order of the average scores assigned by the reviewers. Highly ranked applications are not guaranteed funding since other factors are taken into consideration, including: Comments of reviewers and of ACF/ORR officials; previous program performance of applicants; compliance with grant terms under previous DHHS grants; audit reports; and investigative reports. Final funding decisions will be made by the Director of ORR.

Availability of Forms and Certifications

ORR published a copy of the Standard Form 424 with instructions for submitting an Application for Federal Assistance in the **Federal Register**, December 9, 1997 (FR Vol. 62, No. 236, pgs. 64870-64883). Copies of the **Federal Register** are available on the Internet and at most local libraries and Congressional District Offices for reproduction. The SF424 is also available through the ACF Internet at <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/> (at "Select a Topic," choose "Grant Related Forms and Documents," then click on "Go").

If copies are not available at these sources, they may be obtained by sending a written or faxed request to the following: Office of Refugee Resettlement, 370 L'Enfant Promenade SW., Washington, DC 20447, Telephone: (202) 401-9251, Fax: (202) 401-5487.

Budget and Budget Justification

Provide line item detail and detailed calculations for each project budget by object class identified on the Budget Information form. Detailed calculations must include estimation methods, quantities, unit costs, and other similar quantitative detail sufficient for the calculation to be duplicated. The detailed budget must also include a breakout by the funding sources identified in Block 15 of the SF-424.

Provide a narrative budget justification with each project that describes how the categorical costs are derived. Discuss the necessity, reasonableness, and allocability of the proposed costs.

General

The following guidelines are for preparing the budget and budget justification. Both Federal and non-Federal resources shall be detailed and justified in the budget and narrative justification. According to the instructions for completing the SF-424A and the preparation of the budget and budget justification, "Federal resources" refers only to the ACF/ORR

grant for which you are applying. Non-Federal resources are all other Federal and non-Federal resources. It is suggested that budget amounts and computations be presented in a columnar format: First column, object class categories; second column, Federal budget; next column(s), non-Federal budget(s), and last column, total budget. The budget justification should be a narrative.

Personnel: Costs of employee salaries and wages. Justification—Identify the project director and for each staff person, provide the title, time commitment to the project (in months), time commitment to the project (as a percentage or full-time equivalent), annual salary, grant salary, wage rates, etc. Do not include the costs of consultants or personnel costs of delegate agencies.

Fringe Benefits: Costs of employee fringe benefits unless treated as part of approved indirect cost rate. Justification—Provide a breakdown of the amounts and percentages that comprise fringe benefit costs such as health insurance, FICA, retirement insurance, taxes, etc.

Travel: Costs of project-related travel by employees of the applicant organization (does not include costs of consultant travel). Justification—For each trip, show the total number of traveler(s), travel destination, duration of trip, per diem, mileage allowances, if privately owned vehicles will be used, and other transportation costs and subsistence allowances. Travel costs for key staff to attend ACF/ORR-sponsored meetings should be detailed in the budget.

Equipment: Costs of tangible, non-expendable, personal property, having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit. Justification—For each type of equipment requested, provide a description of the equipment, the cost per unit, the number of units, the total cost, and a plan for use on the project, as well as use or disposal of the equipment after the project ends.

Supplies: Costs of all tangible personal property other than that included under the Equipment category. Justification—Specify general categories of supplies and their costs. Show computations and provide other information which supports the amount requested.

Contractual: Costs of all contracts for services and goods except for those which belong under other categories such as equipment, supplies, etc. Contracts with secondary recipient organizations, including delegate

agencies (if applicable), should be included under this category.

Justification—All procurement transactions shall be conducted in a manner to provide, to the maximum extent practical, open and free competition. If procurement competitions were held or if procurement without competition is being proposed, attach a list of proposed contractors, indicating the names of the organizations, the purposes of the contracts, the estimated dollar amounts, and the award selection process. Justify any anticipated procurement action that is expected to be awarded without competition and to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold fixed at 41 USC 403(11). Recipients might be required to make available to ACF pre-award review and procurement documents, such as requests for proposal or invitations for bids, independent cost estimates, etc.

Note: Whenever the applicant intends to delegate part of the project to another agency, the applicant must provide a detailed budget and budget narrative for each delegate agency, by agency title, along with the required supporting information referred to in these instructions.

Other: Enter the total of all other costs. Such costs, where applicable and appropriate, may include but are not limited to insurance, professional services costs, space and equipment rentals, printing and publication, computer use, training costs, such as tuition and stipends, staff development, and administrative costs.

Justification—Provide computations, a narrative description and a justification for each cost under this category.

Indirect Costs: This category should be used only when the applicant currently has an indirect cost rate approved by the Department of Health and Human Services or another cognizant Federal agency.

Justification—An applicant proposing to charge indirect costs to the grant must enclose a copy of the current rate agreement. If the applicant organization is in the process of initially developing or renegotiating a rate, it should immediately upon notification that an award will be made, develop a tentative indirect cost rate proposal based on its most recently completed fiscal year in accordance with the principles set forth in the cognizant agency's guidelines for establishing indirect cost rates, and submit it to the cognizant agency. Applicants awaiting approval of their indirect cost proposals may also request indirect costs. It should be noted that when an indirect cost rate is requested, those costs included in the indirect cost

pool should not also be charged as direct costs to the grant. Also, if the applicant is requesting a rate which is less than what is allowed under the agreement, the authorized representative of the applicant organization must submit a signed acknowledgement that the applicant is accepting a lower rate than allowed.

Program Income: The estimated amount of income, if any, expected to be generated from this project.

Justification—Describe the nature, source and anticipated use of program income in the budget or refer to the pages in the application which contain this information.

Non-Federal Resources: Amounts of non-Federal resources that will be used to support the project as identified in Block 15 of the SF-424.

Justification—The firm commitment of these resources must be documented and submitted with the application in order to be given credit in the review process. A detailed budget must be prepared for each funding source.

Certifications

Applicants must provide the following certifications.

- a. Certification regarding lobbying if anticipated award exceeds \$100,000.
- b. Certification regarding environmental tobacco smoke. By signing and submitting the applications, applicant provides certification that they will comply with the requirements of the Pro-Children Act of 1994 (Pub. L. 103-227, Part C-Environmental Tobacco Smoke) and need not mail back the certification with the application.
- c. Certification regarding debarment, suspension, and other Ineligibility. By signing and submitting the applications, applicant provides certification that they are not presently debarred, suspended or otherwise ineligible for this award and therefore need not mail back the certification with the application.
- d. Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988.

Deadline

1. Mailed applications shall be considered as meeting this announced deadline if they are sent on or before the deadline date and received by ORR in time for the independent review. Applications should be mailed to: Office of Refugee Resettlement, Administration for Children and Families, Division of Community Resettlement, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW., Sixth Floor, Washington, DC. 20447, *Attention: TAG/CFS.*

Applicants must ensure that a legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark, or a legibly dated, machine produced

postmark of a commercial mail service appears on the envelope/package containing the application(s). An acceptable postmark from a commercial carrier is one which includes the carrier's logo/emblem and shows the date the package was received by the commercial mail service. Private metered postmarks shall not be acceptable as proof of timely mailing.

Applications hand-carried by applicants, applicant couriers, or by overnight/express mail couriers shall be considered as meeting an announced deadline if they are received on or before the deadline date, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., at the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Refugee Resettlement, 901 D Street, SW., Washington, DC 20024, between Monday and Friday (excluding Federal holidays). (Applicants are cautioned that express/overnight mail services do not always deliver as agreed.)

ACF cannot accommodate transmission of applications by fax or through other electronic media. Therefore, applications transmitted to ACF electronically will not be accepted regardless of date or time of submission and time of receipt.

2. **Late applications:** Applications which do not meet the criteria above are considered late applications. ACF shall notify each late applicant that its application will not be considered in the current competition.

3. **Extension of deadlines:** ACF may extend the deadline for applicants affected by acts of God such as floods and hurricanes, or when there is widespread disruption of the mails. A determination to waive or extend deadline requirements rests with the Chief Grants Management Officer.

4. Once an application has been submitted, it is considered as final and no additional materials will be accepted by ACF.

Nonprofit Status

Applicants other than public agencies must provide evidence of their nonprofit status with their applications. Either of the following is acceptable evidence: (1) A copy of the applicant organization's listing in the Internal Revenue Service's most recent list of tax-exempt organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code; or (2) a copy of the currently valid IRS tax exemption certificate.

Intergovernmental Review

This program is covered under Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs," and 45 CFR part 100,

"Intergovernmental Review of Department of Health and Human Services Programs and Activities."

As of June 15, 1997, the following jurisdictions have elected not to participate in the Executive Order process. Applicants from these jurisdictions need take no action in regard to E.O. 12372: Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, American Samoa, and Palau.

All remaining jurisdictions participate in the E.O. process and have established Single Points of Contact (SPOCs).

Applicants from participating jurisdictions should contact their SPOCs as soon as possible to alert them to the prospective applications and receive instructions. Applicants must submit any required material to the SPOCs as soon as possible so that ORR can obtain and review SPOC comments as part of the award process. The applicant must submit all required materials, if any, to the SPOC and indicate the date of this submittal (or the date of contact if no submittal is required) on the Standard Form 424, item 16a.

Under 45 CFR 100.8(a)(2), a SPOC has 60 days from the application deadline to comment on proposed new or competing continuation awards. SPOCs are encouraged to eliminate the submission of routine endorsements as official recommendations.

Additionally, SPOCs are requested to clearly differentiate between mere advisory comments and those official State process recommendations which may trigger the "accommodate or explain" rule. When comments are submitted directly to ACF, they should be addressed to: Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Refugee Resettlement, Division of Community Resettlement, 6th Floor, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW., Washington, DC. 20447.

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13)

All information collections within this Program Announcement are approved under the following currently valid OMB control numbers: 424 (0348-0043); 424A (0348-0044); 424B (0348-0040); Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (0348-0046); Uniform Project Description (0970-0139) Expires 10/31/00.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 80 hours per response,

including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and reviewing the collection of information.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Applicable Regulations

Applicable DHHS regulations can be found in 45 CFR part 74 or 92.

Reporting Requirements

Grantees are required to file the Financial Status Report (SF-269) semi-annually and Quarterly Program Performance Reports (OMB Approval No. 0970-0036). Funds issued under these awards must be accounted for and reported upon separately from all other grant activities.

Although ORR does not expect the proposed components/projects to include evaluation activities, it does expect grantees to maintain adequate records to track and report on project outcomes and expenditures by budget line item.

The official receipt point for all reports and correspondence is the ORR Division of Community Resettlement. An original and one copy of each report shall be submitted within 30 days of the end of each reporting period directly to the Project Officer named in the award letter. The mailing address is: ORR, 370 L'Enfant Promenade SW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20447.

A final Financial and Program Report shall be due 90 days after the budget expiration date or termination of grant support.

Dated: May 6, 1998.

Lavinia Limon,

Director, Office of Refugee Resettlement.

[FR Doc. 98-13099 Filed 5-15-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4184-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the Spring 1998 meeting of the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. Topics to be addressed during the meeting are identified.

DATES: The Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species will meet

from 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 9, 1998, to 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 10, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn—North Campus, 3600 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Matt Doss, Great Lakes Commission at 734-665-9135, or Bob Peoples, Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, at 703-358-2025.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. I), this notice announces a meeting of the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. The Task Force was established by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990.

Topics to be covered during the meeting include: reports of ANS Task Force activities nationally and Federal legislation; reports on several ANS issues and initiatives such as the Great Lakes Ballast demonstration project, model guidelines for ANS prevention and control, proposed national voluntary ballast water guidelines, and the Chicago Waterways, Dispersal Barrier Project; a review of panel funding for fiscal year 1999; breakout sessions of the Panel's Information/Education, Research Coordination, and Policy and Legislation Committees to develop 1999 work plans; model State ANS legislation; and reports from Panel members.

Minutes of the meeting will be maintained by the Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Suite 840, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203-1622, and the Great Lakes Commission, 400 Fourth Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48103-4816, and will be available for public inspection during regular hours, Monday through Friday, within 30 days following the meeting.

Dated: May 12, 1998.

Gary Edwards,

Co-Chair, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Assistant Director-Fisheries.

[FR Doc. 98-13076 Filed 5-15-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Receipt of Petition for Federal Acknowledgment of Existence as an Indian Tribe

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.