

§ 385.37

provide timely advance notice to subrecipients as to the availability of such assistance, and provide a reasonable time period for subrecipients to prepare applications and secure pre-requisite local approvals.

§ 385.37 Requirement for unrestricted solicitations for discretionary assistance awards.

(a) *Policy.* It is MarAd policy to maximize the opportunity for prospective recipients to be considered for assistance awards where eligibility is not prescribed by law. Therefore, when eligibility is not prescribed by law or a final program regulation, and when discretionary assistance awards are selected to accomplish a program objective, applications or proposals will be obtained, wherever practicable, by issuance of a written solicitation. When MarAd initiates the solicitation of applications or proposals, eligibility to be considered for discretionary awards will not be restricted by MarAd to one category of recipients or to a single recipient without adequate basis.

(b) *Justification of restricted eligibility.* Where program legislation explicitly restricts eligibility, e.g., to state governments, no justification is required. When program regulations restrict eligibility beyond the restrictions required by the program legislation, the basis for the restriction shall be set forth in the program rulemaking.

41 CFR 9-3.805-51 shall be used as a guide in preparing the "justification for restricting eligibility." The reasons offered will be evaluated for consistency with the policy in paragraph (a) of this section, MarAd's overall mission, and the objective of maintaining an open and fair system of making assistance awards.

(c) *Approvals.* Justifications of restricted eligibility will be signed by the Grants Officer and will be reviewed by Office of General Counsel for legal sufficiency prior to issuance of the restricted solicitation. The signed justification will be filed in official award file.

§ 385.38 Joint funding.

(a) Pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act, MarAd is authorized to participate

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in joint funded projects with other Federal agencies in any funding relationship which will serve the best interest of all of the participating agencies' program. Such joint funding project may include more than one type of assistance relationship, e.g., some components of project may be funded by grants and other components of the project may be funded by cooperative agreements.

(b) It is MarAd's positive policy, further, to encourage cost-sharing on the part of applicants for financial assistance. The willingness of applicants to cost-share is a primary factor in making, or not making, an assistance award.

§ 385.39 Socio-economic and environmental policies.

A number of socio-economic and environmental policies of the Federal Government are incorporated into the standard general provisions of the grant agreement and cooperative agreements, and are identified as explicit criteria in §§ 385.51 and 385.52.

§ 385.40 Disputes.

Procedures for resolution of disputes between a recipient and MarAd appear in the standard general provisions of the grant and cooperative agreements referenced in § 385.62, of this part.

CRITERIA FOR AWARD

§ 385.50 Scope.

Sections 385.51 and 385.52 set forth the criteria to be used by MarAd in evaluating all projects and all potential recipients prior to award of a grant or cooperative agreement.

§ 385.51 Criteria: Projects.

The criteria to be used by MarAd in evaluating all projects prior to award of a grant or cooperative agreement are as follows:

(a) In terms of the accomplishment of a public purpose—

(1) The potential contribution which the proposed work is expected to make to the MarAd assistance mission;

(2) The economic, environmental, and societal significance which a successful demonstration or project may have for