

placed in local libraries in Connecticut, Virginia, and Georgia. A limited number of single copies are available at the address at the end of this announcement.

The Department of the Navy will hold four public hearings to inform the public of the DEIS findings and to solicit comments. The first meeting will be held on Monday, March 27, 1995 beginning at 1:00 PM in the Groton Municipal Building, Groton, Connecticut. The Groton Municipal Building is located at 295 Meridian Street. The second meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 28, 1995 beginning at 7 pm at the same location, the Groton Municipal Building. These meetings will be co-chaired by the New England Division, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. The third meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 29, 1995 beginning at 7 pm at the Airport Hilton, Norfolk, Virginia. The Hilton is located at 1500 North Military Highway and Northhampton Avenue. The fourth meeting will be held on Thursday, March 30, 1995 beginning at 7 pm at Crooked River Elementary School, St Marys, Georgia. The school is located at 1820 Spur 40.

The public hearings will be conducted by the Navy. Federal, state, and local agencies and interested parties are invited and urged to be present or represented at the hearings. Oral statements will be heard and transcribed by a stenographer; however, to assure the accuracy of the record, all statements should be submitted in writing. All statements, both oral and written, will become part of the public record on this action and will be given equal consideration.

In the interest of available time, each speaker will be asked to limit their oral comments to five minutes. If longer statements are to be presented, they should be summarized at the public hearing(s) and submitted in writing either at the hearing(s) or mailed to the address listed at the end of this notice. Written comments on the DEIS should be mailed to the address noted below and must be postmarked not later than April 10, 1995 to be part of the official record.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Mr. Robert Ostermueller (Code 202) Northern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 10 Industrial Highway, MSC 82, Lester, PA 19113, telephone 610-595-0759.

Dated: March 3, 1995.

**M.D. Schetzle,**

*Lt, JAGC, USNR, Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Urban Community Service Program

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of final priority.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary announces a competitive funding priority to focus funds for new urban community service projects on communities designated as Empowerment Zones (EZs) or Enterprise Communities (ECs) by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Under the competitive funding priority, the Secretary awards five (5) additional points to an application that meets the priority.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This priority takes effect April 7, 1995.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sarah Babson, U. S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, SW (Portals C-80), Washington, DC 20202-5329. Telephone: (202) 260-3472. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339, between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background on the Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community Initiative

The Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community program is a critical element of the Administration's community revitalization strategy. It promotes comprehensive economic and community development through strategic planning. On December 21, 1994, the President announced the designation of six urban Empowerment Zones, two urban Supplemental EZs, 65 urban Enterprise Communities, and four Enhanced urban ECs. These areas will benefit from flexible social service block grants and tax breaks in accordance with Internal Revenue Code section 1392, as amended by Title XIII of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (Pub. L. 103-66). Urban Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities were nominated by one or more local governments and their States and have been designated by HUD on the basis of the quality of their strategic plans. Interested individuals may contact HUD at 1-800-998-9999 for

additional information on the Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community program, including which communities have been selected for designation.

The Department of Education is supporting the Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community initiative through the Urban Community Service Program by giving preference to proposed projects which are located in urban Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities. A list of the designated Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities will be included in the application package. The program's emphasis on coordinated planning to meet pressing urban needs makes it ideally suited to play a key role in the Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community program.

#### Background on the Urban Community Service Program

The Urban Community Service Program is authorized under Title XI of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. It uses the skills, experience and resources of institutions of higher education to help public and private organizations devise and carry out solutions to pressing and severe problems in their urban communities. The program makes discretionary grants of up to five years in duration to support collaborative projects that address problems confronting urban communities, ranging from work force preparation, economic development, urban poverty, crime, lack of health care services and access, underperforming school systems and students to urban housing and infrastructure deficits. Recipients may use program funds to carry out a variety of activities, such as planning, applied research, training, resource exchanges or technology transfers, delivery of services and other activities that the urban institution and its community partners agree have high priority.

Only institutions of higher education which have been designated as urban grant institutions are eligible to apply for funding. A designated urban grant institution has demonstrated to the Secretary that (a) it is a nonprofit municipal university established by the governing body of the city in which it is located and operating as of July 23, 1992, or that (b) it is an institution of higher education which meets all of the following criteria (a consortium of institutions is also eligible if at least one of its members meets all of the criteria). The institution—(1) is located in an urban area; (2) draws a substantial portion of its undergraduate student body from the urban area in which it is

located or from contiguous areas; (3) carries out programs to make postsecondary educational opportunities more accessible to residents of the urban area or contiguous areas; (4) has the present capacity to provide resources pertinent to the needs and priorities of the urban area or contiguous areas; (5) offers a range of professional, technical or graduate programs sufficient to sustain the capacity of the institution to provide these resources; and (6) has demonstrated and sustained a sense of responsibility to the urban area and adjoining areas and the people in those areas.

On August 29, 1994 the Secretary published a notice of proposed priority for this program in the **Federal Register** (59 FR 44580).

**Note:** This notice of final priority does *not* solicit applications. A notice inviting applications under the FY 1995 competition will be published in the **Federal Register** at a later date.

#### Analysis of Comments

Two parties submitted comments in response to the Secretary's invitation in the notice of proposed priority. An analysis of the comments follows:

**Comment:** One party commented that designations will be limited due to funding restraints and suggested expanding the definition of designated Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities to include areas that submitted Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community designation requests.

**Discussion:** The Secretary believes that the Urban Community Service Program would be most effective in communities that are actually designated and have embarked on implementing their strategic plans.

**Change:** None.

**Comment:** The second party suggested giving a competitive preference to proposals that show partnerships with AmeriCorps.

**Discussion:** The program regulations already give an absolute preference (34 CFR 636.23) to applications that propose to conduct joint projects with other Federal, State or local programs. This would include partnerships with AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps is a new national initiative to foster community-based service and includes a wide variety of programs operated by grantees, the National Civilian Community Corps and Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA).

**Change:** None.

#### Priority

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i) the Secretary gives preference to applications that meet the following priority:

*Projects that use 75 percent or more of the project budget to address pressing and severe problems in an Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community.*

The proposed project must contribute to the strategic plan of the Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community and be made an integral component of the Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community activities. The Secretary awards five points to an application that meets this priority. These points will be added to any points the application earns under the selection criteria for the program.

#### Intergovernmental Review

This program is subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. The objective of the Executive order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism by relying on procedures developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

In accordance with the order, this document is intended to provide early notification of the Department's specific plans and actions for this program.

Applicable Program Regulations: 34 CFR Part 636.

**Program Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 1136-1136h.

Dated: March 2, 1995.

**David A. Longanecker,**

*Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Office of Community Outreach

#### Pre-Application Conference and Notice of Availability of Cooperative Agreement Solicitation to Establish and Support the International Center for Applied Research (ICAR)

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Savannah River (SR) Office.

**ACTION:** Notice of pre-application conference and availability of grant solicitation.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) at SR is announcing a Pre-Application Conference for

organizations wishing to be considered as the entity to establish and support the ICAR. The conference is scheduled for April 11, 1995 at the Savannah River Site (SRS), Aiken, SC, commencing at 8:30 a.m. and completing by 5 p.m. In addition to discussion regarding the objectives of ICAR and the criteria which will be used to select the ICAR Manager, the conference will also offer a tour of the Savannah River Technology Center whereby participants will have the opportunity to become familiar with available technologies. A solicitation for the ICAR Manager will be made available on or about March 20, 1995; applications are expected to be due May 11, 1995. Interested parties should note that funds are not presently available for this project.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** ICAR is intended to facilitate private and public sector access to the technical and scientific capabilities of the SRS. ICAR will be responsible for organizational support (including incubation, maturation, and commercialization) for various technologies, to be identified through separate solicitations, that are available at SRS for development of commercial products and services. ICAR is to be established at or adjacent to the SRS and is to operate under a cooperative agreement with the DOE.

The objectives of ICAR are:

- (1) To stimulate economic development in the regional area through the application of science and technology.
- (2) To establish a technology development and incubation center utilizing SRS technologies and processes.
- (3) To promote as a minimum, activities related to the following:
  - The application in the United States of hydrogen technology research derived from tritium production;
  - The development of beneficial uses of nuclear materials;
  - The research and development of innovative methods for the treatment and disposal of nuclear materials; and
  - Bioremediation of environmental hazards.

(4) To leverage applied research activities (of the nature listed above) to provide maximum dual-use benefit for the Government.

The ICAR Manager must be a non-profit entity or a consortium of non-profits chartered to accomplish economic development through applied science and technology. The ICAR Manager must have also demonstrated experience in management of diverse teams of organizations who have technical experience in industrial