

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

**Office of the Assistant Secretary for  
Policy Development and Research**

[Docket No. FR-3960-N-01]

**Notice of Request for Cooperative  
Agreement Applications for the  
Community Renaissance Fellows  
Program**

**AGENCY:** Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, HUD.

**ACTION:** Notice of request for cooperative agreement applications.

**SUMMARY:** The Department is seeking applications from public and private universities in order to provide funding to develop and implement the educational component of HUD's new Community Renaissance Fellows Program. The program will place 20 Fellows in distressed public housing developments undergoing conversion, for example, to mixed-income or mixed-use projects. HUD hopes, with the assistance of private foundations, to place additional Fellows in comparable projects being undertaken by community development corporations.

**DATES:** *Application deadline.* Applications must be physically received at the address shown in the ADDRESSES section of this notice by 4:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on February 15, 1996. *Applications faxed to this address will not be accepted.* The above-stated deadline date is *firm* as to *date, hour* and *place*. In the interest of fairness to all competing applicants, the Department will treat as *ineligible for consideration* any application that is received after the deadline. Applicants should take this practice into account and make early submission of their materials to avoid any risk of loss of eligibility brought about by unanticipated delays or other delivery-related problems.

Application kits may be requested from the address listed in the ADDRESSES section of this notice.

*Bidder conference date.* HUD will be holding a "bidders" conference to explain, in more detail, the background behind this solicitation and clarify application requirements. The conference will be held on January 11, 1996. All interested applicants are encouraged to attend this conference. For more information about this conference, please call Jane Karadbil at (202) 708-1537 (this is not a toll free number), or for the hearing impaired, TDD 1-800-877-TDDY.

**ADDRESSES:** *To obtain application kit.* To obtain a copy of the application kit, contact: Jane Karadbil, Office of University Partnerships in the Office of Policy Development and Research, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street S.W., Room 8110, Washington, D.C. 20410. Requests for application kits must be in writing, but requests may be faxed to Ms. Karadbil at (202) 708-5536. (This is not a toll free number.) Requests for application kits must include the applicant's name, mailing address (including zip code), and telephone number (including area code).

*To submit applications.* Applications must be physically received by the Office of University Partnerships, Office of Policy Development and Research, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, in care of the Division of Budget, Contracts, and Program Control, in Room 8230 by 4:30 pm. Eastern Standard Time on February 15, 1996. *Applications faxed to this address will not be accepted.*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jane Karadbil, Office of University Partnerships in the Office of Policy Development and Research, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, S.W., Room 8110, Washington, DC 20410. Telephone number (202) 708-1537 voice (this is not a toll free number); 1-800-877-TDDY (TDD). Ms. Karadbil can also be contacted via the Internet at Jane K. Karadbil@hud.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

I. Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

The information collection requirements contained in this notice have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), under section 3504(h) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), and assigned OMB Control Number 2535-0084.

II. General Information

Today's urban professional graduates do not have the education or skills to undertake complex, multi-disciplinary community building projects—from loan packaging, to design skills, to community organization to create real working partnerships with neighborhood residents, to securing the necessary social services to promote self-sufficiency. And, too often, the brightest and the best of America's young urban professionals do not view local governments, public housing agencies, and community-based organizations as desirable employers, nor distressed neighborhoods as places

to apply their creativity. These graduates are knowledgeable in the traditional methods of community revitalization but need additional skills to become visionary community builders, and they need an incentive to change the trajectory of their career paths from "real estate" to community building.

At present there are no graduate programs or fellowships to promote comprehensive community building approaches. As the Federal agency charged with nurturing and sustaining urban neighborhoods, HUD has decided to take a catalyzing role in creating mechanisms to develop these skills. The paucity of these kinds of professionals has created a bottleneck in implementing important HUD programs.

HUD is creating the Community Renaissance Fellowship program to (1) meet this pressing need and (2) to support a new generation of visionary, highly competent community building urban professionals. HUD seeks to foster a cadre of professionals who can take the practical experience gained working on community building and revitalization in distressed public housing projects and urban neighborhoods and transfer these skills to other complex neighborhood development projects. HUD will be funding 20 Fellows for two-year Fellowships at a cost of \$3 million (from technical assistance funding under the Public Housing Modernization Technical Assistance program authorized by the Department's FY 1995 Appropriations Act, Pub. L. 103-327, September 28, 1994) for their stipends and other expenses. These Fellows will be placed in distressed public housing developments undergoing conversion, for example, to mixed-income or mixed-use projects. HUD has also reached out to private foundations with a stake in urban neighborhoods to become potential partners and hopes to receive funding for up to an additional 20 Fellows. These Fellows will be placed in community development corporations undertaking similar large-scale urban physical and human development projects.

Since community building skills are evolving, there is a need to ensure that the Fellows benefit from up-to-date information and thinking on revitalization issues. Thus, there will be a strong educational component to the program. The education the Fellows receive will be provided through the highest quality courses and most respected participating faculty in the country. Over the two years, the Fellows will receive the equivalent of more than one full-time semester of additional

professional education in community-building skills.

Subject to funding availability, HUD will be awarding a cooperative agreement to a nationally known university to design an entirely new path-breaking curriculum for the education component for the Fellows program and offer it to the Fellows.

The university selected must demonstrate that it currently offers graduate courses in real estate and provides interdisciplinary practical experiences for its graduate students.

Dated: November 22, 1995.

Michael A. Stegman,

*Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research.*

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