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Dated: September 5, 1996.

David C. Bowie,

Deputy Director, Office of Export Promotion and Coordination.

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BILLING CODE 3510-DR-P

Minority Business Development Agency

Solicitation of Business Development Center Applications for Louisville

AGENCY: Minority Business Development Agency, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; Solicitation of Business Development Center Applications for Louisville.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Executive Order 11625 and 15 U.S.C. 1512, the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is soliciting competitive applications from organizations to operate the Louisville Minority Business Development Center (MBDC).

The purpose of the MBDC Program is to provide business development services to the minority business community to help establish and maintain viable minority businesses. To this end, MBDA funds organizations to identify and coordinate public and private sector resources on behalf of minority individuals and firms; to offer a full range of client services to minority entrepreneurs; and to serve as a conduit of information and assistance regarding minority business. The MBDC will provide service in the Louisville, Kentucky Metropolitan Area. The award number of the MBDC will be 04-10-97003-01.

DATES: The closing date for applications is *October 16, 1996*. Applications must be received in the MBDA Headquarters' Executive Secretariat on or before *October 16, 1996*. A pre-application conference will be held on *October 2, 1996*, at 9:00 a.m., at the Atlanta Regional Office, 401 W. Peachtree Street, N.W., Suite 1715, Atlanta, Georgia 30308-3516, Telephone Number: (404) 730-3300. Proper identification is required for entrance into any Federal building.

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

Washington, D.C. 20230, Telephone Number: (202) 482-3763.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND AN APPLICATION PACKAGE, CONTACT: Robert Henderson at (404) 730-3300.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Contingent upon the availability of Federal funds, the cost of performance for the first budget period (13 months) from January 1, 1997 to January 31, 1998, is estimated at \$198,971. The total Federal amount is \$169,125 and is composed of \$165,000 plus the Audit Fee amount of \$4,125. The application must include a minimum cost share of 15%, \$29,846 in non-federal (cost-sharing) contributions for a total project cost of \$198,971. Cost-sharing contributions may be in the form of cash, client fees, third party in-kind contributions, non-cash applicant contributions or combinations thereof.

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

Applications will be evaluated on the following criteria: the knowledge, background and/or capabilities of the firm and its staff in addressing the needs of the business community in general and, specifically, the special needs of minority businesses, individuals and organizations (45 points), the resources available to the firm in providing business development services (10 points); the firm's approach (techniques and methodologies) to performing the work requirements included in the application (25 points); and the firm's estimated cost for providing such assistance (20 points). An application must receive at least 70% of the points assigned to each evaluation criteria category to be considered programmatically acceptable and responsive. Those applications determined to be acceptable and responsive will then be evaluated by the Director of MBDA. Final award selections shall be based on the number of points received, the demonstrated responsibility of the applicant, and the determination of those most likely to further the purpose of the MBDA program. Negative audit findings and

recommendations and unsatisfactory performance under prior Federal awards may result in an application not being considered for award. The applicant with the highest point score will not necessarily receive the award. Periodic reviews culminating in year-to-date evaluations will be conducted to determine if funding for the project should continue. Continued funding will be at the total discretion of MBDA based on such factors as the MBDC's performance, the availability of funds and Agency priorities.

The MBDC shall be required to contribute at least 15% of the total project cost through non-Federal contributions. To assist in this effort, the MBDC may charge client fees for services rendered. Fees may range from \$10 to \$60 per hour based on the gross receipts of the client's business.

Anticipated processing time of this award is 120 days. Executive order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs," is not applicable to this program. Federal funds for this project include audit funds for non-CPA recipients. In event that a CPA firm wins the competition, the funds allocated for audits are not applicable. Questions concerning the preceding information can be answered by the contact person indicated above, and copies of application kits and applicable regulations can be obtained at the above address. The collection of information requirements for this project have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and assigned OMB control number 0640-0006.

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

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

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

Name Check Policy—All non-profit and for-profit applicants are subject to a name check review process. Name checks are intended to reveal if any key

individuals associated with the applicant have been convicted of or are presently facing criminal charges such as fraud, theft, perjury or other matters which significantly reflect on the applicant's management honesty or financial integrity.

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

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

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

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

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

Anti-Lobbying—Persons (as defined at 15 CFR Part 28, § 28.105) are subject to the lobbying provisions of 31 U.S.C. 1352, "Limitation on use of appropriated funds to influence certain Federal contracting and financial transactions," and the lobbying section of the certification form prescribed above applies to applications/bids for grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts for more than \$100,000, and loans and loan guarantees for more than \$150,000 or the single family maximum mortgage limit for affected programs, whichever is greater.

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

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

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

11.800 Minority Business Development Center

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance)

Dated: September 6, 1996.

Frances B. Douglas,

Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer,
Minority Business Development Agency.

[FR Doc. 96-23336 Filed 9-11-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-21-P

Business Development Center Application: State of South Carolina

AGENCY: Minority Business Development Agency, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Executive Order 11625 and 15 U.S.C. 1512, the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is soliciting competitive applications under its Minority Business Development Center (MBDC) program to operate a Statewide Minority Business Development Center (SMBDC) for approximately a 3-year period, subject to agency priorities, recipient performance and the availability of funds.

The SMBDC will provide business development services to both South Carolina's urban and rural minority

business communities to help establish and maintain viable minority businesses. To this end, MBDA funds organizations to identify and coordinate public and private sector resources on behalf of rural minority individuals and firms; to offer a full range of management and technical assistance to both urban and rural minority entrepreneurs; and to serve as a conduit of information and assistance regarding minority business.

The SMBDC will operate throughout the State of South Carolina. The headquarters of the SMBDC will be located in Columbia, South Carolina. The award number for this SMBDC will be 04-10-97002-01.

DATES: The closing date for applications is October 15, 1996. Applications must be received in the MBDA Headquarters' Executive Secretariat on or before October 15, 1996. A pre-application conference to assist all interested applicants will be held on October 2, 1996, at 9:00 a.m., at the following address: U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency, 401 West Peachtree Street, N.W., Room 1715, Atlanta, Georgia 30308-3516.

ADDRESSES: Completed application packages should be submitted to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency, Executive Secretariat, 14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W., room 5073, Washington, D.C. 20230, telephone number (202) 482-3763.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND AN APPLICATION PACKAGE, CONTACT: Robert Henderson, Regional Director, Atlanta Regional Office, (404) 730-3300. Proper identification is required for entrance into any Federal Building.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Contingent upon the availability of Federal funds, the cost of performance for the first budget period (13 months) from January 1, 1997 to January 31, 1998, is estimated at \$818,277. A 30-day start-up period will be added to the first budget period, making it a 13-month award. The application must include a minimum cost-share of \$122,742, (15%) of the total project cost, through non-Federal contributions. The Federal share, to be in the amount of \$695,535, includes \$17,388 for an annual audit fee. Cost-sharing may be in the form of cash contributions, client fees, in-kind contributions or combinations thereof.

The funding instrument for this project will be a cooperative agreement. Competition is open to individuals, non-profit and for-profit organizations, state and local governments, American