

Appropriations Act 1998 (Pub. L. 105-65, 111 Stat. 1344, approved October 27, 1997) to fund ROSS, an economic self-sufficiency program. ROSS will provide linkages to public housing residents by providing supportive services, resident empowerment activities and assisting residents in becoming economically self-sufficient. Under the ROSS program HUD is seeking to fund successful models which will link services and public housing residents to enhance their quality of life while promoting self-sufficiency and personal responsibility in communities. HUD believes that it is imperative that housing authorities and residents work together to meet the challenge of welfare reform. Eligible applicants, (public housing authorities (PHAs), resident management corporations, resident councils or resident organizations, non profit entities supported by residents, Intermediary Resident Organizations) are encouraged to form partnerships and submit applications to be evaluated in accordance with the criteria contained in the Notice.

The FY 1999 Appropriations also includes \$15 million for the employment and support of Service Coordinators (SC) to serve the elderly and persons with disabilities in public housing. These Service Coordinators will help elderly and disabled public housing residents obtain essential supportive services that are needed to enable independent living and aging in place. Under this NOFA only renewals of prior Service Coordinator grants will be accepted. SC Grant award amounts cannot be higher than the applicant's funding and staffing level that was approved for their last funded Service Coordinator Grant. An increase of 2 percent will be allowed if supported by a narrative justification.

Members of affected public: Approximately 850 applications are expected from eligible recipients such as resident management organizations, resident organizations, nonprofit entities supported by residents, public housing agencies, Intermediary Resident Organizations, Tribes, Tribally designated housing entities (THDEs) are expected under the Notice and the NOFA.

Estimation of the total number of hours needed to prepare the information collection including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response: Applicants will be able to apply for ROSS grants in respective categories from the first day after the NOFA is published until the due date. Since this is the first year of operation for the ROSS program, it is essential that the technical assistance to

be provided under the NOFA be in place as the ROSS applications are being developed to ensure that the new program is successful. The average amount of time to put together a ROSS application is likely to be, on an average, 40 hours. We anticipate that not more than 850 applicants will apply under the NOFA. In total, the Department expects this request will have an annual reporting burden of 33,200 hours.

Status of the proposed information collection: Pending OMB approval.

Authority: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: July 15, 1999.

David S. Cristy,

Director, Office of Investment Strategies, Policy and Management, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

United States Geological Survey Government Performance and Results Act Strategic Plan; Comment Solicitation

AGENCY: United States Geological Survey (USGS), Interior.

The U.S. Geological Survey is the Nation's largest water, earth, and biological science and civilian mapping agency. The USGS works in cooperation with more than 2,000 organizations across the country to provide reliable, impartial scientific information to resource managers, planners, and other customers. This information is gathered in every State by USGS scientists to minimize the loss of life and property from natural disasters; contribute to the sound conservation, as well as the economic and physical development of the Nation's natural resources; and enhance the quality of life by monitoring water, biological energy, and mineral resources.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993 requires that agencies update and revise their strategic plans at least every 3 years, with the first revision due in 2000. The GPRA also states that agencies must consult with the Congress and solicit and consider the views and suggestions of other parties that could be affected by or be interested in the agency's plan during the plan's development. USGS has refocused its strategic plan over the

past year and would welcome comments from interested parties before finalizing the revisions.

USGS is continuing to consult with customers and stakeholders and will provide several public forums for interested parties to provide input during the revision of the strategic plan, including:

- Electronic input: Comments may be provided through the USGS web site, at the URL provided in the Supplementary Information section.

- Paper input: Comments may be provided with written correspondence to the address cited in the Address section.

- Public meetings: USGS may hold public consultation sessions as described in the Supplementary Information section.

DATES: Please provide comments electronically or on paper no later than August 31, 1999, and any expressions of interest in USGS holding public consultation sessions by August 16, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Ms. Anne Kinsinger, Chief, Office of Program Planning and Coordination, U.S. Geological Survey, 107 National Center, Reston, VA 20192. Send E-mail comments to StratPlan@usgs.gov. Contact Ms. Anne Kinsinger at (703) 648-4451.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Strategic Plan Availability: See the USGS web site at <http://www.usgs.gov/stratplan> to access pdf files of the USGS GPRA Strategic Plan, as well as Annual Performance Plans for Fiscal Years 1999 and 2000. If you do not have electronic access, please request a copy of the plan from Ms. Kinsinger (see the **ADDRESSES** section).

Public Consultation Sessions: USGS will hold public consultation sessions in early September if there is sufficient interest. Interested parties should reply to the addresses in the Addresses section on later than August 16, 1999. Session participants should be familiar with the plan. The intent of the sessions will be to have free-flowing discussions about the direction and goals established in the strategic plan and to hear suggestions and expectations for the final revision. USGS will establish logistics after expressions of interests have been received, and will notify respondents of dates, locations, and times no later than August 31, 1999.

Dated: July 14, 1999.

Charles G. Groat,

Director, U.S. Geological Survey.

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