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Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 7422.

Dated: December 15, 1999.

Art Love,

Acting Director, Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Golden Field Office; Notice of Solicitation for Financial Assistance Applications; Million Solar Roofs Initiative Small Grant Program for State and Local Partnerships

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of Solicitation for Financial Assistance Applications Number DE-PS36-00GO10496.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), pursuant to the DOE Financial Assistance Rules, 10 CFR 600.8, is announcing its intention to solicit applications for Million Solar Roofs Program for State and Local Partnerships. The selected applicants will receive financial assistance under a grant with DOE.

DATES: The solicitation will be issued in late December, 1999.

ADDRESSES: To obtain a copy of the Solicitation once it is issued, interested parties must access the Golden Field Office Application, Award and Solicitation page at <http://www.eren.doe.gov/golden/solicit.htm>, click on "solicitations" and then locate the solicitation number identified above. DOE does not intend to issue written copies of the solicitation.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DOE's Million Solar Roofs (MSR) Initiative is an initiative to install solar energy systems on one million U.S. buildings by 2010. It was announced by President Clinton on June 26, 1997 in his speech before the United Nations Session on Environment and Development. This effort includes two types of solar energy technology—photovoltaics that produce electricity from sunlight and solar thermal panels that produce heat for domestic hot water, space heating or heating swimming pools. A key strategy of the Initiative is to catalyze market demand in local areas through the establishment of State and Local MSR Partnerships. The Congressional language authorizing these funds specifically directs DOE to use these funds to eliminate barriers to the use of solar energy systems and to support partnerships (See Conference Report 105-749 on the FY 99 Energy and Water Development Appropriation Act). The overall goal of this solicitation is to assist State and Local Partnerships in contributing to the installation of one million solar energy systems on U.S. rooftops by the year 2010.

This solicitation is only open to both existing and new MSR State and Local Partnerships. Those MSR Partnerships that received funding from DOE in Fiscal Year 1999 under the "Million Solar Roofs Initiative Small Grant Program for State and Local Partnerships" or the "State Energy Program Special Projects Solicitation" are ineligible for an award in FY 2000. These Partnerships bring together business, government and community organizations, (e.g., solar energy educational organizations, or not-for-profit housing agencies) at the regional level with a commitment to install a pre-determined number of solar energy systems. There were forty (40) such existing partnerships under the MSR Initiative, as of October 1, 1999. They received their MSR Partnership designation by writing a letter of commitment to DOE with their goal for actual installations by 2010. In return, DOE provides access to a variety of financing options, training and technical assistance from DOE's existing infrastructure, recognition and support, and a link to solar energy businesses, associations and related industries that can provide assistance. New MSR Partnerships can declare their intent to join the Initiative by including such a letter with their application for this solicitation. A complete description of partnerships and their representative activities can be found on the MSR

website at <http://www.MillionSolarRoofs.org>.

DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy will only consider proposals from interested State and Local Partnerships to help fund their MSR program development and implementation activities. Grant awards will be managed by the DOE Regional Offices. DOE intends to allocate a portion of total available funding to each of the six DOE regions based on a formula that considers existing partnerships that did not receive funding from DOE in FY 1999 and the potential for new partnerships to be established. Applicants will only be competing against other partnerships in their DOE region.

The project or activity must be conducted in a designated MSR partnership community. Any member of a State or Local Partnership, except industry associations, can apply on behalf of the Partnership, including builders, energy service providers, utilities, non-governmental organizations, local governments, or state governments. The different organizations/offices involved in a State or Local Partnership are encouraged to collaborate on their response to this solicitation. There is no cost-sharing requirement for these grants although cost-sharing will be favorably considered in the selection process. Subject to the availability of funds, 10-25 awards totaling \$500,000 (DOE funding) in FY 2000 are anticipated to be awarded as a result of this Solicitation. DOE funding for individual awards will be \$10,000 to \$50,000 in size. Solicitation number DE-PS36-00GO10496 will include complete information on the program including technical aspects, funding, application preparation instructions, application evaluation criteria, and other factors that will be considered when selecting applications for funding. No pre-application conference is planned. Issuance of the solicitation is planned for late December, with applications due on January 31, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ruth Adams, Contracting Officer, at 303-275-4722, e-mail ruth_adams@nrel.gov, or Jerry Kotas, Project Officer, at 303-275-4714, e-mail gerald_kotas@nrel.gov.

Issued in Golden, Colorado, on December 8, 1999.

Jerry Zimmer,

Director, Office of Procurement and Financial Assistance.

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