

Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214). All such motions or protests should be filed on or before the comment date. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of these filings are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection. This filing may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6521-7]

Office of Environmental Justice Small Grants Program; Application Guidance FY 2000

Introduction

This guidance outlines the purpose, goals, and general procedures for application and award under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 Office of Environmental Justice Small Grants Program. For FY 2000, EPA will make available approximately \$1,100,000 in grant funds to eligible organizations (pending availability of funds); \$600,000 of this amount is available for superfund projects only. Applications must be mailed to your appropriate EPA regional office (listed in Section III) and postmarked by U. S. Postal Service no later than midnight Friday, March 3, 2000.

This guidance includes the following:

- I. Scope and Purpose of the OEJ Small Grants Program
- II. Eligible Applicants and Activities
- III. Application Requirements
- IV. Process for Awarding Grants
- V. Expected Time-frame for Reviewing and Awarding Grants
- VI. Project Period and Final Reports
- VII. Fiscal Year 2001 OEJ Small Grants Program

Translations Available

A Spanish translation of this announcement may be obtained by calling the Office of Environmental Justice at 1-800-962-6215.

Hay traducciones disponibles de este anuncio en español. Si usted está interesado en obtener una traducción de este anuncio en español, por favor llame

a La Oficina de Justicia Ambiental conocida como "Office of Environmental Justice," línea gratuita (1-800-962-6215).

I. Scope and Purpose of the OEJ Small Grants Program

The purpose of this grant program is to provide financial assistance to eligible community groups (i.e., community-based/grassroots organizations, churches, or other non-profit organizations) and federally recognized tribal governments that are working on or plan to carry out projects to address environmental justice issues. Preference for awards will be given to community-based/grassroots organizations that are working on local solutions to local environmental problems. Funds can be used to develop a new activity or substantially improve the quality of existing programs that have a direct impact on affected communities. All awards will be made in the form of a grant not to exceed one year.

Background

In its 1992 report, Environmental Equity: Reducing Risk for All Communities, EPA found that minority and low-income populations may experience higher than average exposure to toxic pollutants than the general population. The Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) was established in 1992 to help these communities identify and assess pollution sources, to implement environmental awareness and training programs for affected residents, and to work with community stakeholders to devise strategies for environmental improvements.

In June of 1993, OEJ was delegated granting authority to solicit, select, supervise, and evaluate environmental justice-related projects, and to disseminate information on the projects' content and effectiveness. Fiscal year (FY) 1994 marked the first year of the OEJ Small Grants Program. The chart below shows how the grant monies have been expended since FY 1994.

Fiscal year	Dollar amount	Number of awards
1994	\$ 500,000	71
1995	3,000,000	175
1996	2,800,000	152
1997	2,700,000	139
1998	2,500,000	123
1999	1,455,000	95

How does EPA Define Environmental Justice Under the Environmental Justice Small Grants Program?

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no groups of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies.

II. Eligible Applicants and Activities

A. Who May Submit Applications and May an Applicant Submit More Than One?

Any affected, non-profit community organization 501c(3) or 501c(4)¹ or federally recognized tribal government may submit an application upon publication of this solicitation. Applicants must be non-profit to receive these federal funds. State recognized tribes or indigenous peoples organizations are able to apply for grant assistance as long as they meet the definition of a non-profit organization. "Non-profit organization" means any corporation, trust, association, cooperative, or other organization that (1) is operated primarily for scientific, educational, service, charitable, or similar purposes in the public interest; (2) is not organized primarily for profit; and (3) uses its net proceeds to maintain, improve, and/or expand its operations. While state and local governments and academic institutions are eligible to receive grants, preference will be given to non-profit, community-based/grassroots organizations and federally recognized tribal governments. Preference may be given to those organizations that have not received previous Environmental Justice grants. Individuals are not eligible to receive grants.

The Environmental Justice Small Grants Program is a competitive process. In order not to give preferential treatment to any single potential applicant, the Agency will offer training

¹ As a result of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, EPA (and other federal agencies) may not award grants to non-profit, 501(c)(4) organizations that engage in lobbying activities. This restriction applies to any lobbying activities of a 501(c)(4) organization without distinguishing between lobbying funded by federal money and lobbying funded by other sources.

and/or conference calls on grant application guidelines. We encourage you to participate so that you can have your questions answered in a public forum. Please call your regional office to inquire about the scheduled dates of the special training and conference calls. (See Contact List in this document).

EPA will consider only one application per applicant for a given project. Applicants may submit more than one application as long as the applications are for separate and distinct projects or activities. Applicants that were previously awarded small grant funds may submit an application for FY 2000. Every application for FY 2000 will be evaluated based on the merit of the proposed project in relation to the other FY 2000 pre-applications. However, past performance may be considered during the ranking and evaluation process for those applicants who have received previous grants.

B. What Types of Projects Are Eligible for Funding?

While there are many applications submitted from community groups for equally worthwhile projects, EPA is emphasizing the need for projects in two categories: 1. Projects which address public health concerns/issues in minority/low-income communities. 2. Projects which address how environmental information can be made available in minority/low-income communities. Both of these areas of concentration are important issues to local communities. In order to be considered for funding, the application must include the following information: (1) How the proposed project addresses issues related to at least two environmental statutes and (2) How the proposed project meets at least two of the program goals.

(1) Multi-Media Statutory Requirement

The OEJ Small Grants Program awards grants under a multi-media granting authority. This means that recipients of these funds must implement projects that address pollution in more than one environmental medium (e.g., air, water). To show evidence of the breadth of the project's scope, the application must identify at least two environmental statutes that the project will address. In most cases, your project will include activities outlined in the following environmental statutes:

a. Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3): conduct and promote the coordination of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstration, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution.

b. Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442(b)(3): develop, expand, or carry out a program (that may combine training, education, and employment) for occupations relating to the public health aspects of providing safe drinking water.

c. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a): conduct and promote the coordination of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, public education programs, and studies relating to solid waste (e.g., health and welfare effects of exposure to materials present in solid waste and methods to eliminate such effects)

d. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3): conduct research, investigations, experiments, demonstrations, surveys, and studies related to the causes, effects (including health and welfare effects), extent, prevention, and control of air pollution.

In some circumstances, your project may be very research-oriented and specific to a particular environmental problem. If this is the case, you may reference the following environmental statutes (either list one of the following in addition to one listed above or list two of the following).

e. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a): conduct research, development, and monitoring activities on toxic substances.

f. Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, Section 20(a): conduct research on pesticides.

g. Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, Section 203: conduct research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the minimizing or ending of ocean dumping of hazardous materials and the development of alternatives to ocean dumping.

h. Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), Section 311(c) "research with respect to the detection, assessment, and evaluation of the effects on and risks to human health of hazardous substances and detection of hazardous substances in the environment. The term "hazardous substances" in CERCLA Section 101(14) and does not include many petroleum products.

EPA's grant regulations define "research" as "systematic study directed towards a fuller scientific knowledge or understanding of the subject studied." 40 CFR 30.2(dd). EPA has interpreted "research" to include study that extends to socioeconomic, institutional, and public policy issues as well as the "natural" sciences.

Please note: if your project includes scientific research and/or data

collection, you must be prepared to submit a Quality Assurance Plan (QAP) to your EPA Project Officer prior to the beginning of the research.

(2) Special Requirements for "Superfund" EJ Research Grants

a. Superfund grants can only be made for research projects authorized by CERCLA 311(c)—research with respect to the detection, assessment, and evaluation of the effects on and risks to human health of hazardous substances and detection of hazardous substances in the environment.

b. Applicants must demonstrate that the research project relates to "hazardous substances" as that term is defined by CERCLA 101(14). There is a list of hazardous substances at 40 CFR 302.4 which, while not exclusive, does provide useful guidance.

c. Research funded under CERCLA 311(c) cannot relate to petroleum products excluded from the definition of hazardous substances found at CERCLA 101(14).

d. Applicants must meet the requirement that the project relate to two environmental grant authority statutes by proposing a research project that is authorized by both CERCLA 311(c) and another statute listed above which authorizes research funding.

e. The project must be of a research nature only, i.e., survey, research, collecting and analyzing data that will be used to expand scientific knowledge or understanding of the subject studied. Projects which expand the scientific knowledge or understanding of community members of hazardous substances issues that affect them can be funded as EJ Superfund grants.

f. The project cannot carry out training activities, other than training in research techniques, or outreach, technical assistance, or public education or awareness activities.

g. The project can include conferences only if the purpose of the conference is to present research results or gather research data.

(3) Office of Environmental Justice Small Grants Program Goals

In addition to the multi-statute requirement outlined above, the application must also include a description of how an applicant plans to meet at least two of the three program goals listed below. See Section III "Application Requirements" for more details.

1. Identify necessary improvements in communication and coordination among all stakeholders, including existing community-based/grassroots organizations and local, state, tribal, and

federal environmental programs. Facilitate communication and information exchange, and create partnerships among stakeholders to address disproportionate, high and adverse environmental exposure (e.g., workshops, awareness conferences, establishment of community stakeholder committees);

2. Build community capacity to identify local environmental justice problems and involve the community in the design and implementation of activities to address these concerns. Enhance critical thinking, problem-solving, and active participation of affected communities. (e.g., train-the-trainer programs).

3. Enhance community understanding of environmental and public health information systems and generate information on pollution in the community. If appropriate, seek technical experts to demonstrate how to access and interpret public environmental data (e.g., Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Toxic Release Inventories (TRI), and other databases).

The issues discussed above may be defined differently among applicants from various geographic regions, including areas outside the continental U.S. (Alaska, American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands). Each application should define its issues as they relate to the specific project. In your narrative/work plan, include a succinct explanation of how the project may serve as a model in other settings and how it addresses a high-priority environmental justice issue. The degree to which a project addresses a high-priority environmental justice issue will vary and must be defined by applicants according to their local environmental justice concerns.

C. How Much Money May Be Requested, and Are Matching Funds Required?

The ceiling in federal funds for any one grant is \$15,000 for non superfund projects or \$20,000 for superfund projects. The Headquarters Office of Environmental Justice will provide each region with approximately \$110,000 to issue awards of which \$60,000 is available exclusively for superfund projects. Some regions may augment their regional pools with additional funds subject to availability. Please check with your regional contact for the amount of funds that will be available in each region.

Applicants are not required to provide matching funds.

D. Are There Any Restrictions on the Use of the Federal Funds?

Yes. EPA grant funds can only be used for the purposes set forth in the grant agreement. Among other things, absent specific statutory authority, grant funds from this program cannot be used for matching funds for other federal grants, lobbying, or intervention in federal regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings. In addition, the recipient may not use these federal assistance funds to sue the federal government or any other government entity. Refer to 40 CFR 30.27, entitled "Allowable Costs". Further, the scope of EJ grants may not include construction, personal gifts (e.g., t-shirts, buttons, hats), and furniture purchases.

III. Application Requirements

A. What Is Required for Applications?

In order to be considered for funding under this program, proposals from eligible organizations must have the following:

1. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) the official form required for all federal grants that requests basic information about the grantee and the proposed project. The applicant must submit the original application, plus two copies, signed by a person duly authorized by the governing board of the applicant.

Please complete Part 10 of the SF-424 form, "Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number" with the following information: 66.604—Environmental Justice Small Grants Program.

2. The Federal Standard Form (SF-424A) and budget detail, which provides information on your budget. For the purposes of this grants program, complete only the non-shaded areas of SF-424A. Budget figures/projections should support your work plan/narrative. The EPA portion of these grants will not exceed \$15,000 for non superfund or \$20,000 for superfund projects, therefore your budget should reflect this limit on federal funds.

3. Narrative/work plan of the proposal, not to exceed five pages. Applications may not be considered if they exceed five single pages. A narrative/work plan describes the applicant's proposed project. The pages of the work plan must be letter size (8½" x 11"), with normal type size (12 characters per inch), and at least 1" margins.

The narrative/work plan is one of the most important aspects of your application and (assuming that all other required materials are submitted) will be used as the primary basis for selection. Work plans must be

submitted in the format described below:

a. A one page summary that:

- Identifies the environmental justice issue(s) to be addressed by the project;
- Identifies the EJ community/target audience;
- Identifies at least two environmental statutes/Acts addressed by the project; and
- Identifies at least two program goals that the project will meet and how it will meet them.

b. A concise introduction that states the nature of the organization (i.e., how long it has been in existence, if it is incorporated, if it is a network, etc.), how the organization has been successful in the past, purpose of the project, EJ community/target audience, project completion plans/time frames, and expected results.

c. A concise project description that describes how the applicant is community-based and/or plans to involve the target audience in the project and how the applicant plans to meet at least two of the three program goals outlined in Section IIB: "Office of Environmental Justice Small Grants Program Goals." Additional credit will not be given for projects that fulfill more than two goals.

d. A conclusion discussing how the applicant will evaluate and measure the success of the project, including the anticipated benefits and challenges in implementing the project.

e. An appendix with resumes of up to three key personnel who will be significantly involved in the project.

4. Letter(s) of commitment. If your proposed project includes the significant involvement of other community organizations, your application must include letters of commitment from these organizations. This requirement may not apply to your proposed project—only include if applicable.

Applications that do not include the information listed above in items 1-3 and if applicable, item 4, will not be considered for an award.

Please note: your application to this EPA program may be subject to your state's intergovernmental review process and/or the consultation requirements of Section 204, Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act. Check with your state's Single Point of Contact to determine your requirements—some states do not require this review. Applicants from American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands should also check with their Single Point of Contact. If you do not know who your Single Point of Contact is, please call your EPA regional contact

(Section III) or EPA Headquarters at (202) 260-9266. Federally recognized tribal governments are not required to comply with this procedure.

B. When and Where Must Applications be Submitted?

The applicant must submit/mail one signed original application with required attachments and one copy to the primary contact at the EPA regional office listed below. The application must be postmarked by United Parcel Postal Service no later than Friday, March 3, 2000.

Regional Contact Names and Addresses

Region 1—Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

Primary Contact: Ronnie Harrington, (617) 918-1703, USEPA Region 1 (SAA), 1 Congress Street—Suite 1100, Boston, MA 02114-2023.

Secondary: Pat O'Leary (617) 565-3834.

Region 2—New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands

Primary Contact: Natalie Loney (212) 637-3639, USEPA Region 2, 290 Broadway, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10007.

Secondary: Melva Hayden (212) 637-5027.

Region 3—Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia

Primary Contact: Reginald Harris (215) 814-2988, USEPA Region 3 (3DA00), 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029.

Secondary: Kathy Duran (215) 814-5441.

Region 4—Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee

Primary Contact: Gloria Love (404) 562-9672, USEPA Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street, SW, Atlanta, GA 30303-8960.

Secondary: Connie Raines (404) 562-9671.

Region 5—Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin

Primary Contact: Margaret Millard (312) 353-1440, USEPA Region 5 (MC T-175), 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60604-3507.

Secondary: Karla Johnson (312) 886-5993.

Region 6—Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas

Primary Contact: Olivia Balandran (214) 665-7257, USEPA Region 6 (6EN),

1445 Ross Avenue, 12th Floor, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733.

Secondary: Shirley Augurson (214) 665-7401.

Region 7—Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska

Primary Contact: Althea Moses (913) 551-7649 or 1-800-223-0425, USEPA Region 7, 726 Minnesota Avenue, Kansas City, KS 66101.

Secondary: Cecil Bailey (913) 551-7462.

Region 8—Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

Primary Contact: Nancy Reish (303) 312-6040, USEPA Region 8 (8ENF-EJ), 999 18th Street, Suite 500, Denver, CO 80202-2466.

Secondary: Marcella Devargas (303) 312-6161.

Region 9—Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa, Guam

Primary Contact: Willard Chin (415) 744-1204, USEPA Region 9 (A-2-2), 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105.

Secondary: EJ Information Line (415) 744-1565.

Region 10—Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington

Primary Contact: Victoria Plata (206) 553-8580, USEPA Region 10 (CEJ-163), 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101.

Secondary: Mike Letourneau (206) 553-1687.

IV. Process for Awarding Grants

A. How Will Applications be Reviewed?

EPA Regional offices will review, evaluate, and select grant recipients. Applications will be screened to ensure that they meet all eligible activities and requirements described in Sections II and III. Applications will also be evaluated by Regional review panels based on the criteria outlined in this solicitation. Applications will be disqualified if they do not meet these criteria.

B. How Will the Final Selections be Made?

After the individual projects are reviewed and ranked, EPA Regional officials will compare the best applications and make final selections. Additional factors that EPA will take into account include geographic and socioeconomic balance, diverse nature of the projects, cost, and projects whose benefits can be sustained after the grant is completed. Regional Administrators will select the final grants.

Please note that this is a very competitive grants program. Limited

funding is available and many grant applications are expected to be received. Therefore, the Agency cannot fund all applications. If your project is not funded, a listing of other EPA grant programs may be found in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance. This publication is available at local libraries, colleges, or universities.

C. How Will Applicants be Notified?

After all applications are received, EPA Regional offices will mail acknowledgments to applicants in their Regions. Once applications have been recommended for funding, the EPA Regions will notify the finalists and request any additional information necessary to complete the award process. The finalists will be required to complete additional government application forms prior to receiving a grant, such as the EPA Form SF-424B (Assurances—Non-Construction Programs), EPA Form 5700-48, and the Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters. The federal government requires all grantees to certify and assure that they will comply with all applicable federal laws, regulations, and requirements.

The EPA Regional Environmental Justice Coordinators or their designees will notify those applicants whose projects are not selected for funding.

V. Expected Time-Frame for Reviewing and Awarding Grants

December 8, 1999—FY 2000 OEJ Small Grants Program Application Guidance is available and published in the **Federal Register**.

December 9, 1999 to March 3, 2000—Eligible grant recipients develop and complete their applications.

March 3, 2000—Applications must be postmarked by this date and mailed or delivered to the appropriate EPA regional office.

March 3, 2000 to April 9, 2000—EPA Regional Program Officials review and evaluate applications and select grant finalists.

April 9, 2000 to August 6, 2000—Applicants will be contacted by the region if their application is being considered for funding. Additional information may be required from the finalists, as indicated in Section IV. EPA regional grant offices process grants and make awards.

September 30, 2000—EPA expects to release the national announcement of the FY 2000 Office of Environmental Justice Small Grant Recipients.

VI. Project Period and Final Reports

Activities must be completed and funds spent within the time frame specified in the grant award, usually one year. Project start dates will depend on the grant award date (most projects begin in August or September). The recipient organization is responsible for the successful completion of the project. The recipient's project manager is subject to approval by the EPA project officer but EPA may not direct that any particular person be the project manager.

All recipients must submit final reports for EPA approval within ninety (90) days of the end of the project period. Specific report requirements (e.g., Final Technical Report and Financial Status Report) will be described in the award agreement. EPA will collect, review, and disseminate grantees' final reports to serve as model programs.

For further information about this program, please visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/oeca/oej/00grants.html or call our hotline at 1-800-962-6215.

VII. Fiscal Year 2001 OEJ Small Grants Program

A. How Can I Receive Information on the Fiscal Year 2001 Environmental Justice Grants Program?

If you wish to be placed on the national mailing list to receive information on the FY 2001 Environmental Justice Small Grants Program, you must mail your request along with your name, organization, address, and phone number to: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Justice Small Grants Program (2201A), FY 2001 Grants Mailing List, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460, 1 (800) 962-6215.

Thank you for your interest in our Small Grants Program and we wish you luck in the application process.

Barry E. Hill,

Director, Office of Environmental Justice.

[FR Doc. 00-625 Filed 1-10-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-U

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Sunshine Act Meeting

Pursuant to the provisions of the "Government in the Sunshine Act" (5 U.S.C. 552b), notice is hereby given that at 9:58 a.m. on Friday, January 7, 2000, the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation met in closed session to consider a matter

relating to the Corporation's resolution activities.

In calling the meeting, the Board determined, on motion of Vice Chairman Andrew C. Hove, Jr., seconded by Director Ellen S. Seidman (Director, Office of Thrift Supervision), concurred in by Director John D. Hawke, Jr. (Comptroller of the Currency), and Chairman Donna Tanoue, that Corporation business required its consideration of the matter on less than seven days' notice to the public; that no earlier notice of the meeting was practicable; that the public interest did not require consideration of the matter in a meeting open to public observation; and that the matter could be considered in a closed meeting by authority of subsections (c)(6), (c)(8), (c)(9)(A)(ii), and (c)(9)(B) of the "Government in the Sunshine Act" (5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6), (c)(8), (c)(9)(A)(ii), and (c)(9)(B)).

The meeting was held in the Board Room of the FDIC Building located at 550 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Dated: January 7, 2000.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

James D. LaPierre,

Deputy Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-753 Filed 1-7-00; 3:36 pm]

BILLING CODE 6714-01-M

FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE

Labor-Management Cooperation Program; Application Solicitation

AGENCY: Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

ACTION: Final Fiscal Year 2000 Program Guidelines/Application Solicitation for Labor-Management Committees.

SUMMARY: The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) is publishing the final Fiscal Year 2000 Program Guidelines/Application Solicitation for the Labor-Management Cooperation program to inform the public. The program is supported by Federal funds authorized by the Labor-Management Cooperation Act of 1978, subject to annual appropriations. This Solicitation contains changes in the maximum Federal funding amount available for different categories of committees.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peter L. Regner, 202-606-8181.

Labor-Management Cooperation Program Application Solicitation for Labor-Management Committees FY2000

A. Introduction

The following is the final solicitation for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 cycle of the Labor-Management Cooperation Program as it pertains to the support of labor-management committees. These guidelines represent the continuing efforts of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to implement the provisions of the Labor-Management Cooperation Act of 1978 which was initially implemented in FY81. The Act generally authorizes FMCS to provide assistance in the establishment and operation of company/plant, area, public sector, and industry-wide labor-management committees which:

(A) Have been organized jointly by employers and labor organizations representing employees in that company/plant, area, government agency, of industry; and

(B) Are established for the purpose of improving labor-management relationships, job security, and organizational effectiveness; enhancing economic development; or involving workers in decisions affecting their jobs, including improving communication with respect to subjects of mutual interest and concern.

The Program Description and other sections that follow, as well as a separately published FMCS Financial and Administrative Grants Manual, make up the basic guidelines, criteria, and program elements a potential applicant for assistance under this program must know in order to develop an application for funding consideration for either a company/plant, area-wide, industry, or public sector labor-management committee. Directions for obtaining an application kit may be found in Section H. A copy of the Labor-Management Cooperation Act of 1978, included in the application kit, should be reviewed in conjunction with this solicitation.

B. Program Description

Objectives

The Labor-Management Cooperation Act of 1978 identifies the following seven general areas for which financial assistance would be appropriate:

(1) To improve communication between representatives of labor and management;

(2) To provide workers and employers with opportunities to study and explore new and innovative joint approaches to achieving organizational effectiveness;

(3) To assist workers and employers in solving problems of mutual concern