

improvement opportunities to assist offenders in becoming law-abiding citizens. The Bureau accomplishes its mission through the appropriate use of community correction, detention, and correctional facilities that are either: Federally-owned and operated; Federally-owned and non-Federally operated; and non-Federally owned and operated.

The Bureau is facing a period of unprecedented growth in its inmate population. Projections show the federal inmate population increasing from approximately 120,000 inmates to 205,000 inmates by 2007. As such, the demand for bedspace within the federal prison system will continue to grow at a significant rate. To accommodate a portion of the growing inmate population, the Bureau of Prisons has determined that an additional medium-security Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) is needed in its system. Therefore, the Bureau of Prisons is proposes to build and operate a medium-security federal correctional facility, with an adjacent minimum-security satellite camp, in Pennsylvania. The main medium-security facility would provide habitation for approximately 1,200 inmates, with an additional 150–300 inmates to be housed at the minimum-security satellite camp.

Several sites in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania have been offered to the Bureau for consideration in developing the medium-security FCI and satellite camp. The Bureau of Prisons has preliminarily evaluated these sites and determined that the prospective sites appear to be of sufficient size to provide space for housing, programs, administrative services and other support facilities associated with the correctional facility. The DEIS to be prepared by the Bureau will analyzed the potential impacts of correctional facility construction and operation at these sites.

The Process

In the process of evaluating the sites, several aspects will receive detailed examination including, but are not limited to: topography, geology/soils, hydrology, biological resources, utility services, transportation services, cultural resources, land uses, socio-economics, hazardous materials, air and noise quality, among others.

Alternatives

In developing the DEIS, the options of "no action" and "alternative sites" for the proposed facility will be fully and thoroughly examined.

Scoping Process

During the preparation of the DEIS, there will be opportunities for public involvement in order to determine the issues to be examined. A public Scoping Meeting will be held at 7 P.M., May 31, 2000 at the Northumberland County Career & Arts Center located at 2 East Arch Street, Shamokin, Pennsylvania. The meeting location, date, and time will be well publicized and has been arranged to allow for the public as well as interested agencies and organizations to attend. The meeting is being held to allow interested persons to formally express their views on the scope and significant issues to be studied as part of the DEIS process. The Scoping Meeting is being held to provide for timely public comments and understanding of federal plans and programs with possible environmental consequences as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. In addition, public information meetings have been held in Northumberland County by representatives of the Bureau of Prisons with interested citizens, elected officials, and community leaders.

DEIS Preparation

Public notice will be given concerning the availability of the DEIS for public review and comment.

Addresses

Questions concerning the proposed action and the DEIS may be directed to: David J. Dorworth, Chief, Site Selection and Environmental Review Branch, Federal Bureau of Prisons, 320 First Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20534, Telephone (202) 514-6470, Telefacsimile (202) 616-6024, E-Mail: siteselection@bop.gov.

Dated: May 5, 2000.

David J. Dorworth,

Chief, Site Selection and Environmental Review Branch.

[FR Doc. 00-11788 Filed 5-11-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Notice of Availability of Funds and Solicitation for Grant Applications (SGAs) for the Purpose of Training Child Care Providers

SUMMARY: *This notice contains all of the necessary information and forms*

needed to apply for grant funding. The Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, invites proposals for approximately ten (10) awards for the implementation of the Quality Child Care Initiative. It will assist with the initiation of building a national system for the education and training of professional child care providers and expand the National Apprenticeship System by incorporating diversification of occupational entities through development of new and innovative strategies for increasing the participation among the child care industry.

DATES: Applications will be accepted commencing on the date of publication. The closing date for receipt of applications is July 12, 2000, at 4 P.M., (Eastern Time) at the address below. *Telefacsimile (FAX), Telegraphed, or Electronic Applications will not be honored.*

ADDRESSES: Applications shall be mailed to the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Division of Federal Assistance, Attention: Reda Harrison, Reference: SGA/DFA 00-106, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room S-4203, Washington, DC 20210.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Questions should be faxed to Reda Harrison, Grants Management Specialist, Division of Federal Assistance, Fax 202-219-8739. This is not a toll-free number. All inquiries should include the SGA number (DFA 00-106) a contact name, fax and phone numbers. This solicitation will also be published on the Internet on the Employment and Training Administration's Home Page at <http://www.dol.gov>. Award notifications will also be published on this Home Page.

Quality Child Care Initiative Solicitation

I. Purpose

To invite proposals for providing a credentialed career path for development of professional child care providers through the utilization of the National Registered Apprenticeship System; which will reduce turnover, increase wages for providers, provide a more stable environment for children and lower the concern of parents.

II. Background

The Child Care Industry is in trouble. A 1989 study by the National Center of Early Childhood Workforce found that the quality of services provided by most day care centers was rated as "barely

adequate," and a more recent four-State study by the University of Colorado, at Denver, found that only 14 percent of child care centers were rated as good quality. In addition, child care workers are faced with relatively low wages, inadequate benefit coverage and high job turnover.

On October 23, 1997, President and Mrs. Clinton hosted the White House Conference on Child Care to focus the Nation's attention on the importance of addressing the need for safe, affordable, available and quality child care. Integral to providing the "right" care is the quality of the child care worker.

Quality child care service goes hand in glove with having an adequate supply of competent, professional child care providers. This requires enhanced training opportunities and a redefinition of the basic concept of what constitutes a child care provider. A national focus on accreditation demands that practitioners have access to education and training that will promote professional development. As the field of early care and education becomes established as a profession, practitioners are required to master basic knowledge, skills and core competencies of early childhood development. As professionals, practitioners must develop practical knowledge that will enable them to apply new approaches and strategies for working effectively with young children.

III. Statement of Work

As our society continues to evolve and demands are placed on parents to secure full time job/careers, the need for safe, affordable, available and quality child care has been brought to the forefront. Utilization of the National Apprenticeship System can provide needed training for early care and education practitioners. High quality training has the potential to change the culture of the child care industry from one dominated by low pay and high turnover to one of respected professional service. No longer would child care be equated to baby-sitting.

The apprenticeship model validates the integral part that child care plays in the economy, as working families rely on dependable, accessible care for their children. As families move from welfare to work, additional sources of training child care providers are in demand.

Note: All applicants are expected to provide information relative to the projected number of participants (*i.e.*, employers, apprentices and the diverse make-up of the participants).

The major tasks of this project will be, but not limited, to the following:

- System and capacity-building by incorporating in a collaborative spirit organizations, agencies, employers, associations and higher education (*i.e.*, State Child Care Association, State Head Start Association, State Early Childhood Professional Associations, School Age Care, Black Child Development

Institution, State Family Child Care Associations, State Head Start Collaboration Directors, Post Secondary Institutions, Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, Registered Apprenticeship Representative), to develop a vision for implementation of an individual statewide sustainable infrastructure built upon successful registered apprenticeship and best practice models;

- From the above activity, establishment of an oversight body to provide direction and guidance to the vision, utilizing the services of an Apprenticeship and Training Representative.

- Utilization of an established curriculum or development of a curriculum based on developmentally appropriate inclusive practices for young children and an interactive adult education teaching approach that is effective for adult learners.

- Adoption of or establishment of a train-the-trainer system that will ensure the availability of knowledgeable, experienced, skilled instructors for the related instruction course work;

- Development of a process to promote career lattice for those graduates of the registered apprenticeship system (*i.e.*, articulation into an Associates Degree or higher);

- Ensuring the inclusion of those with other nationally recognized credentials such as the Child Development Associate (CDA) through previous credit for documented prior experience;

- Demonstration of in-kind support from institutions involved in the process (*i.e.*, time spent to facilitate and foster the process and/or free facilities to conduct related instruction);

- Development and implementation of a strategy or strategies to ensure inclusion of practitioners representing diversity of culture, ethnicity, gender and ability;

- Development of policies, procedures and formulas to ensure the consistency and integrity of system implementation and beyond. The system will be sustainable and ownership established, if the process is followed throughout the state.

IV. Application Process

Eligible Applicants: Those eligible to apply are as follows: States that have a

State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA); State Agencies designated by the Governor; Governor's Early Childhood Initiative; and other State Agencies with responsibility for child care regulations or funding. *Only one proposal will be accepted per State; and for States without an SAA, a letter from the Governor designating the agency must accompany the proposal. Those awardees who received Child Care Initiative awards in 1999 are not eligible to compete for this procurement.*

V. Application Submittal

Applicants must submit four (4) copies of their proposal, with original signatures. The application shall be divided into two distinct parts: Part I—which contains Standard Form (SF) 424, "Application for Federal Assistance," (Appendix A) and "Budget Information Sheet," (Appendix B). All copies of the SF 424 MUST have original signatures of the legal entity applying for grant funding. Applicants shall indicate on the SF 424 the organization's IRS Status, if applicable. According to the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, Section 18, an organization described in Section 501(c) 4 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 which engages in lobbying activities shall not be eligible for the receipt of federal funds constituting an award, grant, or loan. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number is 17.249. In addition, the budget shall include—on a separate page(s)—a detailed cost break-out of each line item on the Budget Information Sheet. Part II shall contain the program narrative that demonstrates the applicant's plan and capabilities in accordance with the evaluation criteria contained in this section. Applicants must describe their plan in light of each of the Evaluation Criteria. Applicants MUST limit the program narrative section to no more than 30 double-spaced pages, on one side only. *This includes any attachments.* Applications that fail to meet the page limitation requirement will not be considered.

VI. Late Applications

Any application received after the exact date and time specified for receipt at the office designated in this notice will not be considered, unless it is received before awards are made and it—(a) was sent by U.S. Postal Service registered or certified mail not later than the fifth calendar day before the date specified for receipt of applications (*e.g.*, an application submitted in response to a solicitation requiring receipt of applications by the 20th of the month must have been mailed/post marked by the 15th of that month); or

(b) was sent by the U.S. Postal Service Express Mail Next Day Service to addressee not later than 5 P.M. at the place of mailing two working days prior to the date specified for receipt of applications. The term "working days" excludes weekends and Federal holidays. "Post-marked" means a printed, stamped or otherwise placed impression (exclusive of a postage meter machine impression) that is readily identifiable, without further action, as having been supplied or affixed on the date of mailing by an employee of the U.S. Postal Service.

VII. Withdrawal of Applications

Applications may be withdrawn by written notice or telegram (including mail gram) received at any time before an award is made. Applications may be withdrawn in person by the applicant or by an authorized representative thereof, the representative's identity is made known and representative signs a receipt of the proposal.

VIII. Hand Delivered Proposals

It is preferred that applications be mailed at least five days prior to the closing date. To be considered for funding, hand-delivered applications must be received by 4 P.M., (Eastern Time), July 12, 2000, at the specified address. Failure to adhere to the above instructions will be a basis for a determination of nonresponsiveness. Overnight express mail from carriers other than the U.S. Postal Service will be considered hand-delivered applications and *must be received* by the above specified date and time.

IX. Funding Availability and Period of Performance

The Department expects to make up to 10 awards with a maximum total investment for these projects of \$3.5 million. The estimated range of awards is to be from \$175,000 to \$350,000. The period of performance will be for 18 months from the date of execution.

X. Review Process

A careful evaluation of applications will be made by a technical review panel who will evaluate the applications against the criteria listed below. The panel results are advisory in nature and not binding on the Grant Officer. The Government may elect to award the grant with or without discussions with the offeror. In situations without discussions, an award will be based on the offeror's signature on the SF 424, which constitutes a binding offer. Those awards made will be in the best interests of the Government.

Evaluation Criteria

A. System and Capacity Building—The extent to which the offeror has delineated collaboration strategies to develop a vision and implementation plan for a statewide infrastructure utilizing the registered apprenticeship system of training and forecast of implementation. (25 points)

B. Sustainability—Plan for long term viability of the system after this funding ends. (15 points)

C. Curriculum—Delineation of utilization or development of curriculum based on developmentally appropriate inclusive practices for young children and an interactive adult educational component for effective

adult learners and a forecast of implementation. (15 points)

D. Career Lattice—Describe the process for inclusion of participants with documented prior experience linked with substantial increases in compensation and next steps for apprenticeship graduates in the process (awarding of college credit and articulation with higher education). (20 points)

E. Diversity—Outline the strategy or strategies developed to ensure inclusion of participants representing diversity of culture, ethnicity, gender and ability (*i.e.*, projected number of employers and apprentices) and a forecast of implementation. (15 points)

F. Consistency and Integrity—Delineation of the policies, procedures, and formulas developed to ensure consistency and integrity of the statewide system. (10 points)

XI. Reporting Requirements

- Attendance to a post award orientation briefing (*i.e.*, time and place to be announced), where BAT will reiterate and delineate the overall desired outcomes of the project;

- Detailed work plan, budget, and schedule within 30 days of grant award;
- Quarterly Status Reports within 30 days of quarters end;
- Monthly cost vouchers;
- Final report on completed tasks and specific recommendations for future grants for Child Care Initiatives, no later than 45 days following the end of the grant.

Signed in Washington, DC, the 5th of May, 2000.

Laura A. Cesario,
Grant Officer, Division of Federal Assistance.

BILLING CODE 4510-30-P

APPENDIX A

APPLICATION FOR

OMB Approval No. 0348-0043

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

		2. DATE SUBMITTED	Applicant Identifier																															
1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION: Application <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction		3. DATE RECEIVED BY STATE	State Application Identifier																															
		4. DATE RECEIVED BY FEDERAL AGENCY	Federal Identifier																															
5. APPLICANT INFORMATION																																		
Legal Name:		Organizational Unit:																																
Address (give city, county, State and zip code):		Name and telephone number of the person to be contacted on matters involving this application (give area code):																																
6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN): <table border="1"><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td>-</td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table>						-																												
		-																																
8. TYPE OF APPLICATION: <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision		7. TYPE OF APPLICANT: (enter appropriate letter in box) <table><tr><td>A. State</td><td>H. Independent School Dist.</td></tr><tr><td>B. County</td><td>I. State Controlled Institution of Higher Learning</td></tr><tr><td>C. Municipa</td><td>J. Private University</td></tr><tr><td>D. Township</td><td>K. Indian Tribe</td></tr><tr><td>E. Interstate</td><td>L. Individual</td></tr><tr><td>F. Intermunicipal</td><td>M. Profit Organization</td></tr><tr><td>G. Special District</td><td>N. Other (Specify): _____</td></tr></table>		A. State	H. Independent School Dist.	B. County	I. State Controlled Institution of Higher Learning	C. Municipa	J. Private University	D. Township	K. Indian Tribe	E. Interstate	L. Individual	F. Intermunicipal	M. Profit Organization	G. Special District	N. Other (Specify): _____																	
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G. Special District	N. Other (Specify): _____																																	
If Revision, enter appropriate letter(s) in box(es): <table border="1"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table>				9. NAME OF FEDERAL AGENCY:																														
10. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBER: <table border="1"><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td>-</td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table>				-					11. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT:																									
		-																																
12. AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT (cities, counties, States, etc.):																																		
13. PROPOSED PROJECT:		14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF: <table><tr><td>Start Date</td><td>Ending Date</td><td>a. Applicant</td><td>b. Project</td></tr></table>		Start Date	Ending Date	a. Applicant	b. Project																											
Start Date	Ending Date	a. Applicant	b. Project																															
15. ESTIMATED FUNDING:		16. IS APPLICATION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS? <table><tr><td>a. Federal</td><td>\$</td><td>.00</td><td>a. YES. THIS PREAPPLICATION/APPLICATION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS FOR REVIEW ON DATE _____</td></tr><tr><td>b. Applicant</td><td>\$</td><td>.00</td><td>b. NO. <input type="checkbox"/> PROGRAM IS NOT COVERED BY E.O. 12372 <input type="checkbox"/> OR PROGRAM HAS NOT BEEN SELECTED BY STATE FOR REVIEW</td></tr><tr><td>c. State</td><td>\$</td><td>.00</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>d. Local</td><td>\$</td><td>.00</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>e. Other</td><td>\$</td><td>.00</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>f. Program Income</td><td>\$</td><td>.00</td><td>17. IS THE APPLICANT DELINQUENT ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT? <table><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</td><td>If "Yes," attach an explanation.</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> No</td></tr></table></td></tr><tr><td>g. TOTAL</td><td>\$</td><td>.00</td><td></td></tr></table>		a. Federal	\$.00	a. YES. THIS PREAPPLICATION/APPLICATION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS FOR REVIEW ON DATE _____	b. Applicant	\$.00	b. NO. <input type="checkbox"/> PROGRAM IS NOT COVERED BY E.O. 12372 <input type="checkbox"/> OR PROGRAM HAS NOT BEEN SELECTED BY STATE FOR REVIEW	c. State	\$.00		d. Local	\$.00		e. Other	\$.00		f. Program Income	\$.00	17. IS THE APPLICANT DELINQUENT ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT? <table><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</td><td>If "Yes," attach an explanation.</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> No</td></tr></table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	If "Yes," attach an explanation.	<input type="checkbox"/> No	g. TOTAL	\$.00	
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<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	If "Yes," attach an explanation.	<input type="checkbox"/> No																																
g. TOTAL	\$.00																																
18. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL DATA IN THIS APPLICATION/PREAPPLICATION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT. THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT WILL COMPLY WITH THE ATTACHED ASSURANCES IF THE ASSISTANCE IS AWARDED.																																		
a. Typed Name of Authorized Representative		b. Title	c. Telephone number																															
d. Signature of Authorized Representative			e. Date Signed																															

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SF 424

This is a standard form used by applicants as a required face sheet for preapplications and applications submitted for Federal assistance. It will be used by Federal agencies to obtain applicant certification that States which have established a review and comment procedure in response to Executive Order 12372 and have selected the program to be included in their process, have been given an opportunity to review the applicant's submission.

Item:	Entry:	
1.	Self-explanatory.	14. List the applicant's Congressional District and any District(s) affected by the program or project.
2.	Date application submitted to Federal agency (or State if applicable) & applicant's control number (if applicable).	15. Amount requested or to be contributed during the first funding/budget period by each contributor. Value of in-kind contributions should be included on appropriate lines as applicable. If the action will result in a dollar change to an existing award, indicate <u>only</u> the amount of the change. For decreases, enclose the amounts in parentheses. If both basic and supplemental amounts are included, show breakdown on an attached sheet. For multiple program funding, use totals and show breakdown using same categories as item 15.
3.	State use only (if applicable)	
4.	If this application is to continue or revise an existing award, enter present Federal identifier number. If for a new project, leave blank.	
5.	Legal name of applicant, name of primary organizational unit which will undertake this assistance activity, complete address of the applicant, and name and telephone number of the person to contact on matters related to this application.	16. Applicants should contact the State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for Federal Executive Order 12372 to determine whether the application is subject to the State intergovernmental review process.
6.	Enter Employer Identification Number (EIN) as assigned by the Internal Revenue Service.	17. This question applies to the applicant organization, not the person who signs as the authorized representative. Categories of debt include delinquent audit disallowances, loans and taxes.
7.	Enter the appropriate letter in the space provided.	
8.	Check appropriate box and enter appropriate letter(s) in the space(s) provided. - "New" means a new assistance award. - "Continuation" means an extension for an additional funding/budget period for a project with a projected completion date. - "Revision" means any change in the Federal Government's financial obligation or contingent liability from an existing obligation.	18. To be signed by the authorized representative of the applicant. A copy of the governing body's authorization for you to sign this application as official representative must be on file in the applicant's office. (Certain Federal agencies may require that this authorization be submitted as part of the application.)
9.	Name of Federal agency from which assistance is being requested with this application.	
10.	Use the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number and title of the program under which assistance is required.	
11.	Enter a brief descriptive title of the project. If more than one program is involved, you should append an explanation on a separate sheet. If appropriate (e.g., construction or real property projects), attach a map showing project location. For preapplications, use a separate sheet to provide a summary description of the project.	

Item:	Entry:
12.	List only the largest political entities affected (e.g., State, counties, cities).
13.	Self-explanatory.

APPENDIX B**PART II - BUDGET INFORMATION****SECTION A - Budget Summary by Categories**

	(A)	(B)	(C)
<i>1. Personnel</i>			
<i>2. Fringe Benefits (Rate)</i>			
<i>3. Travel</i>			
<i>4. Equipment</i>			
<i>5. Supplies</i>			
<i>6. Contractual</i>			
<i>7. Other</i>			
<i>8. Total, Direct Cost (Lines 1 through 7)</i>			
<i>9. Indirect Cost (Rate %)</i>			
<i>10. Training Cost/Stipends</i>			
<i>11. TOTAL Funds Requested (Lines 8 through 10)</i>			

SECTION B - Cost Sharing/ Match Summary (if appropriate)

	(A)	(B)	(C)
<i>1. Cash Contribution</i>			
<i>2. In-Kind Contribution</i>			
<i>3. TOTAL Cost Sharing / Match (Rate %)</i>			

NOTE: Use Column A to record funds requested for the initial period of performance (i.e. 12 months, 18 months, etc.); Column B to record changes to Column A (i.e. requests for additional funds or line item changes); and Column C to record the totals (A plus B).

SECTION A - Budget Summary by Categories

1. **Personnel:** Show salaries to be paid for project personnel which you are required to provide with W2 forms.
2. **Fringe Benefits:** Indicate the rate and amount of fringe benefits.
3. **Travel:** Indicate the amount requested for staff travel. Include funds to cover at least one trip to Washington, DC for project director or designee.
4. **Equipment:** Indicate the cost of non-expendable personal property that has a useful life of more than one year with a per unit cost of \$5,000 or more. Also include a detailed description of equipment to be purchased including price information.
5. **Supplies:** Include the cost of consumable supplies and materials to be used during the project period.
6. **Contractual:** Show the amount to be used for (1) procurement contracts (except those which belong on other lines such as supplies and equipment); and (2) sub-contracts/grants.
7. **Other:** Indicate all direct costs not clearly covered by lines 1 through 6 above, including consultants.
8. **Total, Direct Costs:** Add lines 1 through 7.
9. **Indirect Costs:** Indicate the rate and amount of indirect costs. Please include a copy of your negotiated Indirect Cost Agreement.
10. **Training /Stipend Cost:** (If allowable)
11. **Total Federal funds Requested:** Show total of lines 8 through 10.

SECTION B - Cost Sharing/Matching Summary

Indicate the actual rate and amount of cost sharing/matching when there is a cost sharing/matching requirement. Also include percentage of total project cost and indicate source of cost sharing/matching funds, i.e. other Federal source or other Non-Federal source.

NOTE:

PLEASE INCLUDE A DETAILED COST ANALYSIS OF EACH LINE ITEM.

[FR Doc. 00-11977 Filed 5-11-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-30-C

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Employment and Training Administration****Workforce Investment Act; Lower Living Standard Income Level****AGENCY:** Employment and Training Administration, Labor.**ACTION:** Notice of determination of lower living standard income level.

SUMMARY: Under Title I of the Workforce Investment Act (Pub. L. 105-220), the Secretary of Labor annually determines the Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL) for uses defined in the Law. WIA defines the term "Low Income Individual" as one who qualifies under various criteria, including an individual who received income that does not exceed the higher of the poverty line or 70 percent of the lower living standard income level. This issuance provides the Secretary's annual LLSIL for 2000 and references the current 2000 Health and Human Services "Poverty Guidelines."

EFFECTIVE DATE: This notice is effective on May 12, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to: Mr. Ron Putz, Office of Adult Services, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, Room N-4671, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20210.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Ron Putz, Telephone 202-219-7694 x134; Fax (202) 219-0376 (these are not toll free numbers).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) is "to provide workforce investment activities, through statewide and local workforce investment systems, that increase the employment, retention, and earnings of participants, and increase occupational skill attainment by participants, and, as a result, improve the quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency, and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the Nation."

The LLSIL is used for several purposes under WIA: specifically, WIA Section 101(25) defines the term "low income individual for eligibility purposes" Sections 127(b)(2)(C) and 132(b)(1)(iii)(IV) define the terms "disadvantaged adult," and "disadvantaged youth" in terms of the poverty line or LLSIL for purposes of State allotments. The Governor and State/local Workforce Investment

Boards need the LLSIL for determining eligibility for youth, eligibility for employed adult/dislocated workers for certain services, and for the reauthorized Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC). We encourage the Governors and State/local Workforce Investment Boards to consult WIA and its Regulations and Preamble for more specific guidance in applying the LLSIL to program requirements. The Department of Health and Human Services published the annual update of the poverty-level guidelines in the **Federal Register** at 65, FR 7555, (Feb. 15, 2000). The HHS poverty-level guidelines may also be found on the Internet at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/00.htm>. ETA plans to have the 2000 LLSIL available on its website at: <http://www.wdsc.org/llsil/llsil00.htm>.

WIA section 101(24) defines the LLSIL as "that income level (adjusted for regional, metropolitan, urban, and rural differences and family size) determined annually by the Secretary (of Labor) based on the most recent lower living family budget issued by the Secretary." The most recent lower living family budget was issued by the Secretary of Labor in the fall of 1981. The four-person urban family budget estimates, previously published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), provided the basis for the Secretary to determine the LLSIL. BLS terminated the four-person family budget series in 1982, after publication of the Fall 1981 estimates. Currently BLS provides current data to ETA, from which it develops the LLSIL tables.

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) published the 1999 updates to the LLSIL in the **Federal Register** on May 14, 1999, at 64 FR 26452. This notice again updates the LLSIL to reflect cost of living increases for 1999 by applying the BLS provided percentage change in the December 1999 Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), compared with the December 1998 CPI-U, to each of the May 14, 1999 LLSIL figures. Those updated figures for a family of four are listed in Table 1 below by region for both metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas. Figures in all of the accompanying tables are rounded up to the nearest ten. Since "low income individual," "disadvantaged adult, and "disadvantaged youth" may be determined by family income at 70 percent of the LLSIL, those figures are listed below as well.

Jurisdictions included in the various regions, based generally on Census Divisions of the U.S. Department of Commerce, are as follows:

Northeast
Connecticut
Maine
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
Vermont
Virgin Islands

Midwest
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
Michigan
Minnesota
Missouri
Nebraska
North Dakota
Ohio
South Dakota
Wisconsin

South
Alabama
American Samoa
Arkansas
Delaware
District of Columbia
Florida
Georgia
Northern Marianas
Oklahoma
Palau
Puerto Rico
South Carolina
Kentucky
Louisiana
Marshall Islands
Maryland
Mississippi
Micronesia
North Carolina
Tennessee
Texas
Virginia
West Virginia

West
Arizona
California
Colorado
Idaho
Montana
Nevada
New Mexico
Oregon
Utah
Washington
Wyoming

Additionally, separate figures have been provided for Alaska, Hawaii, and Guam as indicated in Table 2 below.

For Alaska, Hawaii, and Guam, the year 2000 figures were updated from the