

Report	Total	Frequency	Total response	Average time per response (hour)	Average burden (hour)
ETA 9048	53	Quarterly	212	.25	53
ETA 9049	53	Quarterly	212	.25	53
Totals	106		424	106

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintaining): At approximately \$25 per hour average State salary, the State burden is estimated at \$2,650 per year. Comments submitted in response to this comment request will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: August 29, 2000.

Grace A. Kilbane,

Administrator, Office of Workforce Security.

[FR Doc. 00-22639 Filed 9-1-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

AGENCY: Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor.

ACTION: Notice inviting proposals for Selected Demonstration Projects for Community Audits.

This notice contains all of the necessary information and forms needed to apply for grant funding.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Labor (Department or DOL), Employment and Training Administration (ETA), announces a demonstration program to support promising practices in strategic planning and "strategic research" related to "community audits."

Community audits allow local stakeholders to bring together economic and labor market trend information which will support strategic planning and Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program implementation in their area, including customer service through the One-Stop Center system. Grantees will receive intensive technical assistance and participate in a rigorous evaluation. In addition, they will participate in and help structure national DOL activities meant to identify and disseminate lessons learned.

This solicitation describes the application submission requirements, the process that entities must use to apply for funds covered by this solicitation, how grantees are to be

selected and the technical assistance that will be provided following selection of grantees. It is anticipated that \$2.3 million will be available for funding projects covered by this solicitation. There will be two types of projects funded under the solicitation—locally-led projects and state-led multi-area projects. The maximum grant award will not exceed \$50,000 for a single Local Workforce Investment Board (Local Board) or \$100,000 for a regional consortium under the locally-led projects (approximately 15 grants), and will not exceed \$150,000 for the State-led multi-area projects (approximately 10 grants awarded), for a period of 24 months from the date of execution.

Applicants should also look at the background materials on community audits, including "Conducting a Community Audit," which are available at the website www.doleta.gov.

DATES: The closing date for receipt of application is Friday, November 17, 2000. Applications must be received by 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) at the address below. No exceptions to the mailing and hand-delivery conditions set forth in this notice will be granted. Applications that do not meet the conditions set forth in this notice will not be honored. Telefacsimile (FAX) applications will not be honored.

ADDRESSES: Applications must be mailed to: U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Division of Federal Assistance, Attention: *Denise Roach*, Reference: *SGA/DFA-110*, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room S4203, Washington, DC 20210.

Hand Delivered Proposals. If proposals are hand delivered, they must be received at the designated address by 4:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time on Friday, November 17, 2000. All overnight mail will be considered to be hand delivered and must be received at the designated place by the specified closing date and time. Telegraphed, e-mailed and/or fax proposals will not be honored. Failure to adhere to the above instructions will be a basis for determination of non-responsive.

Late Proposals. A proposal received at the designated office after the exact time specified for receipt will not be considered unless it is received before the award is made and it:

- Was sent by U.S. Postal Service registered or certified mail not later than the fifth day (5th) calendar day before the closing date specified for receipt of applications (e.g. an offer submitted in response to a solicitation requiring receipt of applications by the 20th of the month must be mailed by the 15th):

- Was sent by U.S. Postal Service Express Mail Next Day Service, Post Office to Addressee, not later than 5 p.m. at the place of mailing two working days prior to the deadline date specified for receipt of proposals in this SGA. The term "working days" excludes weekends and U.S. Federal holidays.

The only acceptable evidence to establish the date of mailing of an application received after the deadline date for the receipt of proposals sent by the U.S. Postal Service registered or certified mail is the U.S. postmark on the envelope or wrapper affixed by the U.S. Postal Service and on the original receipt from the U.S. Postal Service. The term "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 employees of the U.S. Postal Service.

Withdrawal of Applications.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions should be faxed to Denise Roach, Grants Management Specialist, Division of Federal Assistance at (202) 219-8739 (This is not a toll free-number). All inquiries should include the SGA/DFA-110 and a contact name, fax and phone number. This solicitation will also be published on the Internet,

on the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) Home Page at <http://www.doleta.gov>. Award notifications will also be published on the ETA Home Page.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This solicitation consists of 6 parts. Part I describes the authority, background, purpose and goals of the demonstration program and identifies demonstration policy. Part II describes the application process and provides guidelines for use in applying for demonstration grants. Part III includes the statement of work for the demonstration projects. Part IV describes the selection process including the criteria used to select grantees and the process of application and award. Part V describes the monitoring, reporting and evaluation activities that will be required of grantees. Part VI describes the assurances required of grantees. The Appendix includes application forms and a glossary.

Part I. Background

A. Authority

Section 171(d) of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998 authorizes demonstration projects related to the employment and training needs of dislocated workers.

B. Background

A rapidly changing national and global economy has created significant restructuring of existing industries, growth of new economic sectors, and reorganization of work and work processes. This has led to dramatic changes in local economies. Local firms that once employed generations of families have disappeared, reduced employment, or radically changed skills demands. New firms have sprung up—seemingly overnight—offering job opportunities that the local education and training providers have not previously targeted. Career and job performance requirements have been redefined.

In many places, these changes have had the dual effect of leading to substantial numbers of worker layoffs *and* to reported shortages of workers skilled in certain demand occupations. Additionally, changing demographic patterns and new immigrants create both opportunities and challenges for linking jobs with job seekers.

The speed of transformation in local economies creates critical information gaps, making it more difficult for individuals to know what good job and career opportunities are available, for employers to find employees with the right sets of skills, and for service

providers to plan and create appropriate workforce development interventions. Timely information on the supply and demand sides of the labor market and business trends is more critical than ever.

The WIA charges Local Boards with wide-ranging responsibility for workforce development within their communities and continues the emphasis on rapid response with an even greater emphasis on proactive interventions to anticipate and prevent the most harmful impacts of large layoffs. WIA also encourages Local Boards to think and act in terms of labor market areas and, as such, promotes regional cooperation among Local Boards.

To successfully meet these new challenges, Local Boards across the country are looking for ways to get the information they need to understand their labor markets and communities and to make informed, long-term strategic decisions. They also are reaching out to involve and/or develop partnerships with a broader group of stakeholders within their communities. In many regions, business, labor, and community leaders are the ones taking the lead in strategic research and planning initiatives for workforce development. Frequently, the problems and their solutions reach across Local Board boundaries, making regional cooperation and regional partnerships critical.

DOL has launched a series of initiatives to address these challenges of the “new economy”. In 1998, Secretary of Labor Alexis M. Herman initiated a major Dislocated Worker Initiative to improve rapid response assistance and adjustment services for workers, businesses and communities. The Community Audit Project is one component of this broader initiative. Community audits are envisioned as a means by which key stakeholders in local workforce and economic development can better understand business and labor force trends, and develop more informed plans to respond to worker and business needs.

Other related new DOL initiatives are aimed directly at addressing the growing problem of skills shortages in local labor markets. One of these—the H-1B Technical Skill Training Grant Program—was created by the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998, signed by the President in October of 1998. That program is designed to help American workers—both employed and unemployed—acquire the requisite training in high skill, high demand occupations in areas such as

information technology and health. In the first two rounds of competition for these grants, a total of \$41.6 million has been awarded to local communities for skills training.

In addition, in June 1998, \$7.5 million in Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) Title III dislocated worker funds was awarded to train workers in skills related to the information technology industry. In June 1999, DOL awarded over \$9.57 million to train dislocated workers in advanced manufacturing skills, and \$11.2 million to upgrade the skills of workers employed in low-skill jobs or who have obsolete job skills (incumbent workers). In March 2000, twenty-three organizations received a total of \$15.1 million to build regional skills consortia to address the skills shortage problem in their area. Also in June 2000, DOL awarded \$11.2 million for a skill shortages, partnership training/system building demonstration program.

Finally, there is a joint venture of the U.S. Department of Labor and the fifty States called ALMIS (America’s Labor Market Information System). Its mission is to support the emerging One-Stop Career Center system with useful labor market and occupational information. It also provides information directly to workers and employers, facilitating their access to jobs, labor, training, and career services information.

C. Purpose

The purpose of this demonstration is to support promising practices in strategic planning and “strategic research” that engage local stakeholders in taking a broad look at the needs of their community (or communities) and the character and direction of their regional economy. In the context of this SGA, we are identifying these practices as “community audits”.

Community audits bring together information on economic and labor market trends to support both strategic planning and WIA program operations. They vary in scope and purpose, depending on their precise goals. However, all depend on a common base of information about the regional labor market—both its demand and its supply sides—and about the kinds of workforce development and other critical resources available (such as housing, child care, transportation, supportive services, and so on). A “community audit” is fundamentally a strategic planning effort that involves all the relevant stakeholders. Through community audits, leadership can assess what new skills may be in demand in growth sectors of the local economy and where a decline in

demand for certain skills may signal future layoffs.

Baseline data on the demand side of the labor market include a quantitative analysis of the structure and composition of the economy, an analysis of wages and skills associated with different jobs and industries, and a qualitative investigation of industry trends and of industry and firm employment and recruitment systems. Baseline data on the supply side of the labor market include a quantitative analysis of labor force structure and trends, identification of workers with barriers to success in the labor market, and a geographic mapping of workers in relationship to jobs. Finally, a basic mapping of the employment and training "resource base" identifies funding sources and providers for labor exchange, training, and support services.

Beyond this kind of "baseline" audit, local areas can use more focused and targeted techniques to answer particular questions and design specific strategies. The specific information needs will vary by community, depending upon the workforce development strategies being pursued, which may include the following (see attached Glossary for definition of the terms):

- Employing/re-employing a target population;
- Sectoral strategies;
- Layoff aversion strategies;
- Employer-focused training;
- "High Road" strategies;
- Community career ladders; and/or
- Development of skill standards.

DOL launched the Community Audit Project last winter to investigate promising practices in "strategic analysis" and to develop technical assistance tools Workforce Investment Boards and communities can employ to improve the quality and use of information at their disposal. This SGA is a component of the Community Audit Project seeking to further develop and expand the promising practices now being undertaken.

The specific goals for the community audit demonstration are:

1. To support States and local areas in their efforts to implement and use community audits as part of their overall strategic planning initiatives.
2. To increase the capacity of States and local areas to implement effective strategic planning efforts, utilizing the community audit as a tool.
3. To support projects that link Local Board efforts to those of other key stakeholders in a community.
4. To encourage regional partnerships within labor market areas or industry sectors.

5. To build a "peer learning network" to identify and share best practices.

6. To develop technical assistance materials and tools that states and local areas can use.

D. Demonstration Policy

1. Grant Awards

DOL anticipates awarding a total of \$2.3 million in approximately 25 grants in two categories (local and State), with individual grant amounts varying depending on the type of grant awarded.

2. Types of Projects

Two types of projects will be funded under this SGA: projects that are initiated and led by local stakeholders and State-led multi-area projects. Either kind of project can involve a regional partnership, including an interstate partnership.

a. Locally-led projects

Community audits are focused on specific communities and/or regions. As such, local stakeholders initiate most of these efforts. However, these projects can have a variety of specific purposes, ranging from long-range broad-based strategic planning efforts to much more targeted initiatives. In addition, as suggested earlier, local applicants can take the form of a collaboration that crosses Local Board boundaries.

Eligible applicants: Eligible applicants for locally led projects include Local Boards or other consortia of local public and private stakeholders (including such groups as community-based organizations, unions, employers). All proposals must have the concurrence of the Local Board(s) for the areas involved in the proposed project.

Maximum amounts available: A maximum of \$50,000 per grant for single Local Board areas and a maximum of \$100,000 for regional consortia will be awarded, with a total of approximately \$1,300,000 for this activity.

b. State-led Multi-Area Projects

States can play an important role in supporting the efforts of local areas and helping to build local capacity. One form this can take is by building a "learning network" among local areas that are actively engaged in community audit projects. States can also make use of economies of scale to develop information, tools, and other forms of technical assistance local areas can use.

Eligible applicants: Eligible applicants are State Workforce Investment Boards, State workforce development agencies, or other consortia of State public and private stakeholders in partnership with Local Boards or other consortia of local stakeholders in three or more local

areas. All proposals must have the concurrence of the Local Boards and State Workforce Investment Boards in the areas involved in the proposed project.

Maximum amounts available: A maximum of \$150,000 per grant will be awarded, with a total of approximately \$1,000,000 for this activity.

3. Collaboration and Cost Sharing

Applicants must demonstrate collaboration among relevant stakeholders (such as employers, community organizations, labor unions, economic development organizations, and faith-based organizations). All applicants must also receive the concurrence of the relevant Local Board(s) and demonstrate a link between the proposed project and the strategic planning efforts of the Local Board(s). State level applicants must show evidence of consultation with Local Boards or local consortia. In addition, the applicants must show that they have reviewed the applicable Local or State Workforce Investment Plan(s) and have ascertained that the proposed project does not duplicate any other efforts.

Applicants must also demonstrate local commitment to the project. One concrete demonstration of that commitment is some form of cost sharing, that is other resources, either in-kind or funds, which are contributed to the project. However, this requirement is not intended to favor larger communities or those with more resources. DOL will take those factors into consideration in evaluating the strength of commitment.

4. Outside Technical Assistance

Once grants are awarded, DOL will arrange for a small team of experts with a range of expertise and experience. This expert team will be available to provide technical assistance to grantees. In addition, it will develop tools and products for use by grantees. Each grantee will be allotted 5 days of free technical assistance from this team. Additional hours can be purchased by grantees on a fee-for-service basis at a cost not to exceed DOL's consultant cost ceiling (\$469 per day). In addition, grantees may utilize grant funds to contract with technical assistance providers of their choice.

5. Peer Learning Network

Once grants are awarded, grantees must participate in and make active contributions to a peer learning network of States and local areas funded through this solicitation. There will be at least two grantee meetings to facilitate the

development of this peer network. Total costs for these activities of approximately \$4,000 should be anticipated in the proposal budget.

6. *Period of Performance*

The period of performance will be 24 months from the date of execution of the grant documents by the Government.

7. *Option to Extend*

DOL may elect to exercise its option to extend any or all of these grants for up to one additional year of operation, based on the availability of funds, successful project operation, and the needs of the Department.

Part II. Application Process and Guidelines

Proposal Submission: Applicants must submit four (4) copies of their proposal, with original signatures. The introductory paragraph of the application must state the type of grant for which the proposal is directed (1) Locally-led projects or (2) State-led multi-area projects. The proposal must consist of two (2) distinct parts, Part I and Part II. Part I of the proposal shall contain the Standard Form (SF) 424, "Application for Federal Assistance" (Appendix A) and Budget Form (Appendix B). The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number is 17.246.

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 individual signing the SF 424 on behalf of the applicant must represent the responsible financial and administrative entity for a grant should that application result in an award.

The budget (Appendix B) shall include on separate pages a detailed breakout of each proposed budget line item found on the Budget Information Sheet, including detailed administrative costs. An explanation of how the budget costs were derived must be included. Part II must contain a technical proposal that demonstrates the applicant's capabilities in accordance with the Statement of Work contained in this document. The grant application is limited to 25 one-sided, double-spaced pages with 12 point font size on 8.5 x 11 inch paper with 1-inch margins which must include the following: I. Executive Summary—(1 page) II. Application narrative technical proposal. III. Time line implementation

plan and the appendix. The 25 page limitation includes all attachments.

Part III. Statement of Work

A. Project Design

This section should detail the design of the proposed community audit project, including its purpose, geographic scope, the nature of the collaboration that will initiate it, its staffing structure, governance structure, level of community involvement, research and other methods, and time frame. The information below applies to both local and state applicants unless otherwise specified.

1. *Purpose:* Describe the specific purpose or purposes of the project.
2. *Geographic scope:* Describe the geographic scope of the project. The scope could be as narrow as a specific community within a local workforce investment area or as broad as a multi-local workforce investment area or group of regions that corresponds to a labor market or set of labor markets. State applications must include three or more Local Boards and justify the selection of Local Boards in terms of the coherence of a labor market region or a design meant to test the community audit process in different types of labor markets.
3. *Economic scope:* Describe what information is known now about the economy of the proposed region(s) (see Glossary) including critical industries, significant industrial clusters, and the general state of the economy. Also, provide information on the kinds of gaps in information on the regional economy that need to be pursued. (WIA local and State plans should be consulted, and information or gaps referenced, as appropriate.)

4. *Collaboration:* Describe in detail the character of the collaboration between the applicant and the other stakeholders involved in the community audit project. Include reference to consortium partners and other stakeholders, as appropriate. That description must include at least information addressing the following questions: Who is involved in the collaboration? What is the nature of their involvement? How was the collaboration initiated? Does it exist for the purpose of this project or for a broader purpose? What is its expected life span? Include a description of both the governing structure and staffing structure of the collaboration. State applications should describe the role of the State and/or State-level partners in relationship to local collaborations.

5. *Coordination with other efforts:* Describe other efforts within the

community that have similar and/or complementary purposes and how this project will coordinate with those efforts. State applicants should describe State-level or regional efforts that may be coordinated with this project.

6. *Community involvement:* Describe who in the community will be involved in the project. That description should include information addressing the following questions: Does the project propose to engage members of the community beyond those involved in the initiating collaboration? If so, explain the purpose of this involvement; what members of the community will be targeted and why; and how their involvement will be elicited and sustained. Given that there are many barriers to successful engagement of stakeholders, describe methods the project will employ to overcome these barriers to participation. In particular, detail how the project will involve the employer community in a way that is both serious and sustained. State applications will need to describe the role of the State in supporting the community process.

7. *Cost sharing:* Describe what other resources will be contributed to the community audit project and by whom. These resources may include funds as well as in-kind contributions. Additionally, the description should include information on whether resources have been identified to continue these efforts past the completion of this particular project and/or if the partners will use this process to help identify such resources.

8. *Strategic planning:* Describe the planning process envisioned by the project. That description should at least address the following questions: How will the planning process be facilitated? How will the project ensure that the information gathered through the community audit is effectively utilized? Will the community audit be used to influence the existing or future WIA plans? Will it be used to influence other formal decision-making activities? How will the project ensure that this is not a one-shot effort?

9. *Strategic research methods:* Given the specific goals of the project, describe the methods the applicant will employ to gather the range and kinds of information needed to make the necessary strategic decisions.

10. *Previous experience:* Describe any previous experience the applicant(s) may have gathering and utilizing labor market information, surveying customers including the business community, conducting community audits, or other similar methods. If the applicant(s) has experience, describe

how funding from this project will advance previous efforts. If the applicant(s) does not have previous experience, describe the role it is hoped this project will play and how the community (or communities) intends to build on it in the future. In addition to this information, state applications will need to describe the state's previous role in supporting local areas in the gathering and use of labor market information, developing relationships with employers, and/or providing support for regional initiatives.

11. External technical assistance: Describe what kinds of external technical assistance would be most helpful to your proposed project. What components of this technical assistance do you expect to procure locally?

B. Planned Outcomes

Describe the planned outcomes of the community audit demonstration project. The project must provide DOL with a final report on its outcomes. These outcomes may include, but are not limited to:

1. *Community/regional audits:* We expect that one specific product of each of the projects will be the community audit itself. In some cases, this may be a detailed report or set of reports.

2. *Local/regional strategic plans:* Similarly, many projects may develop or revise specific local or regional strategic plans based on the work of the community audit.

3. *On-going local/regional/State collaborations:* One key purpose of the project is to forge tighter links and better cooperation among key stakeholders. These may take the form of on-going local or regional collaborations.

4. *Impact on operations:* Community audits may have an impact on specific operational activities such as State or local rapid response, business retention efforts, consumer reports, labor market information systems, and/or incumbent worker training.

5. *Increased expertise in strategic planning/strategic research:* Capacity-building is another goal of this demonstration. Projects should consider how to measure the gains in expertise in strategic planning and strategic research resulting from the project. This element is particularly important to address in the state applications

6. *Technical assistance tools and materials:* Projects may develop specific tools and materials that can support local areas in implementing community audits (for example, focus groups, surveys, data collection methods).

Part IV. Rating Criteria for Award and Selection Process

A careful evaluation of applications will be made by a technical review panel who will evaluate the applications against the criteria listed in the SGA. The panel results are advisory in nature and not binding on the Grant Officer. The Government may elect to award grants with or without discussions with the offeror's. In situations without discussions, an award will be based on the offeror's signature on the Standard Form (SF) 424, which constitutes a binding offer. The Government reserves the right to make awards under this section of the solicitation to ensure geographical balance. The Grant Officer will make final award decisions based upon what is most advantageous to the Federal Government in terms of technical quality, responsiveness to this Solicitation (including goals of the Department to be accomplished by this solicitation) and other factors.

A. Collaboration/community involvement (23 points):

1. The collaboration on which the project is built is consistent with the goals of the project. (For example, the collaboration includes stakeholders within an entire labor market area, regardless of Local Board boundaries.)

2. The collaboration on which the project is built has strong ties to the employer community and Local Board(s).

3. The collaboration on which the project is built is broadly representative of the affected stakeholders. (In particular, the collaboration reaches beyond the traditional workforce investment community to involve other community actors such as economic development organizations, community development corporations (CDC's), community-based organizations (CBO's), employer organizations/industry associations, labor organizations, faith-based organizations, neighborhood organizations, and so on).

4. The design and governance of the project ensure that all stakeholders have a real voice in the conduct of the community audit project and in the strategic decisions that flow from it.

The project design ensures that citizens of the affected community more broadly are involved in and have a voice in the conduct of the project.

B. Commitment (15 points)

1. The participating community (or communities) and state-level organization (where relevant) demonstrate a serious commitment to long-term strategic planning.

2. The participating community (or communities) and state-level organization (where relevant) demonstrate particular commitment to this project through their contribution of time and other resources.

3. The participating community (or communities) and state-level organization (where relevant) are able to explain how this project fits into other related efforts at the state and local level.

C. Goals and methods (22 points)

1. The goals of the project are consistent with the goals of the relevant Local Board(s).

2. The project is aimed at addressing an important workforce development (and economic development) concern or concerns in the target area by engaging local stakeholders in an effective strategic planning exercise.

3. The approaches and methods proposed by the project are consistent with the goals of the proposed project, that is:

(a) The geographic scope of the project is consistent with its goals.

(b) The project design sufficiently addresses the process, as well as the outcomes, of strategic planning and has allocated sufficient resources to ensure that the planning process is implemented effectively.

(c) The project design describes how the information gathered will be sufficiently detailed and wide-ranging, timely, and relevant to the project's strategic goals.

(d) The methods employed are such that the conduct of the community audit both involves and informs the community.

4. The project design addresses the process by which the results of the community audit will be used to influence policy and program outcomes.

D. Potential use and Value of Results (15 points)

1. The project process, structure and outcomes offer lessons, tools, or other products that will assist other communities throughout the country to understand and utilize information in creating workforce development initiatives.

2. The project design has the ability to broaden the role and responsibility of the Local Board(s) consistent with state and local plans including the strength and scope of partnerships.

3. Local partners indicate the value of this project to them in the strength of their contributions to the proposed project and its future after the grant period.

E. Sustainability (15 points)

1. The project builds local strategic planning and strategic research capacity (including on-going collaborations among key stakeholders).

2. The project develops methods, materials, and tools that can be used for future efforts and can be shared with other communities.

3. The Local Board(s) and elected officials (and/or State Workforce Investment Board or Governor) have a concrete commitment to sustain and broaden the practice of community audits.

F. Cost Effectiveness (10 points)

1. The application includes a detailed cost proposal including a detailed discussion of the expected cost effectiveness of the project. This is presented in terms of reasonableness of cost in relation to activities planned, including such factors as the geographic area covered by the project and the number and range of partners.

2. Expenses are identified which will be incurred in establishing and/or strengthening the collaborative, cooperative partnership. Benefits are described either qualitatively in terms of the value of established cooperative relationships and skills attained and/or quantitatively in terms of wage gains and cost savings resulting from collaborative efforts and activities.

3. The cost proposal provides information on the extent leveraged resources in funds and in kind (including staff time, printing, postage, meeting space) from stakeholders are available and how effectively they are used in the project.

Part V. Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting**A. Monitoring**

The Department is responsible for ensuring effective implementation of each competitive grant project in accordance with the WIA, applicable regulations, the provisions of this announcement and the negotiated grant agreement. Applicants should assume that at least one on-site project review will be conducted by Department staff, or their designees. This review will focus on the project's performance in meeting the grant's program goals, complying with the requirements for the grant, expenditure of grant funds on allowable activities, collaboration with other organizations as required, and methods for assessment of the responsiveness and effectiveness of the services being provided. Grants may be subject to additional reviews at the Department's discretion.

B. Reporting

DOL will arrange for or provide technical assistance to grantees to establish appropriate reporting and data collection methods and processes. An effort will be made to accommodate and provide assistance to grantees to enable them to complete all reporting electronically.

Applicants selected as grantees will be required to provide the following reports:

1. Monthly and Quarterly progress reports.
2. Standard Form 269, Financial Status Report Form, on a quarterly basis.
3. Final Project Report including an assessment of project performance. This report will be submitted in hard copy and on electronic disk utilizing a format

and instructions to be provided by the Department.

C. Evaluation

DOL will arrange for an independent evaluation of the outcomes, impacts, and benefits of the demonstration projects. Grantees must agree to make records available to evaluation personnel, as specified by the evaluator(s) under the direction of the Department.

Part VI. Assurances

Successful applicants must give several assurances, including that they will fully participate in post-award grantee meetings, agree to participate in a peer learning network and participate in DOL evaluations as necessary. All applicants must provide the full list of assurances as follows:

- Cooperate with DOL technical assistance providers, including on-site visits.
- Participate in the peer learning network.
- Participate in DOL evaluations.
- Assist the DOL in building staff capacity throughout the WIA system in this area.
- Participate in staff training activities planned by DOL/ETA.

Signed at Washington D.C., this date, August 30, 2000.

Laura A. Cesario,

Grant Officer, Division of Acquisition and Assistance.

Appendices

- Appendix A: SF 424-Application for Federal Assistance
- Appendix B: Budget Information Form
- Appendix C: Glossary of Terms

BILLING CODE 4510-30-P

**APPLICATION FOR
FEDERAL ASSISTANCE**

APPENDIX A

OMB Approval No. 0348-0043

1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION: Application <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction Preapplication <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction		2. DATE SUBMITTED	Applicant Identifier
		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): [] [] - [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []		7. TYPE OF APPLICANT: (enter appropriate letter in box) [] A. State B. County C. Municipa D. Township E. Interstate F. Intermunicipal G. Special District H. Independent School Dist. I. State Controlled Institution of Higher Learning J. Private University K. Indian Tribe L. Individual M. Profit Organization N. Other (Specify): _____	
8. TYPE OF APPLICATION: <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision If Revision, enter appropriate letter(s) in box(es): A. Increase Award B. Decrease Award C. Increase Duration D. Decrease Duration Other (specify): _____			
10. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBER: [] [] - [] [] [] TITLE:		9. NAME OF FEDERAL AGENCY:	
12. AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT (cities, counties, States, etc.):		11. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT:	
13. PROPOSED PROJECT:		14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF:	
Start Date	Ending Date	a. Applicant	b. Project
15. ESTIMATED FUNDING:		16. IS APPLICATION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS?	
a. Federal	\$.00	a. YES. THIS PREAPPLICATION/APPLICATION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS FOR REVIEW ON DATE _____ 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	
b. Applicant	\$.00		
c. State	\$.00		
d. Local	\$.00		
e. Other	\$.00		
f. Program Income	\$.00	17. IS THE APPLICANT DELINQUENT ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT?	
g. TOTAL	\$.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes If "Yes," attach an explanation. <input type="checkbox"/> No	
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 facesheet 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: | Item: | Entry: |
|-------|--|-------|--|
| 1. | Self-explanatory. | 12. | List only the largest political entities affected (e.g., State, counties, cities). |
| 2. | Date application submitted to Federal agency (or State if applicable) & applicant's control number (if applicable). | 13. | Self-explanatory. |
| 3. | State use only (if applicable) | 14. | List the applicant's Congressional District and any District(s) affected by the program or project. |
| 4. | If this application is to continue or revise an existing award, enter present Federal identifier number. If for a new project, leave blank. | 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. |
| 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. | 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.) |
| 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. | | |
| 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. | | |

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

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

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

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

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).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PART II - BUDGET INFORMATION**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.

Appendix C

GLOSSARY

For purposes of this solicitation, the following definitions apply:

Community Audit. A mechanism used by a community or region that collects "real-time data" from regional employers regarding actual and projected short term and longer term labor surpluses and needs, to enable the regional workforce development system (the entire community) to plan effectively for expected events-- both positive and negative--in order to improve the functioning of the market and minimize the overall negative impact on the community.

Consortium. A group of entities (agencies or organizations) representing key policy makers within a Region (as identified in the application, consistent with the definition herein) which has a common interest in developing strategies and processes for strategic planning and WIA program implementation within the Region. Applications submitted by consortia must either include the Local Board in the consortium or have the Local Board's concurrence.

Chief Elected Officials. Those elected officials whose responsibilities are defined in the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA).

Community career ladders. Community career ladder strategies attempt to identify cross-firm or cross-industry skill progressions and then link firms to facilitate the movement of workers from lower level jobs to higher ones.

Employer-focused training. Employer-focused training strategies (of either new hires or incumbent workers) view the firm as at least a co-equal customer (with the worker) and therefore tailor training to the needs of the firm.

Employing/re-employing a target population. Although WIA promises universal service, frequently WIBs also have reason to target specific sub-populations and devise strategies appropriate to their special needs. These could be dislocated hardware engineers from defense-dependent high technology firms, welfare recipients, or the working poor.

H-1B Visa Skill Shortages. Those skill shortages identified by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) for which employers are permitted to apply to bring into the U.S. foreign workers to meet demands when the supply of workers with such skills in the local labor market are insufficient. A list of the occupations certified by the Department of Labor under the H-1B program for non-immigrant visas may be found at 64 Federal Register 44549-44550 (August 16, 1999).

"High Road" strategies. "High road" strategies are conscious efforts by local areas to target firms, occupations, and industries that will contribute most to the economic health of the region and offer workers decent wages and working conditions.

Incumbent Worker. An individual who is currently employed at small or medium-sized businesses (see definition) whose job skills do not meet the

current or future needs of the company if it is to remain competitive by keeping workers employed, averting layoffs, and upgrading workers' skills. As a result, the company has identified such workers as being at risk of being laid off in the future (5-year projection).

Independent Evaluation. A process and outcome evaluation conducted by a contractor hired by DOL. The evaluation will be designed to identify the lessons learned and the variety of effective models developed in order to maximize the value of systems tested and inform the workforce investment system.

Layoff aversion strategies. Historically, the employment and training system has placed more emphasis on responding to layoffs and closings than preventing them. However, increasingly states and local areas are placing layoff prevention high on their list of priorities. There are many kinds of layoff aversion strategies including: developing an effective early warning network; rapid response; sectoral strategies aimed at improving the competitiveness of an industry; retention strategies aimed at firms (including customized and incumbent worker training, business visitation programs, manufacturing modernization programs, etc.).

Local Workforce Investment Areas. Those geographic areas designated by the Governor of each State under section 116 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

Local Workforce Investment Boards. Boards established under section 117 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

Rapid Response. The initial information sharing activity (for employees and employers) to facilitate access to all public programs to assist individuals find new employment. Rapid response activities are authorized and funded under Title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. The responsibility for rapid response rests with each State's Dislocated Worker Unit (DWU) which generally establishes a rapid response team.

Region. An area which exhibits a commonality of economic interest. Thus, a region may comprise several labor market areas, one large labor market, one labor market area joined together with several adjacent rural districts, special purpose districts, or a few contiguous local boards. If the region involves multiple economic or political jurisdictions, it is essential that they be contiguous to one another. A region may be either intrastate or interstate.

Regional Planning. A process described in WIA section 116(c).

Sectoral strategies. Sectoral strategies entail targeting a set of employers that share a set of common characteristics, such as a common market, common product, or basic resource needs (such as labor force, infrastructure, or technology). The idea of a sectoral intervention is to work with groups of firms to a) address a public policy concern and, at the same time, b) solve one or more common problems that the firms share. For example, a local area might

target the health care sector to a) employ hard-to-place former welfare recipients and, at the same time, b) solve a labor shortage problem for the industry.

Skills Shortage. Those specific vocational skills that employers have identified as lacking in sufficient numbers to meet their needs. A labor shortage occurs when the demand for workers possessing a particular skill is greater than the supply of workers who are qualified, available and willing to perform those skills. Problematic skills shortages occur when there is an imbalance between worker supply and demands for a significant amount of time for which the labor market does not, or is unable, adjust in a timely manner.

Skill standards. Skills standards can be used to create clearer career paths, as well as to provide firms with a more useful way of assessing applicants. The standards developed permit agreements among firms to recognize a credential or training program as meeting their hiring or promotional standards for workers in a particular occupation.

Small and Medium-sized Business. A business with 500 or fewer full-time employees.

[FR Doc. 00-22644 Filed 9-1-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-30-C

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

The U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) Sunshine Act Meeting

Friday, September 15, 2000—1:00–4:30 p.m.

The Madison Hotel, 15th and M Streets, NW, (Mt. Vernon Room), Washington, DC.

MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED:

Administrative matters
Chairperson's report
Executive Director's report
Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Reauthorization
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) 2001

NCLIS 30th anniversary celebration
NCLIS committees/programs/projects update

Commissioner activity report

To request further information or to make special arrangements for persons with disabilities, contact Barbara Whiteleather (telephone: 202-606-9200; fax: 202-606-9203; e-mail: bwhiteleather@nclis.gov) no later than one week in advance of the meeting.

Dated: August 24, 2000.

Robert S. Willard,

NCLIS Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 00-22841 Filed 8-31-00; 3:49 pm]

BILLING CODE 7527-SS-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-206]

In the Matter of Southern California Edison Company; San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 1

Exemption

I

Southern California Edison Company (SCE or the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License No. DPR-13, which authorizes the licensee to possess the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 1 (SONGS1). The license states, in part, that the facility is subject to all the rules, regulations, and orders of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission or NRC) now or hereafter in effect. The facility consists of a pressurized-water reactor

located at the licensee's site in San Diego County, California. The facility is permanently shut down and defueled, and the licensee is no longer authorized to operate or place fuel in the reactor.

II

It is stated in Title 10 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) section 73.55, "Requirements for physical protection of licensed activities in nuclear power reactors against radiological sabotage," paragraph (a), that "The licensee shall establish and maintain an onsite physical protection system and security organization which will have as its objective to provide high assurance that activities involving special nuclear material are not inimical to the common defense and security and do not constitute an unreasonable risk to the public health and safety."

By letter dated April 28, 2000, as supplemented by letter dated July 21, 2000, the licensee requested 12 exemptions from certain requirements of 10 CFR 73.55. These requirements are: (1) 10 CFR 73.55(a) the requirement that any emergency suspension of safeguards measures be approved by a licensed senior operator, (2) 10 CFR 73.55(c)(1)—the requirement that a protected area be maintained, (3) 10 CFR 73.55(c)(3)—the requirement that isolation zones be maintained in outdoor areas adjacent to the physical barrier at the perimeter of the protected area, (4) 10 CFR 73.55(c)(4)—the requirement that intrusion detection equipment for the perimeter of the protected area be utilized, (5) 10 CFR 73.55(c)(5)—the requirement that exterior illumination levels for the spent fuel building be maintained at the 0.2 footcandle level, (6) 10 CFR 73.55(c)(6)—the requirement that the control room be bullet resisting, (7) 10 CFR 73.55(c)(7)—the requirement that a vehicle barrier system be maintained around the spent fuel pool, (8) 10 CFR 73.55(d)(1)—the requirement that the last access control point be bullet resisting, (9) 10 CFR 73.55(e)(1)—the requirements that the central alarm station be located within the protected area, that there be a secondary alarm station, and that a secondary power supply system for the alarm annunciation equipment be within a vital area, (10) 10 CFR 73.55(e)(2)—the requirement for the alarm transmission lines to be tamper indicating and self-checking, (11) 10 CFR 73.55(h)(3)—the requirement to have five or more guards per shift immediately available to fulfill response commitments, and (12) 10 CFR 73.55(h)(6)—the requirement to remotely observe the isolation zone and physical barrier at the perimeter of the

protected area. The proposed exemption is a preliminary step toward enabling SCE to revise the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Security Plan under 10 CFR 50.54(p) to develop and implement a defueled security plan to protect against radiological sabotage at SONGS1, a permanently shutdown reactor facility with fuel stored in the spent fuel storage pool.

III

Pursuant to 10 CFR 73.5, "Specific exemptions," the Commission may, upon application of any interested person or upon its own initiative, grant such exemptions in this part as it determines are authorized by law and will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security, and are otherwise in the public interest. Pursuant to 10 CFR 73.55 the Commission is allowed to authorize a licensee to provide alternative measures for protection against radiological sabotage, provided the licensee demonstrates that the proposed measures meet the general performance requirements of the regulation and that the overall level of system performance provides protection against radiological sabotage equivalent to that provided by the regulation.

The underlying purpose of 10 CFR 73.55 is to provide reasonable assurance that adequate security measures can be taken in the event of an act of radiological sabotage. Because of its permanently shutdown and defueled condition, the number of target sets susceptible to sabotage attacks has been reduced. In addition, with more than 90 months of radiological and heat decay since SONGS1 was shut down in 1992, the radiological hazards associated with the remaining target sets, even if subject to sabotage attack, do not pose a significant threat to the public health and safety.

IV

For the foregoing reasons, the Commission has determined that the proposed alternative measures for protection against radiological sabotage meet the same assurance objective and the general performance requirements of 10 CFR 73.55 considering the permanently shutdown conditions at SONGS1 with all of the fuel in the spent fuel pool. In addition, the Commission has determined that the overall level of the proposed system's performance, as limited by this exemption, would not result in a reduction in the physical protection capabilities for the protection of special nuclear material or of SONGS1. Specifically, an exemption is being granted for 12 specific areas in