

	Percent
For Economic Injury: Businesses and Small Agricultural Cooperatives without credit avail- able elsewhere .....	3.189

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 348605 for New York; 348705 for Connecticut; and 348805 for New Jersey. The number assigned to this disaster for economic injury is 9U8700 for New York; 9U8800 for Connecticut; and 9U8900 for New Jersey.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008)

Dated: April 16, 2003.

**Hector V. Barreto,**

*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 03-10003 Filed 4-22-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

**SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

**[Declaration of Disaster # 3489]**

**State of New York**

Westchester County and the contiguous counties of Bronx, Orange, Putnam and Rockland in the State of New York; Fairfield County in the State of Connecticut; and Bergen County in the State of New Jersey constitute a disaster area as a result of a fire that occurred on March 16, 2003. The fire destroyed apartments at the Wakefield Towers apartment complex in the City of Yonkers. Applications for loans for physical damage may be filed until the close of business on June 16, 2003 and for economic injury until the close of business on January 16, 2004 at the address listed below or other locally announced locations:

U.S. Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 1 Office, 360 Rainbow Blvd., South 3rd Floor, Niagara Falls, NY 14303.

The interest rates are:

	Percent
For Physical Damage: Homeowners with credit avail- able elsewhere .....	5.875
Homeowners without credit avail- able elsewhere .....	2.937
Businesses with credit available elsewhere .....	6.378
Businesses and Non-Profit Orga- nizations without credit avail- able elsewhere .....	3.189
Others (Including Non-Profit Orga- nizations) with credit avail- able elsewhere .....	5.500

	Percent
For Economic Injury: Businesses and Small Agricul- tural Cooperatives without credit available elsewhere .....	3.189

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 348905 for New York; 349005 for Connecticut; and 349105 for New Jersey. The number assigned to this disaster for economic injury is 9U9000 for New York; 9U9100 for Connecticut; and 9U9200 for New Jersey.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008.)

Dated: April 16, 2003.

**Hector V. Barreto,**

*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 03-10004 Filed 4-22-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**[Public Notice 4339]**

**Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Request for Grant Proposals: Human Rights and Democratization Initiatives in Central Asia**

**SUMMARY:** The Office for the Promotion of Human Rights and Democracy of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL/PHD) announces an open competition for one or more assistance awards. Organizations may submit grant proposals that address programs and activities that foster democracy, human rights, press freedoms, women's political development and the rule of law in countries with a significant Muslim population in Central Asia (to include Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), and where such programs and activities would be important to United States efforts to respond to, deter, or prevent acts of international terrorism.

Awards are contingent upon the availability of Fiscal Year 2003 funds. Approximately \$3,000,000 may be available under the Economic Support Funds through the Bureau's Human Rights and Democracy Fund (HRDF) for projects that address Bureau objectives in predominantly Muslim countries in this region. The Bureau anticipates awarding between 3-12 grants in amounts of \$250,000-\$1,000,000.

*Background:* The Human Rights and Democracy Fund (HRDF) supports innovative, cutting-edge programs which uphold democratic principles, support and strengthen democratic

institutions, promote human rights, and build civil society in countries and regions of the world that are geo-strategically important to the U.S. HRDF funds projects that have an immediate impact but that have potential for continued funding beyond HRDF resources. HRDF projects must not duplicate or simply add to efforts by other entities.

*Additional Information:* The Bureau of Democracy Human Rights and Labor has identified the following issues as priorities. While competitive proposals must meet basic HRDF criteria, they are not restricted to these issues:

1. Rule of law, with emphasis on support for an independent judiciary, legal defense assistance and defense lawyers;
2. Independent media, with emphasis on comprehensive support including "one-stop" resource centers to provide legal assistance, advocacy, training and direct operational support;
3. Human rights, especially advocacy training and monitoring and reporting on law enforcement abuses; for Uzbekistan, programs designed to implement the recommendations contained in the recent report by the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Torture;
4. Civil society, including capacity-building of democracy-advocacy NGOs that promote government accountability; for Turkmenistan, such support could be in the form of extraterritorial activities; for Tajikistan, such support could be focused on women's leadership
5. Elections, with emphasis on support for democratically-oriented political parties as well as reform of electoral processes and legislation

**Project Criteria**

- Project implementation should begin no earlier than late summer 2003.
  - Projects should not exceed two years in duration. Shorter projects with more immediate outcomes may receive preference.
  - U.S.-based or exchange projects are discouraged.
  - Projects that have a strong academic or research focus will not be highly considered. DRL will not fund health, technology, environmental, or scientific projects unless they have an explicit democracy, human rights, or rule of law component. Conferences likewise will not be highly considered.
  - Projects should include a follow-on plan that extends beyond the grant period ensuring that Bureau-supported programs are not isolated events.
- In order to avoid the duplication of activities and programs, proposals should also indicate knowledge of

similar projects being conducted in the region and how the submitted proposal will complement them.

#### Applicant/Organization Criteria

Organizations applying for a grant should meet the following criteria:

- Be a U.S. public or private non-profit organization meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue Code section 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3). Applicants must submit proof of its non-profit status in the application at the time of submission.

- Have demonstrated experience administering successful projects in the region in which it is proposing to administer a project.

- Have existing, or the capacity to develop, active partnerships with in-country organization(s).

**Note:** Organizations are welcome to submit more than one proposal, but should know that DRL wishes to reach out to as many different organizations as possible with its limited funds.

#### Budget Guidelines

Please refer to the Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI) for complete budget guidelines and formatting instructions.

#### Deadline for Proposals

All proposals must be received at the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor by 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) on Wednesday, May 21, 2003. Please refer to the PSI for specific delivery instructions.

#### Review Process

The Bureau will acknowledge receipt of all proposals and will review them for eligibility. Proposals will be deemed ineligible if they do not fully adhere to the guidelines stated herein and in the PSI. Eligible proposals will be subject to compliance with Federal and Bureau regulations and guidelines and forwarded to Bureau grant panels for advisory review. Proposals may also be reviewed by the Office of the Legal Adviser or by other Department elements.

#### Review Criteria

Eligible applications will be competitively reviewed according to the criteria stated below. Further explanation of these criteria is included in the PSI. These criteria are not rank ordered and all carry equal weight in the proposal evaluation: quality of the program idea; program planning and ability to achieve program objectives; multiplier effect/impact; institution's record/ability/capacity; cost-effectiveness.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The Office for the Promotion of Human Rights and Democracy of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL/PHD). Please specify Cathy Stump 202-647-3322 on all inquiries and correspondence.

Please read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before sending inquiries or submitting proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, Bureau staff may not discuss this competition with applicants until the proposal review process has been completed.

#### To Download a Solicitation Package Via Internet

The Solicitation Package includes this RFP plus the Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI) which contains detailed award criteria, specific budget instructions, and standard guidelines for proposal preparation. The entire RFP and PSI may be downloaded from the HRDF section on the Bureau's Web site at <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/>.

#### Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by any Bureau representative. Explanatory information provided by the Bureau that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Bureau reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements. Final technical authority for assistance awards resides with the Office of Acquisition Management's Grants Officer.

#### Notification

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal Bureau procedures.

Dated: April 17, 2003.

**Lorne W. Craner,**

*Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 03-10051 Filed 4-22-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4710-18-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### Proposed Advisory Circular for Onboard Recording of Data Communications in Crash-Survivable Memory

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), (DOT).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and requests for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the availability of and request comments on a revised proposed Advisory Circular (AC) for onboard data recording. The proposed AC establishes an acceptable means, but not the only means, to provide airborne capability for onboard recording of voice and data link messages in crash-survivable memory.

**DATES:** We must receive comments on the proposed AC on or before May 20, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Send all comments on the proposed AC to: Federal Aviation Administration, Aircraft Certification Service, Aircraft Engineering Division, Avionics Systems Branch, AIR-130, 470 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Washington, DC 20025. ATTN: Mr. Gregory Frye. Or, deliver comments to the address listed above to Suite 4102.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Gregory Frye, Avionics Systems Branch, AIR-130, Aircraft Certification Service, Aircraft Engineering Division, AIR-130, 470 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Suite 4102, Washington, DC 20025; Telephone (202) 385-4630; Fax (202) 385-4651. E-mail comments to: [Gregory.E.Frye@faa.gov](mailto:Gregory.E.Frye@faa.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Comments Invited

You are invited to comment on the proposed AC by submitting such written data, views, or arguments to the above specified address. You may examine comments we have received on the proposed AC before and after the comment closing date, in the FAA's office located at 470 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Suite 4102, Washington, DC 20025, weekdays except Federal holidays, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The Director, Aircraft Certification Service, will consider all communications received on or before the closing date before issuing the final AC.

#### Background

The rapid expansion of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Communications, Navigation, Surveillance/Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) concepts have resulted in new technologies which make judicious