

[FR Doc. 03-14350 Filed 6-5-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-CX-C

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of Disability Employment Policy

[SGA 03-09]

High School/High Tech State Development and Implementation Grants

AGENCY: Office of Disability Employment Policy, Department of Labor.

ACTION: Notice of availability of funds; solicitation for grant applications (SGA).

This notice contains all of the necessary information and forms needed to apply for grant funding. (SGA 03-09).

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) announces the availability of \$1.8 million to award up to eight competitive grants in the amount of approximately \$225,000 to assist states in implementing the High School/High Tech (HS/HT) program on a statewide basis.

This grant initiative involves one competitive Solicitation for Grant Application (SGA) that will be used to award both HS/HT Implementation Grants and HS/HT Development Grants:

(1) *HS/HT State Implementation Grants:* Successful state applicants will demonstrate that all partners relevant to successful implementation of the HS/HT program in the state are in place (e.g., education, Workforce Investment Act, Development Disability Councils, etc.); and that the state has the capacity to implement the HS/HT design features discussed below throughout the state. In addition, successful applicants will be able to demonstrate a strong plan for sustainability of the HS/HT program when federal funding ceases. The Implementation Grants will be awarded for a one-year period of performance and funded at a level of \$225,000. These grants may be renewed up to four times for an additional year of funding with the fourth and fifth years at reduced funding levels of 80% and 60% of third year funding levels, respectively, depending upon project performance and funding availability. See also Parts IV, IX.

(2) *HS/HT State Development Grants:* These grants will be targeted to state applicants able to demonstrate their capacity to implement and sustain the HS/HT program as described above in relation to the Implementation Grants within a short time period if provided with appropriate technical assistance.

The Development Grants will be awarded for a one-year period of performance and funded at \$225,000, after which time grantees will be eligible to apply for Implementation Grant funding. Development Grants will not be renewable.

The purpose of these grants is to assist states, working in partnership with the State Workforce Investment Board, in implementing a statewide HS/HT program, in integrating the HS/HT program into youth services funded under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) (Pub. L. 105-220, 29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.), and in ensuring sustainability of the HS/HT program through state-level management and coordination. HS/HT is a career development program designed to provide high school aged youth with disabilities with an opportunity to explore careers or gain further education that may lead to technology-related careers. These programs, which have generally been locally directed and supported, serve both in-school and out-of-school youth with disabilities in a year round program of corporate site visits, mentoring, job shadowing, guest speakers, after school activities and summer internships.

The application and evaluation/selection criteria for both types of grants are the same. The first applicants selected when evaluated pursuant to the criteria set forth in Parts VII and IX of this SGA will be awarded High School/High Tech Implementation Grants. The next three applicants selected will receive HS/HT Development Grants. Revised scope of work and budget documents will be required from all Development Grantees within forty-five (45) days of the award to reflect the one-year period of performance.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants for these grants include State Workforce Investment Boards; State Departments of Education; State Departments of Labor; State Developmental Disability Councils; State Departments of Vocational Rehabilitation; or State Committees affiliated with the National Governors' Committees for People with Disabilities, and other similar state agencies. "State" in this context includes the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa. Consortia of state agencies and not-for-profit organizations (including community and faith-based organizations, independent living centers, etc.) and local HS/HT sites are also eligible applicants. Prior recipients of state-level HS/HT grant funding are ineligible to receive additional funding under this solicitation.

DATES: Applications will be accepted commencing on June 6, 2003. The closing date for receipt of applications under this announcement is July 21, 2003. Applications must be received by 4:45 p.m. (ET) 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 be considered non-responsive.

ADDRESSES: Applications shall be mailed to: U.S. Department of Labor, Procurement Services Center, Attention: Cassandra Willis, Reference SGA 03-09, Room N-5416, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210. Telefacsimile (FAX) applications will not be accepted. Applicants are advised that mail delivery in the Washington area may be delayed due to mail decontamination procedures.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cassandra Willis, U.S. Department of Labor, Procurement Services Center, telephone (202) 693-4570 (this is not a toll-free number), prior to the closing deadline. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact the DOL via the Federal Relay Service, (800) 877-8339. This announcement will also be published on the Internet on ODEP's online Home Page at: <http://www2.dol.gov/odep>. Award notifications will also be published on the ODEP Homepage.

Solicitation Information Conference Call: A Solicitation Information Conference Call will be held at 2 p.m., Monday, June 19, 2003. The purpose of this conference call is to provide interested parties an overview of this grant program and an opportunity to ask questions concerning this solicitation. Transcripts of the conference will be made available on request in accessible formats. Individuals who wish to participate in this conference call must register by contacting ODEP at (202) 693-7880, no later than 4:45 p.m. ET on Tuesday, June 16, 2003. Please ask to register for the HS/HT SGA Conference Call. Registrations should be made as soon as possible. At the time of registration, call-in information will be provided.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Part I. Delivery of Applications

1. *Late Applications.* Any application received after the exact date and time specified for receipt at the office designated in this notice will be considered non-responsive, unless it is received before awards are made and it (a) is determined that its late receipt was caused by DOL error; (b) 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 post marked by the 15th of that month); or (c) 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.

2. *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, if the representative's identity is made known and the representative signs a receipt of the proposal.

3. *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 4:45 p.m., ET, at the specified address. Failure to adhere to the above instructions will be basis for a determination of non-responsiveness. 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.

Part II. Authority

Omnibus Appropriations Resolution, 2003, Pub. L. 108-7; Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001, Pub. L. 106-554, 29 U.S.C. 557b.

Part III. Background

HS/HT is a career development program for high school aged youth that started almost two decades ago in Los Angeles, California, to address concerns that not enough students, especially those with disabilities, were being prepared for careers in technology-focused industries. The Atlantic Richfield Company, with support from the Los Angeles Unified School District, designed America's first technology-focused transition program for young people with disabilities.

Shortly thereafter, in 1986, the President's Committee on Employment

of People with Disabilities (PCEPD), whose mission was to facilitate the communication, coordination, and promotion of public and private efforts that enhance the employment of people with disabilities, adopted the program. Building upon the strength of the public/private partnership that began in Los Angeles, program leaders developed relationships with large and small businesses, education and non-profit organizations, and government agencies. These relationships helped HS/HT grow and expand across the country.

The newly created Office of Disability Employment Policy at the United States Department of Labor assumed the role as the Federal agency responsible for continuing this program. In 2001, ODEP entered into a cooperative agreement with the National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth (NCWD/Youth) to provide technical assistance and support to HS/HT sites nationwide. During 2002, ODEP and NCWD/Youth undertook a substantial refinement of the HS/HT program standards to promote the expansion of this career development program.

HS/HT is a network of state and locally operated programs designed to provide young people with all types of disabilities the opportunity to explore jobs or gain further education leading to technology-related careers. HS/HT is a community-based partnership with 70-plus programs currently operating across the country. The programs operate year-round in a variety of settings—schools, community organizations, businesses, and other locations. Current HS/HT operators include non-profits (Goodwill, Centers for Independent Living, United Cerebral Palsy Affiliates, etc.), community colleges, universities and school districts. Its stakeholders include employers, educators, consumers, family members, workforce system agencies, and rehabilitation professionals.

The HS/HT program offers proven techniques for developing improved employment outcomes for young people with disabilities. The HS/HT program is premised on four design features, supported by experience and research, as to what youth with disabilities need to succeed in adulthood. These four design areas include preparatory experiences, connecting activities, work-based experiences, and leadership development. See the HS/HT Program Manual at <http://www.ncwd-youth.info/resources&Publications/hshmanual.html> for further information. Graduates of HS/HT programs that employ these design features have demonstrated at least double the post-secondary educational

achievements of similarly situated students with disabilities who do not have this opportunity. At some HS/HT sites, as many as 70 percent of HS/HT graduates move on to post-secondary education. HS/HT clearly enhances expectations, educational achievements, and eventual employment outcomes for a population who, without this intervention, may be far more likely to move onto the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) rolls than to find competitive employment in technology related occupations.

Funding for HS/HT sites has traditionally been managed locally. In the past several years, however, ODEP has sought to move the leadership and funding towards a state-level model through its grant activities. In 2001, ODEP funded start-up HS/HT sites that began connecting HS/HT and WIA-assisted youth programs at the community level. In 2002, ODEP expanded upon that effort by funding grants to assist states in developing statewide HS/HT infrastructure and operations and further integrating HS/HT programs into the youth services provided under the One-Stop System.

The 2003 HS/HT grants are the next step in this process and focus on both state-level implementation and long-term sustainability. HS/HT sites have traditionally worked with community systems to coordinate the delivery of educational and transitional services to youth with disabilities. The HS/HT Implementation and Development Grants to be awarded as a result of the current SGA are intended to:

(1) Assist states in implementing a statewide HS/HT network working in partnership with the State Workforce Investment Board;

(2) Integrate the HS/HT program into WIA-assisted youth services; and

(3) Ensure sustainability of the HS/HT program through state-level management and coordination.

(4) Bringing HS/HT to the state-level will to help ensure that resources within a state are maximized and coordinated for the benefit of all HS/HT sites in that state. HS/HT state directors will work with key stakeholders (workforce investment systems, colleges, developmental disability councils, governors' committees on the employment of people with disabilities, employers, educators, rehabilitation professionals, consumers, and parents) to institutionalize the program within the state. By linking HS/HT, WIA and additional resources at the state-level, students with disabilities will have an

increased opportunity to participate in meaningful school-to-career initiatives.

Part IV. Funding Availability and Period of Performance

ODEP anticipates awarding approximately eight grants under this solicitation to be funded at a level of approximately \$225,000. The HS/HT Implementation awards will be for a one-year period of performance and may be renewed annually up to four additional years for a total of five years, depending upon the availability of funds and the efficacy of the grant activities as established by independent reviews conducted by the DOL or its designee. Proposals must include budgetary information for a five-year period. It is envisioned that if funding is continued for the full five years, the funding for years four and five will be at successively lower rates, with funding during year four at 80 percent of the third year funds, and funding for year five at 60 percent of the third year funds. The HS/HT Development Grants will be for a one-year period of performance and will not be renewed.

Up to five Implementation Grants and up to three Development Grants will be awarded. It is expected that the funds used for this grant program will support the costs associated with the development, implementation, and evaluation of state-level HS/HT programs. The funds may be used to conduct a variety of activities to support and sustain state-level HS/HT operations such as staff training, strategic planning, partnership building, assessment, curriculum/materials development, career development, student-focused planning, program alignment, etc. Grant funds may be used to fund the creation of new HS/HT sites as well as to support existing sites as part of the implementation of an overall statewide HS/HT system.

Part V. Eligible Applicants and Required Partnerships

Eligible Applicants: Eligible applicants include State Workforce Investment Boards; State Departments of Education; State Departments of Labor; State Developmental Disability Councils; State Departments of Vocational Rehabilitation; or State Committees affiliated with the National Governors' Committees for People with Disabilities, and other similar state agencies. "State" in this context includes the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa. Consortia of state agencies and not-for-profit organizations (including community and faith-based

organizations, independent living centers, etc.) and local HS/HT sites are also eligible applicants. Prior recipients of state-level HS/HT grant funding are ineligible to receive additional funding under this solicitation.

Indian and Native American Tribal entities, or consortia of Tribes, with the written approval of their tribal council, are also eligible to receive these grants. Grants to Indian and Native American tribal grantees must recognize principles of sovereignty and self-governance established under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, allowing for the government-to-government relationship between the Federal and Tribal Governments.

Required Partnerships: In addition to the State Workforce Investment Board, which is a mandatory partner in these grant activities, each grantee must, at a minimum, demonstrate the involvement of members of three of the other above-mentioned state-level groups in strategic planning and implementation activities. Tribal entities also must involve, at a minimum, members of three of the other groups mentioned above in strategic planning and implementation activities with the State Workforce Investment Board constituting a mandatory partner.

Part VI. Format Requirements for Grant Application

General Requirements: Applicants must submit one (1) paper copy with an original signature and two (2) additional paper copies of the signed proposal. To aid with the review of applications, DOL also encourages Applicants to submit an electronic copy of their proposal on a disc or CD using Microsoft Word. Applicants who do not provide an electronic copy will not be penalized. The Application Narrative must be double-spaced with standard margins on 8½ x 11 papers, and be presented on single-sided, numbered pages with the exception of format requirements for the Executive Summary. The Executive Summary must be limited to no more than two single-spaced, single-sided pages on 8½ x 11 papers with standard margins throughout. A font size of at least twelve (12) pitch is required throughout. Applications that fail to meet these requirements will be considered non-responsive.

The three required sections of the application are:

- Section I—Project Financial Plan
- Section II—Executive Summary—Project Synopsis
- Section III—Project Narrative (including Attachments, not to exceed 40 pages)

Mandatory requirements for each section are provided as follows in this application package. Applications that fail to meet the stated mandatory requirements of each section will be considered non-responsive.

Mandatory Application Requirements

- *Section I. Project Financial Plan (Budget)* (The Project Financial Plan will not count against the application page limits.) Section I of the application must include the following three required parts:

(1) Completed "SF 424—Application for Federal Assistance" (See Appendix A of this SGA for required form.)

(2) Completed "SF 424A—Budget Information Form" by line item for all costs required to implement the project design effectively. (See Appendix B of this SGA for required forms.)

(3) Budget Narrative and Justification that provides sufficient information to support the reasonableness of the costs included in the budget in relation to the service strategy and planned outcomes.

The application must include one SF-424 with the original signatures of the legal entity applying for grant funding and 2 additional copies. Applicants shall indicate on the SF-424 the organization's IRS Status, if applicable. Under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, section 18 (29 U.S.C. 1611), an organization described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that engages in lobbying activities will not be eligible for the receipt of Federal funds constituting an award, grant, or loan. (See 2 U.S.C. 1611; 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(4).) For item 10 of the SF-424, the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for the program is 17.720.

The Budget Narrative and Justification must describe all costs associated with implementing the project that are to be covered with grant funds. Grantees must support the travel and associated costs with sending at least one representative to the annual ODEP Policy Conference for Grantees, to be held in Washington, DC at a time and place to be determined. Grantees must comply with the "Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments," (also known as the "Common Rule") codified at 29 CFR part 97, and "Grants and Agreements with Institutes of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations (also known as OMB Circular A-110), codified at 29 CFR part 95 and must comply with the applicable OMB cost principles circulars, as identified in 29 CFR 95.27 and 29 CFR 97.22(b).

In addition, the budget must include on a separate page a detailed cost analysis of each line item. Justification for administrative costs must be provided. Approval of a budget by DOL is not the same as the approval of actual costs. The individual signing the SF 424 on behalf of the applicant must represent and be able to legally bind the responsible financial and administrative entity for a grant should that application result in an award. The applicant must also include the Assurances and Certifications Signature Page (Appendix C).

• *Section II. Executive Summary—Project Synopsis* (The Executive Summary is limited to no more than two single-spaced, single-sided pages on 8½ x 11 papers with standard margins throughout). Each application shall include a project synopsis that identifies the following:

- (1) The name of the applicant;
- (2) The type of organization the applicant represents, the additional consortium partners and the type of organization they represent;
- (3) The amount of funds requested;
- (4) The planned period of performance;
- (5) The extent to which Vocational Rehabilitation and the WIA-assisted Youth Service System will be integrated or coordinated with the HS/HT system;
- (6) An overview of how the applicant will capitalize on and coordinate with existing HS/HT sites, if applicable;
- (7) An overview of the applicant's plan for expanding HS/HT statewide; and
- (8) An overview of the applicant's plan for sustaining the HS/HT program once Federal funding ceases.

• *Section III. Project Narrative* (The Project Narrative plus attachments are limited to no more than forty (40) 8½ x 11 pages, double-spaced with standard one-inch margins (top, bottom, and sides), and be presented on single-sided, numbered pages). **Note:** The Financial Plan, the Executive Summary, and the Appendices are not included in the forty (40)—page limit. The substantive requirements for the project narrative are described below under Part VII—Statement of Work.

All text in the application narrative, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs must be double-spaced (no more than three lines per vertical inch); and, if using a proportional computer font, use no smaller than a 12-point font, and an average character density no greater than 18 characters per inch (if using a non-proportional font or a typewriter, do not use more than 12 characters per

inch). Applications that fail to meet these requirements will be considered non-responsive.

Part VII. Government Requirements/Statement of Work (Project Narrative)

The Project Narrative, or Section III of the grant application, should provide complete information on how the applicant will address the following DOL strategic goal priorities to ensure a Prepared Workforce:

- (1) Increasing the availability of skills training, employment opportunities, and career advancement for persons with disabilities.
- (2) Increasing the number of youth making a successful transition to work or who enter further training or educational programs.

Proposals will be rated based upon the quality of the applicant's response in addressing the four criteria described below in terms of a comprehensive strategic approach that incorporates the Department's priorities noted above. The four criteria (Statement of Need, Comprehensive Service Strategy, Sustainability, and Monitoring and Reporting) must be addressed and the applicant's accomplishments or status with regard to each item provided.

The DOL, however, does not expect the applicant to incorporate every item listed as part of their strategy and proposal design. The DOL recognizes that the needs and requirements of each state may be different, and therefore, some of the options identified may be more relevant than others in a particular state.

1. Statement of Need (15 points)

The purpose of the Statement of Need criteria is to: Establish the overall status of disability issues relating to youth in the applicant's state; to identify strengths and deficiencies to be addressed by the applicant's proposal; to identify the overall scope of proposal objectives and design; and, to present the applicant's need for HS/HT grant resources. This criterion will be rated based upon the applicant's identified needs and proposed approach to addressing these needs in the context of the DOL's priorities.

For proposals targeted to a specific Indian community or covering multiple Tribal entities that may cut across multiple States and/or local areas, describe the overall approach of the project, and identify the inadequacies and deficiencies of the service delivery to the applicable community, and how the project expects to address these.

The narrative in this section should:

- (1) Describe the potential contribution of the proposed project to increasing the

quality of transition services available in the state;

(2) Describe the overall status and actions taken to-date within the State relating to implementation of the HS/HT program and the level of commitment of any existing HS/HT program to working with the applicant;

(3) Describe the extent to which the proposed project involves the development or demonstration of promising new strategies;

(4) Describe the number of young people with disabilities expected to be served in the proposed HS/HT program within the State and the importance or magnitude of the results that are likely to be attained by the proposed project;

(5) Identify the percentage of young people with disabilities in the State including the percentage of people who are beneficiaries of Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or Social Security Income Program (SSI);

(6) Identify the most recent state graduation rates for young people with disabilities in the State, as well as the overall graduation rate;

(7) Describe any significant deficiencies in the State or local workforce investment system that present barriers to employment for young people with disabilities and explain what will be accomplished under this grant to address them;

(8) Describe how the applicant will increase services, skill training, employment outcomes, educational and job retention, and career advancement for young people with disabilities and how the ODEP priorities identified above will be achieved; and

(9) Identify additional State and/or local funds and resources that will be leveraged to support the overall objectives of the grant.

In evaluating the quality of the proposal narrative, ODEP will consider the applicant's needs identified and proposed approaches to addressing the needs in the context of ODEP's priorities.

2. Comprehensive Service Strategy (30 points)

The purpose of the Comprehensive Service Strategy criteria is to identify the approach proposed by the grantee to implement the HS/HT program on a statewide basis. In general, this requires extensive linkages and on-site knowledge of applicable resources that address multiple disability issues and barriers to education and employment that are commonly experienced by young persons with disabilities. Specifically, applicants must address staff capacity as well as their proposed design elements.

A. Staff Capacity—The applicant must identify how it will ensure that trained staff with comprehensive knowledge of diverse disabilities will be available to provide grant related services. Accordingly, the application should:

(1) Describe the specific experience of the applicant(s) in serving young people with disabilities, in providing technology-related training, in addressing specific barriers to employment, in achieving expected outcomes in the delivery of such services/programs, and in implementing and administering project plans similar to that in the proposed grant project;

(2) Document that the State Director has the comprehensive knowledge and experience to expand HS/HT at a state-level. A resume or position description of the state director must be included in the Appendices to the application;

(3) List and describe key positions required to carry out the project as proposed, the key personnel proposed to fill the positions, and a detailed description of the kind of work these individuals will perform within the project; and

(4) Provide evidence of the staff's skill, knowledge and experience in carrying out these types of activities, and describe their relevant training. Resumes must be included in the Appendices to the application.

B. Proposed Design—The application must address the proposed design for a state-based HS/HT infrastructure. The application must also identify the plan for developing and locating HS/HT program sites and the basis for that distribution plan [*i.e.* as linked with Local Workforce Investment Boards, etc.]. Finally, the application must address incorporation of the HS/HT Manual and its four design features, and should:

(1) Describe the roles of the partners set forth in the Sustainability Section of Part VII within the state's HS/HT operations. Explain how the partners will integrate and leverage resources to advance the HS/HT model;

(2) Identify the locations of HS/HT program sites based on the number and distribution of students with disabilities in the state;

(3) Describe the strategy that will be used to integrate and maintain existing HS/HT sites in the state, and to develop and increase the number of HS/HT sites in the state;

(4) Explain how technology will be used in carrying out grant activities;

(5) Identify and explain the benefits or results expected from the grant activities proposed;

(6) Discuss how the applicant will establish leadership from, or a working relationship with, a State Workforce Investment Board, the State Department of Labor, State Department of Education, State Vocational Rehabilitation, a WIA youth-related entity, and other community partners (*e.g.*, area disability organizations, state committees on employment of people with disabilities, faith-based and community organizations, Centers for Independent Living, interested employers) in the establishment and operation of a state-level HS/HT program. The State Workforce Investment Board is a mandatory partner for this grant. At least three categories of the above listed organizations must also be represented in and be a part of the state-level leadership team;

(7) Describe the strategy for gaining the support of people with disabilities and their families;

(8) Describe the outreach and marketing strategy to the disability community and organizations that represent or work with people with disabilities;

(9) Describe specific approaches for developing relationships with disability organizations representing youth with disabilities such as Centers for Independent Living, the state's Youth Leadership Forum, and state members of the National Youth Leadership Network;

(10) Describe specific approaches for developing relationships with and the support of area employers that establish employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities, including any commitments by employers to hire these individuals;

(11) Describe linkages with Business Leadership Networks (BLNs) (that have been established in approximately 30 states) if applicable; and

(12) Describe linkages with state/local public agencies such as Special Education; Vocational Rehabilitation; State Councils for Independent Living; local Centers for Independent Living (CILs); state mental health agencies, state mental retardation and Developmental Disability Councils; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) agencies; and private, non-profit organizations such as disability advocacy and provider organizations, as well as federally-funded disability grant recipients, including community and faith-based organizations.

In evaluating the quality of the proposed project design, ODEP will also consider the following factors:

(a) The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved

by the proposed project are clearly specified and measurable;

(b) The extent to which the design of the proposed project is appropriate to, and will successfully address, the needs of the target population and other identified needs and the quality of the applicant's plans for recruiting and retaining the target population;

(c) The extent to which the design of the proposed project provides procedures and approaches for collaboration and coordination with key agencies and organizations and identification of critical roles;

(d) The extent to which the applicant encourages involvement of people with disabilities and their families, experts and organizations, and other relevant stakeholders in project activities;

(e) The extent to which performance feedback and continuous improvement are integral to the design of the proposed project; and

(f) The extent to which the management plan for project implementation is likely to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget.

3. Sustainability (30 points)

The purpose of the sustainability criteria is to identify strategies for ensuring that activities funded under the grant will continue once Federal funding ceases. Resources and partnerships are an integral element of the project, as they support and strengthen the quality of the technical skills training provided and contribute materially toward sustainability. Sustainability must be an objective built into the project design, the strategic planning and ongoing operation of the project. Projects funded under this SGA must leverage a combination of federal, state, and local public sector resources, as well as private and local non-profit sector resources for purposes of sustainability.

In evaluating the quality of the plan for sustainability, ODEP considers the following factors to be of particular importance:

(a) The extent to which the proposed project is designed to build capacity and yield results that will extend beyond the period of this grant;

(b) The likelihood of the applicant successfully securing state ownership and participation in these projects when these grant funds cease (a letter from the Governor must be included or, if this is not feasible, a letter from the head of an appropriate state agency may be substituted); and

(c) The extent to which partnerships with outside entities (including public and private disability and community

and faith-based organizations) and funding from additional Federal, State, and/or local resources will be effectively leveraged and utilized in continuing HS/HT activities after the expiration of the grant.

Accordingly, in the Sustainability section, the applicant should enumerate resources, describe any specific existing contractual commitments, and provide concrete evidence of sustainability beyond the duration of this grant.

Grantees are expected to use this grant as seed money to develop other public and private resources to ensure sustainability of grant activities following completion of the funding period. Grant monies may be used to fund the creation of new HS/HT sites as well as to support existing sites as part of the development of an overall statewide HS/HT system.

ODEP considers detailed commitments for specific new activities to be more important than promises of in-kind supports in demonstrating sustained support for the project. Grants recently received from another agency can be discussed in the proposal, but the applicant should be precise in delineating which activities precede this grant and which will occur because of this grant. In addition, the applicant should detail how public sector commitments can contribute to the sustainability of this project following completion of the grant. Examples of the types of public and private sector commitments envisioned include the following:

- The school system commits to offering credit for HS/HT training activities;
- The school system commits to incorporating HS/HT into their Individual Education Plans;
- The vocational rehabilitation office commits to funding assistive technology and transportation services for students enrolled in the program;
- A community college commits to providing technology training for HS/HT students;
- State-level elected officials commit to work towards state codification of HS/HT;
- An employer commits to providing technology-based summer internships;
- State and Local Workforce Investment Boards commit to paying internship costs;
- A university commits to providing scholarships for HS/HT students.
- A Developmental Disability Council commits to funding a new HS/HT site; and
- An independent living center commits a staff person to work full time on HS/HT.

Letters of Commitment. Applicants may include letters of support if they provide specific commitments regarding the application to this solicitation. Such letters can increase an applicant's score by showing that the commitments in the text of the proposal are grounded with actual commitments. Form letters will be considered non-responsive.

Applicants are encouraged to have letters of support from all existing HS/HT programs in their states.

Letter from the Governor. A letter from the Governor or functionally equivalent entity reflecting support of state-level implementation of the HS/HT program will be viewed favorably. If a letter from the Governor is not feasible, the application must include a letter from the head of an appropriate state agency.

4. Management and Outcomes (25 points)

The purpose of the Management and Outcomes criteria is to determine whether the applicant has developed an adequate management plan to effectively carry out the objectives and scope of the proposed project on time and within budget, to describe the predicted outcomes resulting from activities funded under this SGA, and to identify the methods of evaluation that will be used by the grantee to determine success.

Applicants must provide a detailed management plan that identifies the critical activities; time frames and responsibilities for effectively implementing the project, including the evaluation process, for assuring successful implementation of grant objectives. A description of the plan to report the demographic characteristics of students, types of programming activities and program outcomes (post-secondary education and employment) of youth with disabilities served through the HS/HT program in the applicant's state; and to compare their performances with students with and without disabilities not enrolled in the program should also be provided.

In addition, applicants should outline the strategy for documenting and reporting the activities undertaken during the life of the grant for ODEP's future use in working with other grantees and constituencies.

In evaluating the management and outcomes criteria, ODEP also considers the following factors to be of particular importance:

- (a) The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved are clearly specified and measurable;
- (b) The extent to which the design of the proposed project features innovative

methods for developing new sites and/or strengthening existing sites;

(c) The extent to which the proposal incorporates the strategic plan in Part VII, Statement of Work;

(d) The extent to which the proposed budget and narrative justification are adequate to support the proposed project;

(e) The extent to which performance feedback and continuous improvement are integral to the design of the proposed project;

(f) The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, context, and outcomes of the proposed project;

(g) The extent to which the methods of evaluation provide for examining the effectiveness of project implementation strategies;

(h) The extent to which the methods of evaluation include the use of objective performance measures that are clearly related to the intended outcomes of the project and will produce quantitative and qualitative data;

(i) The extent to which the evaluation will provide information to other programs about effective strategies suitable for replication or testing in other settings;

(j) The extent to which the methods of evaluation measure in both quantitative and qualitative terms, program results and satisfaction of people with disabilities;

(k) The extent to which the management plan for project implementation is likely to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget;

(l) The adequacy of mechanisms for ensuring high-quality products and services from the proposed project; and

(m) The extent to which the time commitments of the state director and/or principal investigator and other key project personnel are appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives of the proposed project.

Part VIII. Monitoring and Reporting

Monitoring: ODEP is responsible for ensuring the effective implementation of each competitive grant project in accordance with the provisions of this announcement and the terms of the grant award document. Applicants should assume that ODEP staff, or their designees will conduct on-site project reviews periodically. Reviews will focus on timely project implementation, performance in meeting the grant's programmatic goals and objectives, expenditure of grant funds on allowable activities, integration and coordination with other resources and service

providers in the local area, and project management and administration in achieving project objectives. HS/HT Implementation and Development Grants may be subject to other additional reviews at the discretion of ODEP.

Reporting: Grantees will be required to submit quarterly financial and narrative progress reports under the HS/HT Grant program as prescribed by OMB Circular A-102 and A-110, as codified by 29 CFR parts 97 and 95 respectively.

(1) A Quarterly Report will be required within thirty (30) days of the end of each quarter beginning ninety days from the award of the grant and is estimated to take five hours to prepare on average. The form for the Quarterly Report will be provided by ODEP. ODEP will work with the grantee to help refine the requirements of the report, which will, among other things, include measures of ongoing analysis for continuous improvement and customer satisfaction.

(2) Financial reporting will be required quarterly using the on-line electronic reporting system for the Standard Form 269—Financial Status Report (FSR).

(3) A Final Project Report, including an assessment of project performance and outcomes achieved will be required and is estimated to take twenty hours to complete. This report will be submitted in hard copy and on electronic disk using a format and following instructions that will be provided by ODEP. A draft of the final report is due to the ODEP thirty (30) days before the termination of the grant. The final report is due to ODEP sixty (60) days following the termination of the grant.

ODEP's evaluation of the HS/HT program encompasses a process evaluation that includes extensive information pertaining to achievements under the grant (e.g., training provided to staff, coordination with disability entities, etc.), as well as summary information pertaining to HS/HT implementation and the numbers of people with disabilities registered, receiving services, and employed through the One-Stop system, among other areas.

ODEP may arrange for and conduct an independent evaluation of the outcomes, impacts, and accomplishments of each funded project. Grantees must agree to make available records on all parts of project activity, including participant post secondary and employment data, and to provide access to personnel, as specified by the evaluator(s), under the direction of ODEP. This independent evaluation

is separate from the ongoing evaluation for continuous improvement required of the grantee for project implementation.

Grantees must also agree to work with ODEP in its various technical assistance efforts in order to freely share with others what is learned. Grantees must agree to collaborate with other research institutes, centers, studies, and evaluations that are supported by DOL and other relevant Federal agencies, as appropriate. Finally, Grantees must agree to actively utilize the programs sponsored by the ODEP, including the Job Accommodation Network, (<http://www.jan.wvu.edu>), and the Employer Assistance Referral Network (<http://www.earnworks.com>).

The DOL has established priorities for FY 2003 as noted in the introduction of Part VII—Government Requirements/Statement of Work. HS/HT Grantees will be expected to support these priorities.

Part IX. Review Process and Evaluation Criteria

All applications will be reviewed for compliance with the requirements of this notice. A careful evaluation of applications will be made by a technical review panel, which will evaluate the applications against the rating criteria listed in this SGA. The panel results are advisory in nature and not binding on the Grant Officer. The DOL may elect to award grants either with or without discussion with the applicant. In situations without discussions, an award will be based on the applicant's signature on the SF 424, which constitutes a binding offer. The Grant Officer may consider any information that is available and will make final award decisions based on what is most advantageous to the Government, considering factors such as:

Panel findings; Geographic distribution of the competitive applications and the currently existing state grants (Connecticut, Georgia); and Availability of funds.

X. Administration Provisions

A. Administrative Standards and Provisions

Grantees are strongly encouraged to read these regulations before submitting a proposal. The grant awarded under this SGA shall be subject to the following as applicable:

- 29 CFR Part 95—Grants and Agreements With Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations, and With Commercial Organizations, Foreign Governments, Organizations Under the Jurisdiction of Foreign Governments, and International Organizations;

- 29 CFR Part 96—Audit Requirements for Grants, Contracts, and Other Agreements.

- 29 CFR Part 97—Uniform Administrative Requirement for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments.

B. Allowable Cost

Determinations of allowable costs shall be made in accordance with the following applicable Federal cost principles:

- State and Local Government—OMB Circular A-87.

- Nonprofit Organizations—OMB Circular A-122.

- Profit-Making Commercial Firms—48 CFR part 31.

Profit will not be considered an allowable cost in any case.

C. Grant Assurances

As a condition of the award, the applicant must certify that it will comply fully with the nondiscrimination and equal opportunity provisions of the following laws:

- 29 CFR Part 31—Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the Department of Labor, effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

- 29 CFR Part 32—Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in Programs and Activities Receiving or Benefiting from Federal Assistance. (Implementing section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, 29 U.S.C. 794).

- 29 CFR Part 36—Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance. (Implementing title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. 1681 *et seq.*).

- 29 CFR Part 37—Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity Provisions of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA), (Implementing Section 188 of the Workforce Investment Act, 29 U.S.C. 2938).

The applicant must include assurances and certifications that it will comply with these laws in its grant application. The assurances and certifications are attached as Appendix C.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 3rd day of
June, 2003.

Lawrence J. Kuss,
Grant Officer.

**Appendix A. Application for Federal
Assistance, Form SF 424**

**Appendix B. Budget Information Sheet,
Form SF 424A**

**Appendix C. Assurances and
Certifications Signature Page**

**Appendix D. Survey on Ensuring Equal
Opportunity**

BILLING CODE 4510-CX-P

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SF-424

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 45 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0043), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

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) and 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 <i>only</i> 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 the 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 requested. | | |
| 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 this project. | | |

OMB Approval No. 0348-0044

BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction Programs

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY						
Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		Total (g)
		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)	
1.		\$	\$	\$	\$	0.00
2.						0.00
3.						0.00
4.						0.00
5. Totals		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	0.00
SECTION B - BUDGET CATEGORIES						
GRANT PROGRAM, FUNCTION OR ACTIVITY						
6. Object Class Categories	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	Total (5)	
a. Personnel	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	0.00
b. Fringe Benefits						0.00
c. Travel						0.00
d. Equipment						0.00
e. Supplies						0.00
f. Contractual						0.00
g. Construction						0.00
h. Other						0.00
i. Total Direct Charges (sum of 6a-6h)		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
j. Indirect Charges						0.00
k. TOTALS (sum of 6i and 6j)	\$	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	0.00
7. Program Income	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	0.00

Standard Form 424A (Rev. 7-97)
Prescribed by OMB Circular A-102

Authorized for Local Reproduction

Previous Edition Usable

SECTION C - NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES									
(a) Grant Program	(b) Applicant	(c) State	(d) Other Sources	(e) TOTALS					
8.	\$	\$	\$			0.00			
9.						0.00			
10.						0.00			
11.						0.00			
12. TOTAL (sum of lines 8-11)	\$	0.00 \$	0.00 \$	0.00 \$	0.00 \$	0.00			
SECTION D - FORECASTED CASH NEEDS									
	Total for 1st Year	1st Quarter		2nd Quarter		3rd Quarter		4th Quarter	
	\$								
13. Federal	0.00 \$			\$		\$			\$
14. Non-Federal	0.00								
15. TOTAL (sum of lines 13 and 14)	\$	0.00 \$	0.00 \$	0.00 \$	0.00 \$	0.00 \$	0.00 \$	0.00 \$	0.00
SECTION E - BUDGET ESTIMATES OF FEDERAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR BALANCE OF THE PROJECT									
(a) Grant Program	FUTURE FUNDING PERIODS (Years)								
	(b) First	(c) Second	(d) Third	(e) Fourth					
16.	\$	\$	\$						\$
17.									
18.									
19.									
20. TOTAL (sum of lines 16-19)	\$	0.00 \$	0.00 \$	0.00 \$	0.00 \$	0.00 \$	0.00 \$	0.00 \$	0.00
SECTION F - OTHER BUDGET INFORMATION									
21. Direct Charges:	22. Indirect Charges:								
23. Remarks:									

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SF-424A

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 180 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0044), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

General Instructions

This form is designed so that application can be made for funds from one or more grant programs. In preparing the budget, adhere to any existing Federal grantor agency guidelines which prescribe how and whether budgeted amounts should be separately shown for different functions or activities within the program. For some programs, grantor agencies may require budgets to be separately shown by function or activity. For other programs, grantor agencies may require a breakdown by function or activity. Sections A, B, C, and D should include budget estimates for the whole project except when applying for assistance which requires Federal authorization in annual or other funding period increments. In the latter case, Sections A, B, C, and D should provide the budget for the first budget period (usually a year) and Section E should present the need for Federal assistance in the subsequent budget periods. All applications should contain a breakdown by the object class categories shown in Lines a-k of Section B.

Section A. Budget Summary Lines 1-4 Columns (a) and (b)

For applications pertaining to a *single* Federal grant program (Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog number) and *not requiring* a functional or activity breakdown, enter on Line 1 under Column (a) the Catalog program title and the Catalog number in Column (b).

For applications pertaining to a *single* program *requiring* budget amounts by multiple functions or activities, enter the name of each activity or function on each line in Column (a), and enter the Catalog number in Column (b). For applications pertaining to multiple programs where none of the programs require a breakdown by function or activity, enter the Catalog program title on each line in Column (a) and the respective Catalog number on each line in Column (b).

For applications pertaining to *multiple* programs where one or more programs *require* a breakdown by function or activity, prepare a separate sheet for each program requiring the breakdown. Additional sheets should be used when one form does not provide adequate space for all breakdown of data required. However, when more than one sheet is used, the first page should provide the summary totals by programs.

Lines 1-4, Columns (c) through (g)

For *new applications*, leave Column (c) and (d) blank. For each line entry in Columns (a) and (b), enter in Columns (e), (f), and (g) the appropriate amounts of funds needed to support the project for the first funding period (usually a year).

For *continuing grant program applications*, submit these forms before the end of each funding period as required by the grantor agency. Enter in Columns (c) and (d) the estimated amounts of funds which will remain unobligated at the end of the grant funding period only if the Federal grantor agency instructions provide for this. Otherwise, leave these columns blank. Enter in columns (e) and (f) the amounts of funds needed for the upcoming period. The amount(s) in Column (g) should be the sum of amounts in Columns (e) and (f).

For *supplemental grants and changes* to existing grants, do not use Columns (c) and (d). Enter in Column (e) the amount of the increase or decrease of Federal funds and enter in Column (f) the amount of the increase or decrease of non-Federal funds. In Column (g) enter the new total budgeted amount (Federal and non-Federal) which includes the total previous authorized budgeted amounts plus or minus, as appropriate, the amounts shown in Columns (e) and (f). The amount(s) in Column (g) should not equal the sum of amounts in Columns (e) and (f).

Line 5 - Show the totals for all columns used.

Section B Budget Categories

In the column headings (1) through (4), enter the titles of the same programs, functions, and activities shown on Lines 1-4, Column (a), Section A. When additional sheets are prepared for Section A, provide similar column headings on each sheet. For each program, function or activity, fill in the total requirements for funds (both Federal and non-Federal) by object class categories.

Line 6a-i - Show the totals of Lines 6a to 6h in each column.

Line 6j - Show the amount of indirect cost.

Line 6k - Enter the total of amounts on Lines 6i and 6j. For all applications for new grants and continuation grants the total amount in column (5), Line 6k, should be the same as the total amount shown in Section A, Column (g), Line 5. For supplemental grants and changes to grants, the total amount of the increase or decrease as shown in Columns (1)-(4), Line 6k should be the same as the sum of the amounts in Section A, Columns (e) and (f) on Line 5.

Line 7 - Enter the estimated amount of income, if any, expected to be generated from this project. Do not add or subtract this amount from the total project amount, Show under the program

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SF-424A (continued)

narrative statement the nature and source of income. The estimated amount of program income may be considered by the Federal grantor agency in determining the total amount of the grant.

Section C. Non-Federal Resources

Lines 8-11 Enter amounts of non-Federal resources that will be used on the grant. If in-kind contributions are included, provide a brief explanation on a separate sheet.

Column (a) - Enter the program titles identical to Column (a), Section A. A breakdown by function or activity is not necessary.

Column (b) - Enter the contribution to be made by the applicant.

Column (c) - Enter the amount of the State's cash and in-kind contribution if the applicant is not a State or State agency. Applicants which are a State or State agencies should leave this column blank.

Column (d) - Enter the amount of cash and in-kind contributions to be made from all other sources.

Column (e) - Enter totals of Columns (b), (c), and (d).

Line 12 - Enter the total for each of Columns (b)-(e). The amount in Column (e) should be equal to the amount on Line 5, Column (f), Section A.

Section D. Forecasted Cash Needs

Line 13 - Enter the amount of cash needed by quarter from the grantor agency during the first year.

Line 14 - Enter the amount of cash from all other sources needed by quarter during the first year.

Line 15 - Enter the totals of amounts on Lines 13 and 14.

Section E. Budget Estimates of Federal Funds Needed for Balance of the Project

Lines 16-19 - Enter in Column (a) the same grant program titles shown in Column (a), Section A. A breakdown by function or activity is not necessary. For new applications and continuation grant applications, enter in the proper columns amounts of Federal funds which will be needed to complete the program or project over the succeeding funding periods (usually in years). This section need not be completed for revisions (amendments, changes, or supplements) to funds for the current year of existing grants.

If more than four lines are needed to list the program titles, submit additional schedules as necessary.

Line 20 - Enter the total for each of the Columns (b)-(e). When additional schedules are prepared for this Section, annotate accordingly and show the overall totals on this line.

Section F. Other Budget Information

Line 21 - Use this space to explain amounts for individual direct object class cost categories that may appear to be out of the ordinary or to explain the details as required by the Federal grantor agency.

Line 22 - Enter the type of indirect rate (provisional, predetermined, final or fixed) that will be in effect during the funding period, the estimated amount of the base to which the rate is applied, and the total indirect expense.

Line 23 - Provide any other explanations or comments deemed necessary.

ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0040), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the awarding agency. Further, certain Federal awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
5. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and, (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.
7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
8. Will comply, as applicable, with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

Previous Edition Usable

Authorized for Local Reproduction

Standard Form 424B (Rev. 7-97)
Prescribed by OMB Circular A-102

Appendix C

9. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333), regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
10. Will comply, if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
11. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).
12. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
13. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
14. Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.
15. Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. §§2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.
16. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
17. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
18. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL	TITLE
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	DATE SUBMITTED



Survey on Ensuring Equal

Opportunity

Federal Agency Use Only

OMB No. 1225-0083 Exp. 02/28/2006

NOTE: Please place survey form directly behind the Standard Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424) fact sheet.

Purpose: This form is for applicants that are private nonprofit organizations (not including private universities). Please complete it to assist the federal government in ensuring that all qualified applicants, small or large, non-religious or faith-based, have an equal opportunity to compete for federal funding. Information provided on this form will not be considered in any way in making funding decisions and will not be included in the federal grants database.

1. Does the applicant have 501(c)(3) status?
 - Yes No
2. How many full-time equivalent employees does the applicant have? (Check only one box).
 - 3 or Fewer 15-50
 - 4-5 51-100
 - 6-14 over 100
3. What is the size of the applicant's annual budget? (Check only one box.)
 - Less Than \$150,000
 - \$150,000 - \$299,999
 - \$300,000 - \$499,999
 - \$500,000 - \$999,999
 - \$1,000,000 - \$4,999,999
 - \$5,000,000 or more
4. Is the applicant a faith-based/religious organization?
 - Yes No
5. Is the applicant a non-religious community-based organization?
 - Yes No
6. Is the applicant an intermediary that will manage the grant on behalf of other organizations?
 - Yes No
7. Has the applicant ever received a government grant or contract (Federal, State, or local)?
 - Yes No
8. Is the applicant a local affiliate of a national organization?
 - Yes No

Survey Instructions on Ensuring Equal Opportunity for Applicants

1. 501(c) (3) statuses is a legal designation provided on application to the Internal Revenue Service by eligible organizations. Some grant programs may require nonprofit applicants to have 501(c)(3) status. Other grant programs do not.
2. For example, two part-time employees who each work half time equal one full-time equivalent employee. If the applicant is a local affiliate of a national organization, the responses to survey questions 2 and 3 should reflect the staff and budget size of the local affiliate.
3. Annual budget means the amount of money your organization spends each year on all of its activities.
4. Self-identify.
5. An organization is considered a community-based organization if its headquarters/service location shares the same zip code as the clients you serve.
6. An "intermediary" is an organization that enables a group of small organizations to receive and manage government funds by administering the grant on their behalf.
7. Self-explanatory.
8. Self-explanatory

Paperwork Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1225-0083. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average five (5) minutes per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: Departmental Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Room N-1301, Washington, D.C. 20210. If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this form, write directly to: Joyce I. Mays, Application Control Center, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20210.

[FR Doc. 03-14351 Filed 6-5-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-CX-C

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Employment and Training Administration**

[TA-W-40,899A]

E.J. Footwear LLC, Franklin, Tennessee; Amended Certification Regarding Eligibility To Apply for Worker Adjustment Assistance

In accordance with section 223 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2273) the Department of Labor issued a Notice of Amended Certification Regarding Eligibility To Apply for Worker Adjustment Assistance on July 15, 2002, applicable to workers of E.J. Footwear LLC located in Franklin, Tennessee. The notice was published in the **Federal Register** on July 24, 2002 (67 FR 48485).

At the request of the State agency, the Department reviewed the certification for workers of the subject firm. Findings on review show that workers of the subject firm were previously certified eligible to apply for TAA under petition TA-W-38,042 which expired on November 2, 2002. The amended certification for TA-W-40,899A established an impact date of October 24, 2000. In order to avoid an overlap in worker group coverage, this certification is being amended to establish a new impacted date of November 3, 2002.

The amended notice applicable to TA-W-40,899A is hereby issued as follows:

All workers of E.J. Footwear LLC, Franklin, Tennessee, who became totally or partially separated from employment on or after November 3, 2002, through April 3, 2004, are eligible to apply for adjustment assistance under section 223 of the Trade Act of 1974.

Signed at Washington, DC this 10th day of February, 2003.

Linda G. Poole,*Certifying Officer, Division of Trade Adjustment Assistance.*

[FR Doc. 03-14292 Filed 6-5-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-30-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Employment and Training Administration****Proposed Collection; Comment Request****ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor (DOL), as part of its continuing effort to

reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) [44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)]. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format; reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized; collection instruments are clearly understood; and the impact of collection on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed new collection of administrative and survey data on the Growing America Through Entrepreneurship project. A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the address section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addresses section below on or before August 5, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Jonathan Simonetta, U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration/Office of Policy Development, Evaluation and Research, Rm. N-5637, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210, (202) 693-3911 (this is not a toll-free number); jsimonetta@doleta.gov; Fax: (202) 693-2766 (this is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Background**

Many individuals have the motivation and skills to develop small businesses but lack business expertise and/or access to financing. Recognizing this untapped potential, ETA is teaming with the Small Business Administration (SBA) to create a demonstration program designed to assist individuals interested in self-employment to develop their businesses—Project GATE (Growing America Through Entrepreneurship). In helping people develop businesses, Project GATE will promote both workforce and economic development. The effectiveness of the program will be evaluated.

Entrepreneurial services provided by Project GATE will include an assessment, a structured training course, and technical assistance provided by a trained counselor. As part of the technical assistance, counselors will assist individuals in need of financing to apply for loans from SBA's Microloan

program and other funding sources. DOL's One-Stop Centers will conduct Project GATE orientations where interested individuals will be informed about the services available at the One-Stop Center, the benefits and challenges of self-employment and the services offered through Project GATE. Small Business Development Center (SBDC) counselors will conduct individuals assessments and identify the most appropriate training course for each Project GATE participant. Existing entrepreneurial training providers in the community will provide training and technical assistance.

DOL's One-Stop Centers will play a central role in recruiting for the project. Interested individuals will be able to register for an orientation to Project GATE at One-Stop Centers as well as via telephone, mail, or a Website. The orientations will also be held at the One-Stop Centers.

Eligibility for Project GATE will be broad—it is designed to serve almost anyone interested in starting a business. Special attention will be paid, however, to recruiting immigrant populations.

Project GATE will be evaluated using an experimental design. Individuals who submit an application for Project GATE in each site and who meet minimal eligibility criteria will be randomly assigned to either a program group or a control group. Members of the program group will be eligible to receive Project GATE services, while members of the control group will not be eligible to receive Project GATE services, although they will not be prohibited from receiving self-employment services from other services.

GATE will be implemented in seven sites—three urban and four rural sites. The three urban sites are in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota. The rural sites are one in Minnesota centered around Duluth, and three in Maine centered around Portland, Bangor, and Lewiston.

The evaluation will address three key questions:

1. *Is Project GATE Viable?* What are the challenges in implementing the program? Does an interagency model for the program work? Who participates in GATE? Is the outreach effective in reaching immigrants? How does the implementation of the program vary across sites?

2. *Does the Program Work?* Does the program increase self-employment, increase employment and earnings, and reduce the receipt of unemployment insurance and public assistance? Does the program promote employment and