

provide encouragement to new scholars to undertake research now, and throughout their careers, on topics of interest to HUD. In accordance with the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1970, Title V, the purpose of this document is to announce to the public the names, research topics, and amounts awarded to the winners for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Brunson, Office of University Partnerships, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Room 8106, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20410-6000, telephone (202) 708-3061, extension 3852. To provide service for persons who are hearing or speech-impaired, this number may be reached via TTY by dialing the Federal Information Relay Service on (800) 877-8399, or 202-708-1455. (Telephone numbers, other than the two "800" numbers, are not toll free.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Urban Scholars Fellowship Program is administered by the Office of University Partnerships Under the General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research.

Eligible applicants for the Urban Scholar Fellowship Program include only Ph.D.'s who have an academic appointment at an institution of higher education and have received their Ph.D. no earlier than January 1, 1998. The Urban Scholar Fellowship Program provides each participating scholar up to \$55,000 for expenses such as salary for two summers, graduate assistants to work on the research project, partial cost of paying for replacements to cover a reduced course load, computer software, the purchase of data, and travel expenses to collect data and make presentations at meetings.

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number for this program is 14.518.

On October 10, 2003 (68 FR 57768), HUD published a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) announcing the availability of approximately \$550,000 from the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution (Pub. L. 108-7; approved February 20, 2003), Division K for the Research and Technology Program, Office of Policy Development and Research for this program. Applications were reviewed, evaluated, and scored based on the criteria in the NOFA. As a result, HUD has funded the applications announced below, and in accordance with Section 102(a)(4)(C) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989 (103 Stat. 1987, U.S.C. 3545), the Department

is publishing details concerning the recipients of funding awards, as set forth below.

List of Awardees for Grant Assistance Under the FY 2003 Urban Scholars Fellowship Program Funding Competition, by Name, Institution, Research Topic and Grant Amount

New England

1. Scott W. Allard, Brown University, Department of Political Science, 36 Prospect Street, Providence, RI 02912. Title of Project: Access to Social Services in Urban America. Grant Amount: \$54,590.

2. Pascale Joassart-Marcelli, University of Massachusetts, Department of Economics, 100 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA 02125. Title of Project: Closing the Gap between Housing and Job Locations: The Role of Rental Assistance Programs. Grant Amount: \$54,975.

New York/New Jersey

3. Niki T. Dickerson, Rutgers University, Department of Labor Studies and Employment, 50 Labor Center Way, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. Title of Project: Residential Segregation and Access to Economic Opportunity for Blacks and Latinos. Grant Amount: \$52,920.

Mid-Atlantic

4. Tama Leventhal, Johns Hopkins University, Institute for Policy Studies, Wyman Building 546, 3400 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218. Title of Project: The Influence of Neighborhood Transformation on Child and Adolescent Well-Being. Grant Amount: \$55,000.

Midwest

5. Christopher DeSousa, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Department of Geography, Milwaukee, WI 53201. Title of Project: Increasing residential development activity on urban brownfields: An examination of redevelopment trends, developer perceptions, and future prospects. Grant Amount: \$51,084.

Midwest

6. Nancy Theresa Kinney, University of Missouri, St. Louis, Department of Political Science SSB 347, 8001 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, MO 63121-4499. Title of Project: Strengthening the Participation of Faith-Based Organizations in Community Development: The Promise and Peril of the Congregational Spin-off Process. Grant Amount: \$55,000.

Southeast/Caribbean

7. Casey J. Dawkins, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 211 Architecture Annex, Urban Affairs and Planning (0113), Blacksburg, VA 24061. Title of Project: Racial Gaps in the Transition to First-Time Homeownership: the Role of Residential Segregation. Grant Amount: \$53,164.

Southeast/Caribbean

8. Kristin E. Larsen, University of Florida, Department of Urban and Regional Planning P.O. Box 115706, Gainesville, FL 32611-5706. Title of Project: Defining Characteristics and Implementation: Analysis of Housing Trust Funds With a Focus on Florida's SHIP Program. Grant Amount: \$52,862.

Pacific/Hawaii

9. Thomas Davidoff, University of California, Berkeley, Haas School of Business, Berkeley, CA 94720. Title of Project: Prospects for Expansion of the U.S. Reverse Mortgage Industry. Grant Amount: \$50,492.

10. Stephanie Dyer, Sonoma State University, 222 Baja Avenue, Davis, CA 94928-3609. Title of Project: Markets in the Meadows: How Suburban Shopping Centers Changed the American City, 1920-1980. Grant Amount: \$53,276.

Dated: March 18, 2004.

Darlene F. Williams,

General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research.

[FR Doc. 04-8139 Filed 4-9-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-62-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4732-N-06]

Modification of the Statutory and Regulatory Waivers Granted to New York State for Recovery from the September 11, 2001, Terrorist Attacks

AGENCY: Office of Community Planning and Development, HUD.

ACTION: Notice of waivers granted.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public of modifications of the waivers of regulations and statutory provisions granted to the State of New York for the purpose of assisting in the recovery from the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York City. This notice describes an eligibility waiver and a change to alternative requirements related to public benefit documentation for the Empire State Development Corporation's retail recovery grant (RRG) program.

DATES: *Effective Date:* April 19, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jan C. Oppen, Senior Program Officer, Office of Block Grant Assistance, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Room 7286, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20410-7000, telephone number (202) 708-3587. Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access this number through TTY by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Fax inquiries may be sent to Mr. Oppen at (202) 401-2044. (Except for the "800" number, these telephone numbers are not toll-free.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority to Grant Waivers

The three grants covered by this notice are governed by provisions of the fifth proviso under the 2001 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States (Pub. L. 107-38, approved September 18, 2001); by section 434 of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002 (Pub. L. 107-73, approved November 26, 2001) (FY 2002 HUD Appropriations Act); by chapter 13 of division B of the Department of Defense and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States Act, 2002 (Pub. L. 107-117, approved January 10, 2002) (FY 2002 Department of Defense Appropriation); and by the 2002 Supplemental Appropriations Act for Further Recovery From and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States (Pub. L. 107-206, approved August 2, 2002) (FY 2002 Recovery and Response to Terrorist Attacks Supplemental).

The third proviso of section 434 of the FY 2002 HUD Appropriations Act, and the FY 2002 Supplemental, authorize the Secretary to waive, or specify alternative requirements for, any provision of any statute or regulation that the Secretary administers in connection with the obligation by the Secretary or use by the recipient of these grant funds, except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment.

The Department finds that the following waivers and alternative requirements (together with previously granted waivers and alternative requirements) are necessary to facilitate the use of the \$700 million awarded to New York State's Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) and

the \$2.0 billion and \$783 million awarded to New York State's Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) (collectively, the grantees).

The Department also finds that such uses of funds, as described below, are not inconsistent with the overall purpose of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, or the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, as amended.

Except as noted by published waivers and alternative requirements, statutory and regulatory provisions governing the Community Development Block Grant program for states, including those at 24 CFR subpart I, shall apply to the use of these funds. In **Federal Register** notices published March 18, 2002 (67 FR 12042), and effective March 25, 2002), May 22, 2002 (67 FR 36017, and effective May 28, 2002), and May 16, 2003, (68 FR 26640, and effective May 21, 2003), the Department promulgated waivers and alternative requirements necessary to facilitate the use of the \$700 million in disaster recovery funds awarded to New York State's Empire State Development Corporation and the \$2.0 billion and \$783 million awarded to New York State's Lower Manhattan Development Corporation.

Eligibility waiver. This notice waives requirements at 42 U.S.C. 5305(a) to the extent necessary to allow new construction of housing, including affordable housing. HUD is taking this action because the grantee, after consultation with citizens, has determined that additional housing units will support its disaster recovery and economic revitalization efforts and is developing an Action Plan including an activity to support new housing construction.

RRG Program. This notice also modifies the published alternate requirements related to reports and documentation for the retail recovery grant (RRG) program implemented by Empire State Development Corporation in the immediate wake of the disaster. ESDC established the RRG immediately after September 11, 2001, in an effort to expedite financial assistance to those small retail businesses in lower Manhattan that were affected by the attack on the World Trade Center. The program provided grant funding to eligible businesses based on a percentage of their gross revenue figures, reflecting three days of business activity. Because this program was established so soon after the September 11, 2001, disaster, prior to New York State's award of HUD CDBG disaster assistance funding, ESDC did not collect all of the information that is now required by HUD for certain programs

implemented thereafter. The application for the RRG program collected information sufficient to meet core CDBG requirements related to a special economic development activity undertaken under the urgent need national objective, but the program was implemented so rapidly that it predated the additional requirements of the referenced notices related to documentation of salary ranges and job types. HUD approved the action plan containing the RRG activity and is now clarifying in this notice what documentation requirements apply.

The text below indicates the paragraphs being updated.

Description of Modifications

1. A new paragraph 21 is added to the requirements of the notice published on May 22, 2002 (67 FR 36017) by adding text to read as follows:

21. New construction of housing. Limitations of 42 U.S.C. 5305(a) are waived to the extent necessary to allow new construction of housing as an eligible use of funds.

2. Paragraph 1 of the notice published on May 16, 2003 (68 FR 26640), which modified Paragraphs 12 and 16 of the notice published on May 22, 2002 (67 FR 36017), is amended to read as follows:

12. Public benefit standards for economic development activities. Currently, grantees are limited in the amount of CDBG assistance they may spend per job retained or created, or per low- and moderate-income person to which goods or services are provided by the activity, that will be considered to meet public benefit standards. Public benefit standards at 42 U.S.C. 5305(e)(3) and 24 CFR 570.482(f)(1), (2), (3), (4)(i), (5), and (6) are waived, except that, the grantee shall report and maintain documentation on the creation and retention of (a) total jobs, (b) number of jobs within certain salary ranges, and (c) types of jobs. For the Bridge Loan program included in the Empire State Development Corporation's January 30, 2002, Action Plan and for the Retail Recovery Grant program, the grantee shall report and maintain public benefit documentation only on the total number of jobs created and retained. Paragraph (g) of 24 CFR 570.482, regarding amendments to economic development projects after review determinations, is also waived to the extent its provisions are related to public benefit.

16. Performance reports. Generally, grantees submit an annual performance report ninety days after the jurisdiction's program year. The conferees for Pub. L. 107-73 directed that HUD submit reports to the

Committees on Appropriations quarterly on the obligation and expenditure of the CDBG funds appropriated under the Emergency Response Fund. Therefore, 42 U.S.C. 12708(a)(1) and 24 CFR 91.520 are waived with respect to these funds, and HUD is establishing an alternative requirement that the State must submit a quarterly report, as HUD prescribes, no later than 30 days following each calendar quarter, beginning after the first full calendar quarter after grant award and continuing until all funds have been expended and that expenditure reported. Each quarterly report will include information on the project name, activity, location, national objective, funds budgeted and expended, Federal source and funds (other than CDBG disaster funds), numbers and North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes of businesses assisted by activity, total number of jobs created and retained by activity, numbers of such jobs by salary ranges (to be defined by HUD), numbers of properties and housing units assisted; for activities benefiting low- and moderate-income persons, the number of jobs taken by persons of low- and moderate-income, and numbers of low- and moderate-income households benefiting. For the Bridge Loan program included in the Empire State Development Corporation's January 30, 2002, Action Plan, and for the Retail Recovery Grant program, the grantee is not required to report by salary ranges on the numbers of created and retained jobs. Quarterly reports must be submitted using HUD's web-based Disaster Recovery Grant Reporting system. Annually (*i.e.*, with every fourth submission), the report shall include a financial reconciliation of funds budgeted and expended, and calculation of the status of administrative costs.

Section 434 of the FY 2002 HUD Appropriations Act requires HUD to publish these waivers in the **Federal Register** no later than five days before their effective date. The effective date of these waivers is April 19, 2004.

Dated: April 2, 2004.

Roy A. Bernardi,

Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development.

[FR Doc. 04-8138 Filed 4-9-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-29-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of final Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, Located in Noxubee, Oktibbeha, and Winston Counties, Mississippi.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service announces that a final Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge is available for distribution. The plan was prepared pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and describes how the refuge will be managed for the next 15 years. The compatibility determinations for recreational hunting, recreational fishing, wildlife observation and photography, environmental education and interpretation, forest habitat management, haying, and research and collections are also available within the plan.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the plan may be obtained by writing to the Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, 224 Office Road, Brooksville, Mississippi 39739. The plan may also be accessed and downloaded from the Service's Internet Web Site: <http://southeast.fws.gov/planning>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, located in east-central Mississippi, consists of 47,959 acres, of which 42,500 acres are in bottomland hardwood, upland hardwood, mixed pine/hardwood and pine forests. These forests support a variety of upland species including turkey, deer, and quail. The endangered red-cockaded woodpecker is found in the refuge's old-growth pine habitat. Many neotropical bird species benefit from refuge forests. Greentree reservoirs, natural ponds, and man-made impoundments provide important habitat for migratory birds, as well as wintering habitat for waterfowl and bald eagles. Annually, more than 150,000 visitors participate in refuge activities.

The availability of the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment for a 60-day public review and comment period was announced in the **Federal Register** on May 21, 2003, volume 68, number 98. The plan and environmental assessment identified and evaluated three alternatives for managing the refuge over the next 15 years. Alternative 1, the "no action" alternative, would have continued current management of the refuge. Alternative 2, the "preferred alternative" emphasized old growth forest communities, with increased emphasis on education and recreation

programs. Alternative 3 emphasized providing early successional forest habitat and increases in certain education and recreation programs.

Based on the environmental assessment and the comments received, Alternative 2, the "preferred alternative," was selected for implementation. It was selected because it best meets the purposes and goals of the refuge, as well as the goals of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The preferred alternative will also benefit the public by providing opportunities to learn about, enjoy, and appreciate fish and wildlife. The preferred alternative also emphasizes providing habitat for red-cockaded woodpeckers and forest nesting birds dependent on mature forests and adequate habitat for resident and migratory waterfowl. A comprehensive cultural resources' survey will be conducted under this alternative, and protection and interpretation of cultural resources will be improved.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Refuge Manager, Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, telephone: 662/323-5548; fax: 662/323-5806; e-mail: noxubee@fws.gov; or by writing to the Refuge Manager at the above address.

Authority: This notice is published under the authority of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, Public Law 105-57.

Dated: November 14, 2003.

J. Mitch King,

Acting Regional Director.

Editorial Note: This document was received in the Office of the Federal Register on April 7, 2004.

[FR Doc. 04-8191 Filed 4-9-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-670-1220-00 PD; G0-00]

Notice of Supplementary Rule for Public Lands in California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, El Centro Field Office, California Desert District, Interior.

ACTION: Camping closure of selected Federal lands, Imperial County, CA.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) El Centro Field Office is issuing a supplementary camping closure rule. This rule will apply to a portion of the public lands within the West Mesa adjacent to the Superstition Mountain Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) area. This rule is being