

the Small Business Centers listed in the preceding text.

Speakers Inquiries and requests for speakers should be directed to the Office of Communications (X), General Services Administration, Washington, DC 20405 (phone, 202-501-0705); or contact the nearest regional office.

For further information concerning the General Services Administration, contact the Office of Communications (X), General Services Administration, Washington, DC 20405. Phone, 202-501-0705. Internet, <http://www.gsa.gov/>.

INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION

901 North Stuart Street, Arlington, VA 22203
Phone, 703-841-3800

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The Inter-American Foundation is an independent Federal agency that supports social and economic development in Latin America and the Caribbean. It makes grants primarily to private, indigenous organizations that carry out self-help projects benefiting poor people.

The Inter-American Foundation (IAF) was created in 1969 (22 U.S.C. 290f) as an experimental U.S. foreign assistance program. IAF works in Latin America and the Caribbean to promote equitable, participatory, and sustainable self-help development by awarding grants directly to local organizations throughout the region. It also enters into partnerships with public and private sector entities to scale up support and mobilize local, national, and international resources for grassroots development. From all of its innovative funding experiences, the Foundation extracts lessons learned and best practices to share with other donors

and development practitioners throughout the hemisphere.

IAF is governed by a nine-person Board of Directors appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. Six members are drawn from the private sector and three from the Federal Government. The Board of Directors appoints the President of IAF.

Since 1972, IAF has made 4,157 grants totaling \$480 million. Its operating budget consists of congressional appropriations and funds derived through the Social Progress Trust Fund of the Inter-American Development Bank.

For further information, contact the Office of the President, Inter-American Foundation, 901 North Stuart Street, Arlington, VA 22203. Phone, 703-841-3810.

MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

1120 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20419
Phone, 202-653-7124. Internet, <http://www.mspb.gov/>.

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[For the Merit Systems Protection Board statement of organization, see the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Title 5, Part 1200]

The Merit Systems Protection Board protects the integrity of Federal merit systems and the rights of Federal employees working in the systems. In overseeing the personnel practices of the Federal Government, the Board conducts special studies of the merit systems, hears and decides charges of wrongdoing and employee appeals of adverse agency actions, and orders corrective and disciplinary actions when appropriate.

The Merit Systems Protection Board is a successor agency to the United States Civil Service Commission, established by act of January 16, 1883 (22 Stat. 403). Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1978 (5 U.S.C. app.), effective January 1, 1979, pursuant to Executive Order 12107 of December 28, 1978, redesignated part of

the Commission as the Merit Systems Protection Board. The Board's duties and authority are specified in 5 U.S.C. 1201-1210.

Activities

The Board has responsibility for hearing and adjudicating appeals by Federal