

• Number of jobs saved for the Center as a result of RCDG funding.

Reports are due as provided in paragraph 1 of this section. Supporting documentation must also be submitted for completed tasks. The supporting documentation for completed tasks includes, but is not limited to: Feasibility studies, marketing plans, business plans, publication quality success stories, applied research reports, copies of surveys conducted, articles of incorporation and bylaws and an accounting of how outreach, training, and other funds were expended.

3. Final project performance reports. These reports shall include all of the requirements of the semi-annual performance reports and responses to the following:

i. What have been the most challenging or unexpected aspects of this program?

ii. What advice would the Grantee give to other organizations planning a similar program? These should include strengths and limitations of the program. If the Grantee had the opportunity, what would they have done differently?

iii. If an innovative approach was used successfully, the Grantee should describe their program in detail so that other organizations might consider replication in their areas.

The final performance report is due within 90 days of the completion of the project.

## VII. Agency Contacts

For general questions about this announcement and for program technical assistance, applicants should contact their USDA Rural Development State Office at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/rcdg/Contacts.htm>. The State Office can be reached by calling (202) 720-4323 and pressing "1". If an applicant is unable to contact their State Office, please contact a nearby State Office or the USDA Rural Development National Office at 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Mail Stop 3250, Rm. 4016-South, Washington, DC 20250-3250, telephone: (202) 720-7558, e-mail: [cpgrants@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:cpgrants@wdc.usda.gov).

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (866) 632-9992 (voice) or (202) 401-0216 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Dated: January 31, 2008.

**Ben Anderson,**

*Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.*

[FR Doc. E8-2328 Filed 2-7-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Business-Cooperative Service

#### Announcement of Small, Minority Producer Grant Program Application Deadlines

**AGENCY:** Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of solicitation of applications.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Business-Cooperative Service announces the availability of approximately \$1.463 million in competitive grant funds for fiscal year (FY) 2008 for cooperatives and associations of cooperatives to assist small, minority agricultural producers. USDA Rural Development Cooperative Programs hereby requests proposals from eligible cooperatives and associations of cooperatives for a competitively awarded grant to fund technical assistance to small, minority agricultural producers in rural areas. The maximum award per grant is \$175,000.

**DATES:** Applications for grants must be submitted on paper or electronically according to the following deadlines:

Paper copies must be postmarked and mailed, shipped, or sent overnight no later than April 8, 2008, to be eligible for FY 2008 grant funding. Late applications are not eligible for FY 2008 grant funding.

Electronic copies must be received by April 8, 2008, to be eligible for FY 2008 grant funding. Late applications will not be eligible for FY 2008 grant funding.

**ADDRESSES:** Application materials for the Small, Minority Producers Grant Program (SMPG) may be obtained at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/smpg/smpg.htm> or by contacting the applicant's USDA Rural Development

State Office at (202) 720-4323 and pressing "1".

Submit electronic grant applications at <http://www.grants.gov>, following the instructions found on this Web site. Submit completed paper applications for a grant to the applicant's State Office as follows:

A list of Rural Development State Offices follows:

#### Alabama

USDA Rural Development, Sterling Centre, Suite 601, 4121 Carmichael Road, Montgomery, AL 36106-3683, (334) 279-3623.

#### Alaska

USDA Rural Development, 800 West Evergreen, Suite 201, Palmer, AK 99645-6539, (907) 761-7722.

#### Arizona

USDA Rural Development, 230 North First Avenue, Suite 206, Phoenix, AZ 85003-1706, (602) 280-8717.

#### Arkansas

USDA Rural Development, 700 West Capitol Avenue, Room 3416, Little Rock, AR 72201-3225, (501) 301-3280.

#### California

USDA Rural Development, 430 G Street, AGCY 4169, Davis, CA 95616, (530) 792-5829.

#### Colorado

USDA Rural Development, 655 Parfet Street, Room E-100, Lakewood, CO 80215, (720) 544-2903.

#### Delaware/Maryland

USDA Rural Development, 1221 College Park Drive, Suite 200, Dover, DE 19904, (302) 857-3580.

#### Florida/Virgin Islands

USDA Rural Development, 4440 NW. 25th Place, Gainesville, FL 32606, (352) 338-3482.

#### Georgia

USDA Rural Development, 111 East Spring St., Monroe, GA 30655, (770) 267-1413, Ext. 113.

#### Hawaii

USDA Rural Development, Federal Building, Room 311, 154 Waianuenue Avenue, Hilo, HI 96720, (808) 933-8313.

#### Idaho

USDA Rural Development, 9173 West Barnes Drive, Suite A1, Boise, ID 83709, (208) 378-5623.

#### Illinois

USDA Rural Development, 2118 West Park Court, Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821, (217) 403-6202.

#### Indiana

USDA Rural Development, 5975 Lakeside Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46278, (317) 290-3100.

*Iowa*

USDA Rural Development, 873 Federal Building, 210 Walnut Street, Des Moines, IA 50309, (515) 284-4714.

*Kansas*

USDA Rural Development, 1303 SW First American Place, Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66604-4040, (785) 271-2744.

*Kentucky*

USDA Rural Development, 771 Corporate Drive, Suite 200, Lexington, KY 40503, (859) 224-7435.

*Louisiana*

USDA Rural Development, 3727 Government St., Alexandria, LA 71302, (318) 473-7960.

*Maine*

USDA Rural Development, 967 Illinois Avenue, Suite 4, P.O. Box 405, Bangor, ME 04402-0405, (207) 990-9168.

*Massachusetts/Rhode Island/Connecticut*

USDA Rural Development, 451 West Street, Suite 2, Amherst, MA 01002-2999, (413) 253-4319.

*Michigan*

USDA Rural Development, 3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 200, East Lansing, MI 48823, (517) 324-5157.

*Minnesota*

USDA Rural Development, 375 Jackson St., Suite 410, St. Paul, MN 55101, (651) 602-7814.

*Mississippi*

USDA Rural Development, Federal Building, Suite 831, 100 West Capitol Street, Jackson, MS 39269, (601) 965-5457.

*Missouri*

USDA Rural Development, 601 Business Loop 70 West, Parkade Center, Suite 235, Columbia, MO 65203, (573) 876-9320.

*Montana*

USDA Rural Development, 900 Technology Blvd., Suite B, P.O. Box 850, Bozeman, MT 59771, (406) 585-2540.

*Nebraska*

USDA Rural Development, 100 Centennial Mall North, Room 152 Federal Building, Lincoln, NE 68508, (402) 437-5554.

*Nevada*

USDA Rural Development, 1390 S. Curry St., Carson City, NV 89703, (775) 887-1222, Ext. 19.

*New Jersey*

USDA Rural Development, 8000 Midlantic Drive, Suite 500N, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054, (856) 787-7753.

*New Mexico*

USDA Rural Development, 6200 Jefferson Street, NE, Room 255, Albuquerque, NM 87109, (505) 761-4952.

*New York*

USDA Rural Development, 441 S. Salina St., Suite 357, Syracuse, NY 13202, (315) 477-6400.

*North Carolina*

USDA Rural Development, 4405 Bland Road, Suite 260, Raleigh, NC 27609, (919) 873-2040.

*North Dakota*

USDA Rural Development, Federal Building, Room 208, 220 East Rosser Avenue, P.O. Box 1737, Bismarck, ND 58502-1737, (701) 530-2065.

*Ohio*

USDA Rural Development, Federal Building, Room 507, 200 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43215-2418, (614) 255-2425.

*Oklahoma*

USDA Rural Development, 100 USDA, Suite 108, Stillwater, OK 74074-2654, (405) 742-1036.

*Oregon*

USDA Rural Development, 1201 NE Lloyd Blvd., Suite 801, Portland, OR 97232-1274, (503) 414-3366.

*Pennsylvania*

USDA Rural Development, One Credit Union Place, Suite 330, Harrisburg, PA 17110-2996, (717) 237-2182.

*Puerto Rico*

USDA Rural Development, IBM Building, 654 Munoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 601, Hato Rey, PR 00918-6106, (787) 766-5091, Ext. 251.

*South Carolina*

USDA Rural Development, Strom Thurmond Federal Building, 1835 Assembly Street, Room 1007, Columbia, SC 29201, (803) 765-5881.

*South Dakota*

USDA Rural Development, Federal Building, Room 210, 200 4th Street, SW, Huron, SD 57350, (605) 352-1142.

*Tennessee*

USDA Rural Development, 3322 West End Avenue, Suite 300, Nashville, TN 37203-1084, (615) 783-1341.

*Texas*

USDA Rural Development, 101 South Main Street, Suite 102, Temple, TX 76501, (254) 742-9780.

*Utah*

USDA Rural Development, Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Room 4311, Salt Lake City, UT 84138, (801) 524-4328.

*Vermont/New Hampshire*

USDA Rural Development, City Center, 3rd Floor, 89 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05602, (802) 828-6069.

*Virginia*

USDA Rural Development, 1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 238, Richmond, VA 23229, (804) 287-1594.

*Washington*

USDA Rural Development, 1835 Black Lake Blvd. SW., Suite B, Olympia, WA 98512, (360) 704-7729.

*West Virginia*

USDA Rural Development, 75 High Street, Room 320, Morgantown, WV 26505-7500, (304) 252-8644, Ext. 146.

*Wisconsin*

USDA Rural Development, 4949 Kirschling Court, Stevens Point, WI 54481, (715) 345-7610.

*Wyoming*

USDA Rural Development, Dick Cheney Federal Building, 100 East B Street, Room 1005, P.O. Box 11005, Casper, WY 82602-5006, (307) 233-6700.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Visit the program Web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/smpg/smpg.htm> for application assistance or contact a USDA Rural Development State Office. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact their State Offices well in advance of the deadline to discuss their projects and ask any questions about the application process.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Overview**

*Federal Agency:* USDA Rural Business Cooperative Service.

*Funding Opportunity Title:* Small, Minority Producer Grant.

*Announcement Type:* Initial announcement.

*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:* 10.771.

**DATES:** Application Deadline:

Completed applications for grants may be submitted on paper or electronically according to the following deadlines:

Paper copies must be postmarked and mailed, shipped, or sent overnight no later than April 8, 2008, to be eligible for FY 2008 grant funding. Late applications are not eligible for FY 2008 grant funding.

Complete electronic copies must be received by April 8, 2008, to be eligible for FY 2008 grant funding. Late applications are not eligible for FY 2008 grant funding.

**I. Funding Opportunity Description**

This notice is issued pursuant to the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug and Related Agencies Appropriations Act 2008 that authorizes not to exceed \$1.463 million for cooperatives or associations of cooperatives whose primary focus is to provide assistance to small, minority producers and whose governing board and/or membership is comprised of at least 75 percent minority. The Secretary of Agriculture has delegated the

program's administration to USDA Rural Development Cooperative Programs.

The primary objective of this grant program is to provide technical assistance to small, minority agricultural producers through eligible minority cooperatives and minority associations of cooperatives. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. The maximum award amount per grant is \$175,000.

## Definitions

**Agency**—Rural Business-Cooperative Service, an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development or a successor agency.

**Agricultural Commodity**—An unprocessed product of farms, ranches, nurseries, and forests. Agricultural commodities include: livestock, poultry, and fish; fruits and vegetables; grains, such as wheat, barley, oats, rye, triticale, rice, corn, and sorghum; legumes, such as field beans and peas; animal feed and forage crops; seed crops; fiber crops, such as cotton; oil crops, such as safflower, sunflower, corn, and cottonseed; trees grown for lumber and wood products; nursery stock grown commercially; Christmas trees; ornamentals and cut flowers; and turf grown commercially for sod. Agricultural commodities do not include horses or animals raised as pets, such as cats, dogs, and ferrets.

**Cooperative Programs**—The office within USDA Rural Development, and its successor organization, that administers programs authorized by the Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926 (7 U.S.C. 451, *et seq.*) and such other programs identified in USDA regulations.

**Economic Development**—The economic growth of an area as evidenced by increase in total income, employment opportunities, decreased out-migration of population, value of production, increased diversification of industry, higher labor force participation rates, increased duration of employment, higher wage levels, or gains in other measurements of economic activity, such as land values.

**Feasibility Study**—An analysis of the economic, market, technical, financial, and management feasibility of a proposed Project.

**Minority**—Individuals who have been subjected to racial, ethnic, gender prejudice or cultural bias within American society because of their identities as members of groups and without regard to their individual qualities. Minority groups are Women, African Americans, American Indians,

Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian and Pacific Islanders.

**Minority Association of Cooperatives**—An association of cooperatives whose primary focus is to provide assistance to small, minority agricultural producers and where the governing board and/or membership is comprised of at least 75 percent minority.

**Minority Cooperative**—A farmer- or rancher-owned and -controlled business, organized and chartered as a cooperative, from which benefits are derived and distributed equitably on the basis of use by each of the farmer or rancher owners whose primary focus is to provide assistance to small, minority agricultural producers and where the governing board and/or membership is comprised of at least 75 percent minority.

**Operating Cost**—The day-to-day expenses of running a business; for example: utilities, rent, salaries, depreciation, product production costs, marketing and advertising, and other basic overhead items.

**Project**—Includes all activities to be funded by the Small Minority Agricultural Producer Grant and any matching funds.

**Small, Minority Agricultural Producer**—Minority persons or 100 percent minority-owned entities, including farmers, ranchers, loggers, agricultural harvesters, and fishermen, with gross annual sales of not more than \$250,000 that engage in the production or harvesting of an agricultural commodity.

**Rural and Rural Area**—Includes all of the territory of a State that is not within the outer boundary of any city or town having a population of 50,000 or more and the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to such city or town, as defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census using the latest decennial census of the United States.

**Rural Development**—A mission area within USDA consisting of the Office of Under Secretary for Rural Development, Rural Development Business and Cooperative Programs, Rural Development Housing Programs, and Rural Development Utilities Programs and their successors.

**State**—Includes each of the several States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and, as may be determined by the Secretary to be feasible, appropriate and lawful, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau.

**Technical Assistance**—An advisory service performed for the benefit of a small, minority agricultural producer such as market research; product and/or service improvement; legal advice and assistance; feasibility study, business plan, and marketing plan development; and training. Technical assistance does not include the operating costs of a cooperative being assisted.

## II. Award Information

**Type of Award:** Grant.

**Fiscal Year Funds:** FY 2008.

**Approximate Total Funding:** \$1.463 million.

**Approximate Number of Awards:** 8.

**Approximate Average Award:** \$175,000.

**Floor of Award Range:** None.

**Ceiling of Award Range:** \$175,000.

**Anticipated Award Date:** September 1, 2008.

**Budget Period Length:** 12 months.

**Project Period Length:** 12 months.

## III. Eligibility Information

### A. Eligible Applicants

Applicants must be a minority cooperative or a minority association of cooperatives as defined in this Notice, and must be able to verify their legal structure as a cooperative in the State in which they are incorporated. Individuals are not eligible for this program.

### B. Cost Sharing or Matching

No matching funds are required.

### C. Other Eligibility Requirements

**Use of Funds:** Funds may only be used for technical assistance projects as defined in this notice.

**Project Area Eligibility:** The Project proposed must take place in a rural area.

**Grant Period Eligibility:** If awarded, funds must be expended in 1 year. Applications must have a time frame of no more than 365 days with the time period beginning no earlier than October 1, 2008 and ending no later than December 31, 2009. Projects must be completed within the 1-year time frame. The Agency will not approve requests to extend the grant period. Applications that request funds for a time period ending after December 31, 2009, will not be considered for funding.

**Completeness Eligibility:** Applications lacking sufficient information to determine eligibility and scoring will be considered ineligible. Applications that are non-responsive to this notice will be considered ineligible.

**Multiple Grant Eligibility:** An applicant may not submit more than one

grant application in any one funding cycle.

**Activity Eligibility:** Applications must propose technical assistance, as defined in this notice, to benefit their members or other small minority agricultural producers who are not members, in order to be considered for funding. Applications having ineligible costs equaling more than 10 percent of total project costs will be determined ineligible and will not be considered for funding. Applications having ineligible costs of 10 percent or less of total project costs and which are selected for funding, must remove all ineligible costs from the budget and replace them with eligible activities or the amount of the grant award will be reduced accordingly. Applicants may not submit applications that duplicate current activities or activities paid for by other federally funded grant programs.

#### IV. Application and Submission Information

##### A. Address to Request Application Package

The application package for applying on paper for this funding opportunity can be obtained at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/smpg/smpg.htm>. Alternatively, applicants may contact their USDA Rural Development State Office using the above list. For electronic applications, applicants must visit <http://www.grants.gov> and follow the instructions.

##### B. Content and Form of Submission

Applications must be submitted on paper or electronically. An application guide may be viewed at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/smpg/smpg.htm>. It is recommended that applicants use the template provided on the Web site. The template can be filled out electronically and printed out for submission with the required forms for paper submission or it can be filled out electronically and submitted as an attachment through <http://www.grants.gov>.

If the application is submitted electronically, the applicant must follow the instructions given at the Internet address: <http://www.grants.gov>. Applicants are advised to visit the site well in advance of the application deadline if they plan to apply electronically to ensure that they have obtained the proper authentication and have sufficient computer resources to complete the application.

Applicants must complete and submit the following elements. The Agency will screen all applications for eligibility and

to determine whether the application is complete and sufficiently responsive to the requirements set forth in this notice to allow for an informed review. Information submitted as part of the application will be protected to the extent permitted by law.

1. **Form SF-424**, "Application for Federal Assistance." The form must be completed, signed and submitted as part of the application package.

Please note that applicants are required to have a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number. The DUNS number is a nine-digit identification number, which uniquely identifies business entities. There is no charge. To obtain a DUNS number, access <http://www.dnb.com/us/> or call 866-705-5711. For more information, see the SMPG Web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/smpg/smpg.htm> or by contacting the applicant's USDA Rural Development State Office. In addition to the DUNS number, an applicant must provide a legal Employment Identification Number.

2. **Form SF-424A**, "Budget Information-Non-Construction Programs." This form must be completed and submitted as part of the application package.

3. **Form SF-424B**, "Assurances—Non-Construction Programs." This form must be completed, signed, and submitted as part of the application package.

4. **Table of Contents.** For ease of locating information, each application must contain a detailed Table of Contents (TOC) immediately following the SF-424B. The TOC must include page numbers for each component of the application. Pagination should begin immediately following the TOC.

5. **Executive Summary:** A summary of the proposal, not to exceed one page, must briefly describe the project, tasks to be completed and other relevant information that provides a general overview of the project.

6. **Eligibility Discussion:** A detailed discussion, not to exceed four pages, must describe how the applicant meets the following requirements.

(i) **Applicant Eligibility:** Applicants must be minority cooperatives or minority associations of cooperatives and must describe how they meet the definition of a "minority cooperative" or "minority association of cooperative" as defined in the Definitions section of this Notice. Applicant must also verify their incorporation as a cooperative or an association of cooperatives in the State they have applied by providing the State's Certificate of Good Standing, and their Articles of Incorporation and By-

Laws. The applicant must apply as only one type of applicant.

(ii) **Use of Funds:** The applicant must provide a detailed discussion on how the proposed project activities meet the definition of technical assistance.

(iii) **Project Area:** The applicant must provide specific information on where the projects are planned to be located and that the areas meet the definition of "rural area."

(iv) **Grant Period:** The applicant must provide a time frame for the proposed project and discuss how the project will be completed within that time frame.

7. **Budget/Work plan:** The applicant must describe, in detail not to exceed four pages, the purpose of the grant, what type of assistance will be provided, and the total amount of funds needed to assist for each project. The budget must also present a breakdown of estimated costs associated with each task/activity for each project. The amount of grant funds requested will be adjusted if the applicant does not have justification for all costs.

8. **Evaluation Criteria:** Each of the evaluation criteria referenced in this notice must be addressed, specifically and individually on separate pages, in narrative form, not to exceed a total of two pages for each evaluation criteria. Failure to address each evaluation criteria will result in the application being determined ineligible.

##### C. Submission Dates and Times

**Application Deadline Date:** April 8, 2008.

**Explanation of Deadlines:** Paper applications must be postmarked and mailed, shipped, or sent overnight by the deadline date (see Section IV.F. for the address). Electronic applications must be received by <http://www.grants.gov> by the deadline date. Courier applications must be delivered by the deadline date. If the Applicant's application does not meet the deadline, it will not be considered for funding. Applicants will be notified if their application did not meet the submission deadline.

##### D. Intergovernmental Review of Applications

Executive Order (EO) 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, applies to this program. This EO requires that Federal agencies provide opportunities for consultation on proposed assistance with State and local governments. Many states have established a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to facilitate this consultation. A list of States that maintain an SPOC may be obtained at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/>

*spoc.html*. If your State has an SPOC, you may submit your application directly for review. Any comments obtained through the SPOC must be provided to Rural Development for consideration as part of your application. If your State has not established an SPOC or you do not want to submit your application, Rural Development will submit your application to the SPOC or other appropriate agency or agencies.

You are also encouraged to contact Cooperative Programs at 202-720-7558 or [cpgrants@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:cpgrants@wdc.usda.gov) if you have questions about this process.

#### E. Funding Restrictions

Grant funds must be used for technical assistance. No funds made available under this solicitation shall be used to:

1. Plan, repair, rehabilitate, acquire, or construct a building or facility, including a processing facility;
2. Purchase, rent, or install fixed equipment, including processing equipment;
3. Purchase vehicles, including boats;
4. Pay for the preparation of the grant application;
5. Pay expenses not directly related to the funded project;
6. Fund political or lobbying activities;
7. Fund any activities prohibited by 7 CFR parts 3015 and 3019;
8. Fund architectural or engineering design work for a specific physical facility;
9. Fund any direct expenses for the production of any commodity or product to which value will be added, including seed, rootstock, labor for harvesting the crop, and delivery of the commodity to a processing facility;
10. Fund research and development;
11. Purchase land;
12. Duplicate current services or replace or substitute support previously provided;
13. Pay costs of the project incurred prior to the date of grant approval;
14. Pay for assistance to any private business enterprise, which does not have at least 51 percent ownership by those who are either citizens of the United States or reside in the United States after being legally admitted for permanent residence;
15. Pay any judgment or debt owed to the United States;
16. Pay the operating costs of cooperative and/or association of cooperatives; or
17. Pay expenses for applicant employee training.

#### F. Other Submission Requirements

Applicants may submit their paper application for a grant to their Rural Development State Office listed under the **ADDRESSES** section. Applicants may submit their application electronically at <http://www.grants.gov>. Applications may not be submitted by electronic mail, facsimile, or hand-delivery. Each application submission must contain all required documents in one envelope, if sent by mail or express delivery service.

#### V. Application Scoring Criteria Review Information

##### A. Criteria

All eligible and complete applications will be evaluated based upon the following criteria. Failure to address any one of the following criteria by the application deadline will result in the application being determined ineligible and the application will not be considered for funding. The total points possible for the criteria are 50. Any application receiving less than 30 total points will not be funded.

1. *Technical Assistance*. (0–15 points) The application will be evaluated to determine the applicant's ability to assess the needs of small minority producers, plan and conduct appropriate and effective assistance, and identify the expected outcomes of that assistance.

(i) 0 points will be awarded if the applicant does not substantively address this criterion.

(ii) 1–4 points will be awarded if the applicant demonstrates weakness in addressing this criterion.

(iii) 5–10 points will be awarded if the applicant demonstrates they meet part but not all of the criterion.

(iv) 15 points will be awarded if the applicant identifies specific needs of the minority producers to be assisted; clearly articulates a logical and detailed plan of assistance for addressing those needs; and discusses realistic outcomes of planned assistance.

2. *Experience*. (0–15 points) Points will be awarded based upon length of experience of identified staff or consultants in providing technical assistance, as defined in this notice. Applicants must describe the specific type of technical assistance experience for each identified staff member or consultant, as well as years of experience in providing that assistance. In addition, resumes for each individual staff member or consultant must be included as an attachment, listing their experience for the type of technical assistance proposed. The attachments will not count toward the maximum page total. The Agency will compare the

described experience to the work plan to determine relevance of experience.

(i) 0 points will be awarded if the staff or consultants demonstrate no relevant experience in providing technical assistance;

(ii) 5 points will be awarded if at least one of the identified staff or consultants demonstrates more than two years of experience in providing relevant technical assistance;

(iii) 10 points will be awarded if at least one of the identified staff or consultants demonstrates 5 or more years of experience in providing relevant technical assistance; or

(iv) 15 points will be awarded if all of the identified staff or consultants demonstrate 5 or more years of experience in providing relevant technical assistance.

3. *Commitment*. (0–15 points) The Agency will evaluate the applicant's commitment to providing technical assistance to minority producers in rural areas. Points will be awarded based upon the number of agricultural, minority producers being assisted. Applicants must list the number and location of small, minority agricultural producers that will directly benefit from the assistance provided.

(i) 0 points will be awarded if the applicant does not substantively address this criterion.

(ii) 5 points will be awarded if the proposed project will benefit 1–10 producers;

(iii) 10 points will be awarded if the proposed project will benefit 11–50 producers; or

(iv) 15 points will be awarded if the proposed project will benefit more than 50 producers.

4. *Local support*. (0–5 points) Applications will be reviewed for local support for the technical assistance activities of the cooperative. Applicants that demonstrate strong support from potential beneficiaries and other developmental organizations will receive more points than those not evidencing such support.

(i) 0 points will be awarded if the applicant does not substantively address this criterion.

(ii) 1 point will be awarded if the applicant provides or references 2–3 support letters that demonstrate substantive support from potential beneficiaries and/or support from local organizations.

(iii) 2 points will be awarded if the applicant provides or references 4–5 support letters that demonstrate substantive support from potential beneficiaries and/or support from local organizations.

(iv) 3 points will be awarded if the applicant provides or references 6–7 support letters that demonstrate substantive support from potential beneficiaries and/or support from local organizations.

(v) 4 points will be awarded if the applicant provides or references 8–9 support letters that demonstrate substantive support from potential beneficiaries and/or support from local organizations.

(vi) 5 points will be awarded if the applicant provides or references 10 support letters that demonstrate substantive support from potential beneficiaries and/or support from local organizations.

The applicant may submit a maximum of 10 letters of support. These letters should be included as an attachment to the application and will not count against the maximum page total. Additional letters from industry groups, commodity groups, local and state government, and similar organizations should be referenced, but not included in the application package. When referencing these letters, provide the name of the organization, date of the letter, the nature of the support, and the name and title of the person signing the letter.

#### *B. Review and Selection Process*

The Agency will screen all proposals to determine whether the application is eligible and sufficiently responsive to the requirements set forth in this notice to allow for an informed review. Applications will be screened for eligibility and scored by the State Offices, then submitted to the National Office for review and ranking. The National Office will review the scores based upon the point allocation specified in this notice. Applications will be funded in scoring rank order and will be submitted to the Administrator in rank order with funding level recommendations. The Administrator will break scoring ties based on Agency priorities.

#### *C. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates*

**Award Date:** The announcement of award selections is expected to occur on or about September 1, 2008.

### **VI. Award Administration Information**

#### *A. Award Notices*

Successful applicants will receive a notification of tentative selection for funding from Rural Development. Applicants must comply with all applicable statutes, regulations, and this notice before the grant award will receive final approval.

Unsuccessful applicants will receive notification, including appeal rights, by mail.

#### *B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements*

7 CFR parts 3015, 3019, and subparts A and F of part 7 CFR 4284 are applicable to grants made under this notice. These regulations may be obtained at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html>.

The following additional requirements apply to grantees selected for this program:

- Agency approved Grant Agreement.
- Letter of Conditions.
- Form RD 1940–1, “Request for Obligation of Funds.”
- Form RD 1942–46, “Letter of Intent to Meet Conditions.”
- Form AD–1047, “Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters—Primary Covered Transactions.”
- Form AD–1048, “Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion—Lower Tier Covered Transactions.”
- Form AD–1049, “Certification Regarding a Drug-Free Workplace Requirements (Grants).”
- Form RD 400–4, “Assurance Agreement.”

Additional information on these requirements can be found at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/smpg/smpg.htm>.

**Fund Disbursement:** The Agency will determine, based on 7 CFR Parts 3015, 3016 and 3019, as applicable, whether disbursement of a grant will be by advance or reimbursement. As needed, but not more frequently than once every 30 days, an original of SF–270, “Request for Advance or Reimbursement,” may be submitted to Rural Development. Recipient’s request for advance shall not be made in excess of reasonable outlays for the month covered.

**Reporting Requirements:** Grantees must provide Rural Development with an original or an electronic copy that includes all required signatures of the following reports. The reports should be submitted to the Agency contact listed on the Grant Agreement and Letter of Conditions. Failure to submit satisfactory reports on time may result in suspension or termination of the grant. Grantees will submit:

1. *Form SF–269 or SF–269A*. A “Financial Status Report,” listing expenditures according to agreed upon budget categories, on a semi-annual basis. Reporting periods end each March 31 and September 30. Reports are due 30 days after the reporting period ends.
2. Semi-annual performance reports comparing accomplishments to the

objectives stated in the proposal, identifying all tasks completed to date and providing documentation supporting the reported results. If the original schedule provided in the work plan is not being met, the report should discuss the problems or delays that may affect completion of the Project. Objectives for the next reporting period should be listed. Compliance with any special condition on the use of award funds must be discussed. Reports are due as provided in paragraph (1) of this section. Supporting documentation must also be submitted for completed tasks. The supporting documentation for completed tasks includes, but is not limited to, feasibility studies, marketing plans, business plans, articles of incorporation, and bylaws as they relate to the assistance provided.

3. Final project performance reports comparing accomplishments to the objectives stated in the proposal, identifying all tasks completed, and providing documentation supporting the reported results. If the original schedule provided in the work plan was not met, the report must discuss the problems or delays that affected completion of the project. Compliance with any special condition on the use of award funds must be discussed. Supporting documentation for completed tasks must also be submitted. The supporting documentation for completed tasks includes, but is not limited to, feasibility studies, marketing plans, business plans, articles of incorporation, and bylaws as they relate to the assistance provided. The final performance report is due within 90 days of the completion of the project. The report must also include a summary at the end of the report with the number of small minority agricultural producers assisted to assist in documenting the annual performance goals of the SMPG program for Congress.

### **VII. Agency Contacts**

For general questions about this announcement and for program technical assistance, please contact the appropriate State Office as indicated in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

### **VIII. Non-Discrimination Statement**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all

prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Dated: January 31, 2008.

**Ben Anderson,**

*Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.*

[FR Doc. E8-2327 Filed 2-7-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

## COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

### Procurement List; Additions

**AGENCY:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

**ACTION:** Additions to the Procurement List.

**SUMMARY:** This action adds to the Procurement List products and a service to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* March 9, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Jefferson Plaza 2, Suite 10800, 1421 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3259.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kimberly M. Zeich, Telephone: (703) 603-7740, Fax: (703) 603-0655, or e-mail [CMTEFedReg@jwod.gov](mailto:CMTEFedReg@jwod.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On December 7 and December 14, 2007, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notice (72 FR 69181; 71114) of proposed additions to the Procurement List.

After consideration of the material presented to it concerning capability of qualified nonprofit agencies to provide the products and services and impact of the additions on the current or most recent contractors, the Committee has determined that the products and services listed below are suitable for procurement by the Federal Government under 41 U.S.C. 46-48c and 41 CFR 51-2.4.

## Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the products and service to the Government.

2. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the products and service to the Government.

3. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the products and service proposed for addition to the Procurement List.

### End of Certification

Accordingly, the following products and service are added to the Procurement List:

#### Products

Brush, Dish, Ergo, Soap Squirting & Refill

NSN: M.R. 871

NSN: M.R. 872

NPA: Cincinnati Association for the Blind, Cincinnati, OH

*Coverage:* C-List for the requirements of the Defense Commissary Agency, Fort Lee, VA

*Contracting Activity:* Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA), Fort Lee, VA

Liner, Low Density, Linear

NSN: 8105-00-NIB-1292

NPA: Envision, Inc., Wichita, KS

*Coverage:* C-List for the requirements of the Defense Commissary Agency, Fort Lee, VA

*Contracting Activity:* Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA), Fort Lee, VA

Folder, Classification, Pressboard

NSN: 7530-00-NIB-0824—Legal Size—1

Divider/4 Part—Earth Red.

NSN: 7530-00-NIB-0825—Legal Size—1

Divider/4 Part—Light Green.

NPA: Georgia Industries for the Blind, Bainbridge, GA.

*Coverage:* A-List for the total Government requirements as specified by the General Services Administration.

*Contracting Activity:* General Services Administration, Office Supplies & Paper Products Acquisition Ctr, New York, NY.

#### Service

*Service Type/Location:* Custodial Services, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Facility-Wide, Gaithersburg, MD.

NPA: Didlake, Inc., Manassas, VA.

*Contracting Activity:* National Institutes of Standards & Technology, Gaithersburg, VA.

This action does not affect current contracts awarded prior to the effective

date of this addition or options that may be exercised under those contracts.

**Kimberly M. Zeich,**

*Director, Program Operations.*

[FR Doc. E8-2367 Filed 2-7-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6353-01-P

## COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

### Procurement List; Proposed additions and deletions

**ACTION:** Proposed additions to and deletions from the Procurement List.

**SUMMARY:** The Committee is proposing to add to the Procurement List services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities, and to delete products and a service previously furnished by such agencies.

*Comments Must be Received On or Before:* March 9, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Jefferson Plaza 2, Suite 10800, 1421 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia, 22202-3259.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kimberly M. Zeich, Telephone: (703) 603-7740, Fax: (703) 603-0655, or e-mail [CMTEFedReg@jwod.gov](mailto:CMTEFedReg@jwod.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

This notice is published pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 47(a) (2) and 41 CFR 51-2.3. Its purpose is to provide interested persons an opportunity to submit comments on the proposed actions.

#### Additions:

If the Committee approves the proposed additions, the entities of the Federal Government identified in this notice for each service will be required to procure the services listed below from nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

## Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. If approved, the action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the services to the Government.

2. If approved, the action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the services to the Government.