

(D) Whether undue hardship will result, either to the grantee or to the person affected, when weighed against the public interest served by avoiding the prohibited conflict; and

(E) Any other relevant considerations.

(5) *Circumstances under which the conflict prohibition does not apply.* (i) In instances where a person who might otherwise be deemed to be included under the conflict prohibition is a member of a group or class of beneficiaries of the assisted activity and receives generally the same interest or benefits as are being made available or provided to the group or class, the prohibition does not apply, except that if, by not applying the prohibition against conflict of interest, a violation of tribal (or State) laws on conflict of interest would result, the prohibition does apply.

(ii) A public disclosure of the nature of the grant assistance to be provided and the specific basis for the selection of the proposed beneficiaries must be made prior to the submission of an application to HUD. Evidence of this disclosure must be provided as a component of the application.

(i) *Debarment and suspension.* As required by 24 CFR part 24, each grantee must require participants in lower tier covered transactions (e.g., sub-contractors) to include the certification in appendix B of 24 CFR part 24 (that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation from the covered transaction) in any proposal submitted in connection with the lower tier transactions. A grantee may rely on the certification, unless it knows the certification is erroneous.

Subpart B—Applying for Assistance

§ 954.100 General.

For each fiscal year, HUD will provide funds for the Indian HOME program, totaling one percent (or such other percentage or amount as authorized by Congress) of the amount appropriated for the HOME program to expand the supply of affordable housing. The funds will be awarded competitively and will be made available pur-

suant to a NOFA published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, in accordance with the requirements of this part.

§ 954.101 Allocation of funds.

Unless HUD determines for administrative convenience based on the amount of HOME funds available to hold a nationwide competition, HOME funds will be allocated to the HUD Area ONAPs responsible for the Indian HOME program competition based upon relative need for housing as measured by the most recent and reliable data available.

§ 954.102 Eligible applicants.

(a) Eligible applicants for HOME funds for Indian tribes are any Indian Tribe, band, group, or nation, including Alaskan Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos, and any Alaska native village of the United States which is considered an eligible recipient under Title I of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450). Eligible recipients under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act are determined by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(b) Tribal organizations which are eligible under Title I of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act may apply for funds on behalf of any Indian Tribe, band, group, nation, or Alaska native village eligible under that Act when one or more of these entities have authorized the tribal organization to do so through concurring resolutions. Such resolutions must accompany the application for funding. Eligible tribal organizations under Title I of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act will be determined by the Bureau of Indian Affairs or Indian Health Service, as appropriate.

(c) Only eligible applicants shall receive grants. However, eligible applicants may contract or otherwise agree with non-eligible entities such as States, cities, counties, or other organizations to assist in the preparation of applications and to help implement assisted activities.

(d) To apply for funding in a given fiscal year, an applicant must be eligible as an Indian Tribe or Alaska native village, as provided in paragraph (a) of

this section, or as a tribal organization, as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, by the application submission date.

§ 954.103 Housing strategy.

Grantees are not required to submit a housing strategy to receive HOME funds. However, the application must demonstrate how the proposed project(s) will contribute to a comprehensive approach for expanding the supply of affordable housing for members of the Indian tribe.

§ 954.104 Performance thresholds.

Applicants must have the administrative capacity to undertake the project proposed, including systems of internal control necessary to administer these projects effectively. In addition, an applicant that has participated in the HOME program must have performed adequately. In cases of previously documented deficient performance, the applicant must have taken appropriate corrective action to improve its performance prior to submitting a HOME application to HUD. The Area ONAP will determine whether or not a grantee is eligible to participate in a particular funding round. Examples of deficient performance may include unresolved serious audit findings and failure to initiate a previous grant.

§ 954.105 Criteria for selection.

There are four categories of projects that may be funded under the HOME Indian program: housing rehabilitation; acquisition of housing; new housing construction; and tenant-based rental assistance. Each project must be evaluated using the following three criteria:

(a) *Project need and design.* The degree to which the proposed project addresses the housing need(s) of the grantee as identified in the application, and the degree to which the proposed project is feasible while maximizing benefits to low-income families.

(b) *Planning and implementation.* The degree to which the financial, administrative, and legal actions necessary to undertake the proposed project have been considered and addressed in the application, and the degree to which the grantee has the administrative

staff to carry out the project successfully.

(c) *Leveraging.* The degree to which other sources of assistance, including mortgage insurance, State funds, other Federal grants, and private contributions, are used in conjunction with HOME funds to carry out the proposed project.

§ 954.106 Announcement of competition.

A NOFA will describe the maximum points for each of the selection criteria and any special factors to be evaluated in awarding points under the selection factors. The NOFA will also state the deadline for the submission of applications, the total funding available for the competition and any maximum amount of individual awards.

[Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under OMB control number 2577-0191]

§ 954.107 Grant conditions.

HUD may impose reasonable conditions on grant awards.

§ 954.108 Project amendment.

(a) Grantees shall request prior HUD approval for all project amendments.

(b) HUD can approve an amendment to a project if:

(1) The amendment is due to factors beyond the control of the grantee; and

(2) The request for approval for a project amendment which involves \$100,000 or more includes all application components required by the NOFA published for the last application cycle (not necessarily the year in which the project was rated and ranked) and the modified project scores high enough to have been funded in the competition for the last application cycle. A rating equal to or greater than the lowest rating received by a funded project during the last rating cycle must be attained by the modified project. The request for approval of an amendment for a project which involves less than \$100,000 does not have to include the components which address the selection criteria. It does require a description of and the reason for the modification.

(c) Approval of an amendment request is subject to the following: