

labor are potentially available domestically and sufficiently familiar with installation procedures and practices, and spare parts and service are available in the U.S. to properly maintain and operate the system. Any warranties would have to be valid in the U.S.

Information required to be in the grant application package is contained in 7 CFR 4280.111. Awards are made on a competitive basis using specific evaluation criteria contained in 7 CFR 4280.112(e). To ensure that projects are accurately scored by USDA, applicants are requested to tab and number each evaluation criteria and include in that section, its corresponding supporting documentation and calculations according to 7 CFR 4280.112. Only projects that have completed the environmental review process according to 7 CFR 4280.114(d), demonstrated project eligibility according to 7 CFR 4280.108, and demonstrated technical feasibility will be eligible for funding consideration.

State Offices will submit eligible grant funding requests, with the State Office executed score sheets, including supporting documentation to the National Office for funding consideration.

To reduce scoring bias by technology and scale, a standard statistical normalization process will be applied to all competitive grant application scores. All applicants will be notified by the USDA Rural Development State Offices of the Agency's decision on the awards.

Information required to be in the guaranteed loan application and the combination guaranteed loan and grant application package is contained in 7 CFR 4280.128 and 7 CFR 4280.193(c), respectively. Guaranteed loan applications are received and processed on a rolling basis until funds are exhausted. Combined guaranteed loans and grant packages compete bi-weekly at the national level and are awarded on a bi-weekly basis until funds are exhausted. All applicants will be notified by the USDA Rural Development State Offices in regards to the Agency's decision on their application.

This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under Number 10.775 and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials.

USDA is participating as a partner in the government-wide Grants.gov site. Applicants may submit grant-only applications to the Agency in either electronic or paper format. Please be

mindful that the application deadline for electronic format differs from the deadline for paper format. The electronic format deadline will be based on Washington, DC time. The paper format deadline is local time for each USDA Rural Development State Office.

Users of Grants.gov will be able to download a copy of the application package, complete it off line, and then upload and submit the application via the Grants.gov site. You may not e-mail an electronic copy of a grant application to USDA Rural Development; however, the Agency encourages your participation in Grants.gov.

- When you enter the Grants.gov site, you will find information about submitting an application electronically through the site as well as the hours of operation. USDA Rural Development strongly recommends that you do not wait until the application deadline date to begin the application process through Grants.gov. To use Grants.gov, applicants must have a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number which can be obtained at no cost via a toll-free request line at 1-866-705-5711 or online at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>.

- You may submit all documents electronically through the Web site, including all information typically included on the application for Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program, and all necessary assurances and certifications. After electronically submitting an application through the Web site, the applicant will receive an automatic acknowledgement from Grants.gov that contains a Grants.gov tracking number.

- USDA Rural Development may request that the applicant provide original signatures on forms at a later date.

- If applicants experience technical difficulties on the closing date and are unable to meet the 5 p.m. (Washington, DC time) deadline, print out your application and submit it to your respective State Office. If applicants submit applications to a State Office, applicants must meet the closing date and local time deadlines.

Applicants may access the electronic grant application for Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program at <http://www.Grants.gov>.

Please note that applicants must locate the downloadable application package for this program by the CFDA Number or FedGrants Funding Opportunity Number, which can be found at <http://www.Grants.gov>.

Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, the paperwork burden has been cleared by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control Number 0570-0050.

Nondiscrimination Statement

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, employer, and lender."

Dated: March 8, 2007.

Ben Anderson,

Acting Administrator, Rural Business—Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. E7-5198 Filed 3-21-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

ARCTIC RESEARCH COMMISSION

[USARC 07-029]

Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: United States Arctic Research Commission.

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Arctic Research Commission will hold its 83rd meeting in Washington, DC on April 16-17, 2007. The Business Session, open to the public, will convene at 8:30 a.m. Monday, April 16, 2007 in Washington, DC. An Executive Session will follow adjournment of the Business Session.

The Agenda items include:

(1) Call to order and approval of the Agenda.

(2) Approval of the Minutes of the 82nd Meeting.

(3) Reports from Congressional Liaisons.

(4) Agency Reports.

The focus of the meeting will be reports and updates on programs and research projects affecting the Arctic.

Any person planning to attend this meeting who requires special accessibility features and/or auxiliary aids, such as sign language interpreters, must inform the Commission in advance of those needs.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: John Farrell, Executive Director, U.S. Arctic Research Commission, 703-525-0111 or TDD 703-306-0090.

Dated: March 13, 2007.

John Farrell,

Executive Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Economic Development Administration

[Docket No.: 070309052-7053-01]

Solicitation of Proposals and Applications for Economic Development Assistance Programs

AGENCY: Economic Development Administration (EDA), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice and request for proposals and applications.

SUMMARY: The Economic Development Administration (EDA) is soliciting proposals or applications (as appropriate) for the following programs authorized by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 *et seq.*) (PWEDA): (1) Public Works and Economic Development Investments Program, (2) Planning Program, (3) Local Technical Assistance Program, and (4) Economic Adjustment Assistance Program. EDA's mission is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. In implementing this mission pursuant to its authorizing statute, PWEDA, EDA advances economic growth by assisting communities and regions experiencing chronic high unemployment and low per capita income to create an environment that fosters innovation, promotes entrepreneurship, and attracts increased private capital investment. Under the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2341-2391) (Trade Act), EDA also provides technical assistance to firms adversely affected by increased import competition.

DATES: Proposals are accepted on a continuing basis and applications are invited and processed as received. Generally, two months are required for EDA to reach a final decision after

receipt of a complete application that meets all requirements. Proposals or applications (as appropriate) received after the date of this notice will be processed in accordance with the requirements set forth herein and in the related Federal funding opportunity (FFO) announcement, until the next annual FFO is posted on <http://www.Grants.gov> and related notice and request for proposals and applications is published in the **Federal Register**.

Pre-Application and Application Submission Requirements

Proponents are advised to carefully read the instructions contained in the complete FFO announcement for this request for proposals and applications, and in the *Pre-Application for Investment Assistance* (Form ED-900P) and *Application for Investment Assistance* (Form ED-900A). The requirements of the pre-application are different than the requirements of the application. The content of the pre-application or the application (as appropriate) is the same for paper submissions as it is for electronic submissions. EDA will not accept facsimile transmissions of pre-applications and applications.

Proposals under EDA's Public Works Program (CFDA No. 11.300) or Economic Adjustment Assistance Program (CFDA No. 11.307) must be submitted on Form ED-900P, which may be submitted in two formats: (i) In paper (hardcopy) format at the applicable regional office address provided below; or (ii) electronically in accordance with the procedures provided on <http://www.Grants.gov>.

For projects under EDA's Planning Program (CFDA No. 11.302) or Technical Assistance Program (CFDA No. 11.303), please contact the appropriate EDA regional office listed below for instructions as to whether you should complete a pre-application or an application. In the case of a continuation grant, no pre-application is required.

The following forms may be accessed and downloaded as follows: (i) Forms ED-900P and ED-900A at <http://www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/Application.xml>; (ii) Standard Forms (SF) at either <http://www.Grants.gov> or at <http://www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/Application.xml>; and (iii) Department of Commerce (CD) forms at <http://www.doc.gov/forms>.

Addresses and Telephone Numbers for EDA's Regional Offices: Applicants in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee, may submit paper submissions to:

Economic Development Administration, Atlanta Regional Office, 401 West Peachtree Street, NW., Suite 1820, Atlanta, Georgia 30308, Telephone: (404) 730-3002, Fax: (404) 730-3025.

Applicants in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, may submit paper submissions to:

Economic Development Administration, Austin Regional Office, 504 Lavaca, Suite 1100, Austin, Texas 78701-2858, Telephone: (512) 381-8144, Fax: (512) 381-8177.

Applicants in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin, may submit paper submissions to:

Economic Development Administration, Chicago Regional Office, 111 North Canal Street, Suite 855, Chicago, Illinois 60606, Telephone: (312) 353-7706, Fax: (312) 353-8575.

Applicants in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming, may submit paper submissions to:

Economic Development Administration, Denver Regional Office, 1244 Speer Boulevard, Room 670, Denver, Colorado 80204, Telephone: (303) 844-4715, Fax: (303) 844-3968.

Applicants in Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont, U.S. Virgin Islands, Virginia and West Virginia, may submit paper submissions to:

Economic Development Administration, Philadelphia Regional Office, Curtis Center, 601 Walnut Street, Suite 140 South, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106, Telephone: (215) 597-4603, Fax: (215) 597-1063.

Applicants in Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, California, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nevada, Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon, Republic of Palau and Washington, may submit paper submissions to:

Economic Development Administration, Seattle Regional Office, Jackson Federal Building, Room 1890, 915 Second Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98174, Telephone: (206) 220-7660, Fax: (206) 220-7669.

Paper Submissions: To apply for Public Works or Economic Adjustment Assistance under this notice, you may submit a proposal on a completed pre-application (ED-900P) to the applicable EDA regional office listed above. Proponents choosing this option should