Date: March 30–April 1, 1998.

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor, Pratt and Eutaw Streets, Baltimore, Maryland 77840.

Contact Person: Dr. Linda Bass, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, P.O. Box 12233, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, (919) 541–1307.

Purpose/Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

These meetings will be closed in accordance with the provisions set forth in secs. 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5, U.S.C. Grant applications and/or proposals and the discussions could reveal confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material and personal information concerning individuals associated with the applications and/or proposals, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Programs Nos. 93.113, Biological Response to Environmental Agents; 93.114, Applied Toxicological Research and Testing; 93.115, Biometry and Risk Estimation; 93.894, Resource and Manpower Development, National Institutes of Health)

Dated: February 10, 1998.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Committee Management Officer, NIH.

[FR Doc. 98–3877 Filed 2–13–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Refugee Resettlement Program; Proposed Availability of Formula Allocation Funding for FY 1998 Targeted Assistance Grants for Services to Refugees in Local Areas of High Need

AGENCY: Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), ACF, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of proposed availability of formula allocation funding for FY 1998 targeted assistance grants to States for services to refugees [1] in local areas of high need.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the proposed availability of funds and award procedures for FY 1998 targeted assistance grants for services to refugees under the Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP). These grants are for service provision in localities with large refugee populations, high refugee concentrations, and high use of public assistance, and where specific needs exist for supplementation of currently available resources.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by March 19, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Address written comments, in duplicate, to: Toyo Biddle, Director, Division of Refugee Self-Sufficiency, Office of Refugee Resettlement, Administration for Children and Families, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW, Washington, DC 20447.

Application Deadline: The deadline for applications will be established by the final notice; applications should not be sent in response to this notice of proposed allocations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Toyo Biddle (202) 401–9250.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Purpose and Scope

This notice announces the proposed availability of funds for grants for targeted assistance for services to refugees in counties where, because of factors such as unusually large refugee populations, high refugee concentrations, and high use of public assistance, there exists and can be demonstrated a specific need for supplementation of resources for services to this population.

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) has available $49,477,000 in FY 1998 funds for the targeted assistance program (TAP) as part of the FY 1998 appropriation for the Department of Health and Human Services (Pub. L. No. 105–78).

The Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) proposes to use the $49,477,000 in targeted assistance funds as follows:

- $35,371,300 will be allocated to States under the 5-year population formula, as set forth in this notice.
- $14,105,700 will be used to award discretionary grants to States under separate grant announcements, including TAP 10% grants and as well as other discretionary grants.

In addition, the Office of Refugee Resettlement will have available an additional $5,000,000 in FY 1998 funds for the targeted assistance discretionary program through the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1998 (Pub. L. No. 105–118). These funds will augment the 10-percent of the targeted assistance program which is set-aside for grants to localities most heavily impacted by the influx of refugees such as Laotian Hmong, Cambodians and Soviet Pentecostals, including secondary migrants who entered the United States after October 1, 1979.

The purpose of targeted assistance grants is to provide, through a process of local planning and implementation, direct services intended to result in the economic self-sufficiency and reduced welfare dependency of refugees through job placements.

The targeted assistance program reflects the requirements of section 412(c)(2)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), which provides that targeted assistance grants shall be made available ''(i) primarily for the purpose of facilitating refugee employment and achievement of self-sufficiency, (ii) in a manner that does not supplant other refugee program funds and that assures that not less than 95 percent of the amount of the grant award is made available to the county or other local entity.''

II. Authorization

Targeted assistance projects are funded under the authority of section 412(c)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), as amended by the Refugee Assistance Extension Act of 1986 (Pub. L. No. 99–605), 8 U.S.C. 1522(c); section 501(a) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980 (Pub. L. No. 96–433), 8 U.S.C. 1522 note, insofar as it incorporates by reference with respect to Cuban and Haitian entrants the authorities pertaining to assistance for refugees established by section 412(c)(2) of the INA, as cited above; section 584(c) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1988, as included in the FY 1988 Continuing Resolution (Pub. L. No. 100–202), insofar as it incorporates by reference with respect to certain Amerasians from Vietnam the authorities pertaining to assistance for refugees established by section 412(c)(2) of the INA, as cited above, including certain Amerasians from Vietnam who are U.S. citizens, as provided under title II of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Acts, 1989 (Pub. L. No. 100–461), 1990 (Pub. L. No. 101–167), and 1991 (Pub. L. No. 101–513).

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[1] In addition to persons who meet all requirements of 45 CFR 400.43, ''Requirements for documentation of refugee status,'' eligibility for targeted assistance includes Cuban and Haitian entrants, certain Amerasians from Vietnam who are admitted to the U.S. as immigrants, and certain Amerasians from Vietnam who are U.S. citizens. (See section II of this notice on ''Authorization.'') The term ''refugee'', used in this notice for convenience, is intended to encompass such additional persons who are eligible to participate in refugee program services, including the targeted assistance program.

Refugees admitted to the U.S. under admissions numbers set aside for private-sector-initiative admissions are not eligible to be served under the targeted assistance program (or under other programs supported by Federal refugee funds) during their period of coverage under their sponsoring agency's agreement with the Department of State—usually two years from their date of arrival, or until the obtain permanent resident alien status, whichever comes first.

III. Client and Service Priorities

Targeted assistance funding must be used to assist refugee families to achieve economic independence. To this end, States and counties are required to ensure that a coherent family self-sufficiency plan is developed for each eligible family that addresses the family's needs from time of arrival until attainment of economic independence. (See 45 CFR 400.79 and 400.156(g).) Each family self-sufficiency plan should address a family's needs for both employment-related services and other needed social services. The family self-sufficiency plan must include: (1) A determination of the income level a family would have to earn to exceed its cash grant and move into self-support without suffering a monetary penalty; (2) a strategy and timetable for obtaining that level of family income through the placement in employment of sufficient numbers of employable family members at sufficient wage levels; and (3) employability plans for every employable member of the family. In local jurisdictions that have both targeted assistance and refugee social services programs, one family self-sufficiency plan may be developed for a family that incorporates both targeted assistance and refugee social services.

Services funded through the targeted assistance program are required to focus primarily on those refugees who, either because of their protracted use of public assistance or difficulty in securing employment, continue to need services beyond the initial years of resettlement. States may not provide services funded under this notice, except for referral and interpreter services, to refugees who have been in the United States for more than 60 months (5 years).

In accordance with 45 CFR 400.314, States are required to provide targeted assistance services to refugees in the following order of priority, except in certain individual extreme circumstances: (a) Refugees who are cash assistance recipients, particularly long-term recipients; (b) unemployed refugees who are not receiving cash assistance; and (c) employed refugees in need of services to retain employment or to attain economic independence.

In addition to the statutory requirement that TAP funds be used ''primarily for the purpose of facilitating refugee employment'' (section 412(c)(2)(B)(i)), funds awarded under this program are intended to help fulfill the Congressional intent that ''employable refugees should be placed on jobs as soon as possible after their arrival in the United States'' (section 412(a)(1)(B)(i) of the INA). Therefore, in accordance with 45 CFR 400.313, targeted assistance funds must be used primarily for employability services designed to enable refugees to obtain jobs with less than one year's participation in the targeted assistance program in order to achieve economic self-sufficiency as soon as possible. Targeted assistance services may continue to be provided after a refugee has entered a job to help the refugee retain employment or move to a better job. Targeted assistance funds may not be used for long-term training programs such as vocational training that last for more than a year or educational programs that are not intended to lead to employment within a year.

In accordance with § 400.317, if targeted assistance funds are used for the provision of English language training, such training must be provided in a concurrent, rather than sequential, time period with employment or with other employment-related activities.

A portion of a local area's allocation may be used for services which are not directed toward the achievement of a specific employment objective in less than one year but which are essential to the adjustment of refugees in the community, provided such needs are clearly demonstrated and such use is approved by the State. Allowable services include those listed under § 400.316.

Reflecting section 412(a)(1)(A)(iv) of the INA, States must ''insure that women have the same opportunities as men to participate in training and instruction.'' In addition, in accordance with § 400.317, services must be provided to the maximum extent feasible in a manner that includes the use of bilingual/bicultural women on service agency staffs to ensure adequate service access by refugee women. The Director also strongly encourages the inclusion of refugee women in management and board positions in agencies that serve refugees. In order to facilitate refugee self-support, the Director also expects States to implement strategies which address simultaneously the employment potential of both male and female wage earners in a family unit. States and counties are expected to make every effort to assure availability of day care services for children in order to allow women with children the opportunity to participate in employment services or to accept or retain employment. To accomplish this, day care may be treated as a priority employment-related service under the targeted assistance program. Refugees who are participating in TAP-funded or social services-funded employment services or have accepted employment are eligible for day care services for children. For an employed refugee, TAP-funded day care should be limited to one year after the refugee becomes employed. States and counties, however, are expected to use day care funding from other publicly funded mainstream programs as a prior resource and are encouraged to work with service providers to assure maximum access to other publicly funded resources for day care.

In accordance with § 400.317, targeted assistance services must be provided in a manner that is culturally and linguistically compatible with a refugee's language and cultural background, to the maximum extent feasible. In light of the increasingly diverse population of refugees who are resettling in this country, refugee service agencies will need to develop practical ways of providing culturally and linguistically appropriate services to a changing ethnic population. Services funded under this notice must be refugee-specific services which are designed specifically to meet refugee needs and are in keeping with the rules and objectives of the refugee program. Vocational or job-skills training, on-the-job training, or English language training, however, need not be refugee-specific.

When planning targeted assistance services, States must take into account the reception and placement (R&P) services provided by local resettlement agencies in order to utilize these resources in the overall program design and to ensure the provision of seamless, coordinated services to refugees that are not duplicative. See § 400.156(b).

ORR strongly encourages States and counties when contracting for targeted assistance services, including employment services, to give consideration to the special strengths of mutual assistance associations (MAAs), whenever contract bidders are otherwise equally qualified, provided that the MAA has the capability to deliver services in a manner that is culturally and linguistically compatible with the background of the target population to be served. ORR also strongly encourages MAAs to ensure that their management and board composition reflect the major target populations to be served.

ORR defines MAAs as organizations with the following qualifications:

a. The organization is legally incorporated as a nonprofit organization; and

b. Not less than 51% of the composition of the Board of Directors or governing board of the mutual assistance association is comprised of

refugees or former refugees, including both refugee men and women.

Finally, in order to provide culturally and linguistically compatible services in as cost-efficient a manner as possible in a time of limited resources, ORR strongly encourages States and counties to promote and give special consideration to the provision of services through coalitions of refugee service organizations, such as coalitions of MAAs, voluntary resettlement agencies, or a variety of service providers. ORR believes it is essential for refugee-serving organizations to form close partnerships in the provision of services to refugees in order to be able to respond adequately to a changing refugee picture. Coalition-building and consolidation of providers is particularly important in communities with multiple service providers in order to ensure better coordination of services and maximum use of funding for services by minimizing the funds used for multiple administrative overhead costs.

The award of funds to States under this notice will be contingent upon the completeness of a State's application as described in section IX, below.

IV. [Reserved for Discussion of Comments in the Final Notice]

V. Eligible Grantees

Eligible grantees are those agencies of State governments that are responsible for the refugee program under 45 CFR 400.5 in States containing counties which qualify for FY 1998 targeted assistance awards.

The use of targeted assistance funds for services to Cuban and Haitian entrants is limited to States which have an approved State plan under the Cuban/Haitian Entrant Program (CHEP).

The State agency will submit a single application on behalf of all county governments of the qualified counties in that State. Subsequent to the approval of the State's application by ORR, local targeted assistance plans will be developed by the county government or other designated entity and submitted to the State.

A State with more than one qualified county is permitted, but not required, to determine the allocation amount for each qualified county within the State. However, if a State chooses to determine county allocations differently from those set forth in this notice, in accordance with § 400.319, the FY 1998 allocations proposed by the State must be based on the State's population of refugees who arrived in the U.S. during the most recent 5-year period. A State may use welfare data as an additional factor in the allocation of its targeted assistance funds if it so chooses; however, a State may not assign a greater weight to welfare data than it has assigned to population data in its allocation formula. In addition, if a State chooses to allocate its FY 1998 targeted assistance funds in a manner different from the formula set forth in this notice, the FY 1998 allocations and methodology proposed by the State must be included in the State's application for ORR review and approval.

Applications submitted in response to the final notice are not subject to review by State and areawide clearinghouses under Executive Order 12372, ''Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.''

VI. Qualification and Allocation

A. Qualified Counties

The 47 counties listed as qualified for TAP funding in the FY 1997 final TAP notice will remain qualified for TAP funding in FY 1998. We do not plan to consider the eligibility of additional counties for FY 1998. In the FY 1996 targeted assistance final notice (61 FR 36739, July 12, 1996) the ORR Director indicated her intention to determine the qualification of counties for targeted assistance funds once every three years, beginning in FY 1996. Therefore, in FY 1999, ORR will again review data on all counties that could potentially qualify for TAP funds on the basis of the most current 5-year refugee/entrant population data available at that time.

B. Allocation Formula

Of the funds available for FY 1998 for targeted assistance, $35,317,300 is allocated by formula to States for qualified counties based on the initial placements of refugees, Amerasians, entrants, and Kurdish asylees in these counties during the 5-year period from FY 1993 through FY 1997 (October 1, 1992-September 30, 1997).

With regard to Havana parolees, in the absence of reliable data on the State-by-State resettlement of this population, we are crediting 5,992 Havana parolees who arrived in the U.S. in FY 1997 according to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), to qualified targeted assistance counties based on the counties' proportion of the 5-year entrant arrival population. For FY 1995 and FY 1996, Florida's Havana parolees for each qualified county are based on actual data submitted by the State of Florida, while Havana parolees credited to counties in other States were prorated based on the counties' proportion of the 5-year entrant population in the U.S. The proposed allocations in this notice reflect these additional parolee numbers.

If a qualified county does not agree with ORR's population estimate and believes that its 5-year initial resettlement population from FY 1993–FY 1997 was undercounted and wishes ORR to reconsider its population estimate, the county must provide the following evidence: The county must submit to ORR a letter from each local voluntary agency that resettled refugees in the county that attests to the fact that the refugees/entrants listed in an attachment to the letter were resettled as initial placements during the 5-year period from FY 1993–FY 1997 in the county making the claim. Documentation must include the name, alien number, date of birth, and date of arrival in the U.S. for each refugee/entrant claimed. Listings of refugees who are not identified by their alien numbers will not be considered. Counties should submit such evidence separately from comments on the proposed allocation formula no later than 30 days from the date of publication of this notice and should be addressed to: Loren Bussert, Division of Refugee Self-Sufficiency, Office of Refugee Resettlement, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW., Washington, DC 20447, telephone: (202) 401–4732. Failure to submit the required documentation within the required time period will result in forfeiture of consideration.

VII. Allocations

Table 1 lists the qualified counties, the number of refugee and entrant arrivals in those counties during the 5-year period from October 1, 1992–September 30, 1997, the prorated number of Havana parolees credited to each county based on the county's proportion of the 5-year entrant population in the U.S., the sum of the third, fourth, and fifth columns, and the proposed amount of each county's allocation based on its 5-year total population.

Table 2 provides proposed State totals for targeted assistance allocations.

TABLE 1.—PROPOSED ASSISTANCE ALLOCATIONS BY COUNTY: FY 1998

County	State	Refugees [1]	Entrants	Havana parolees [2]	Total arrivals FY 1993–1997	$35,371,300 Total FY 1997 proposed allocation
Maricopa County	Arizona	5,920	652	242	6,814	586,972
Alameda County	California	4,029	19	8	4,056	349,392
Fresno County	California	4,596	2	0	4,598	396,081
Los Angeles County	California	20,709	465	268	21,442	1,847,057
Merced County	California	1,067	0	0	1,067	91,914
Orange County	California	17,950	27	15	17,992	1,549,867
Sacramento County	California	11,463	4	2	11,469	987,963
San Diego County	California	10,780	517	205	11,502	990,806
SAN FRANCISCO AREA	California	9,706	85	73	9,864	849,705
San Joaquin County	California	1,708	7	3	1,718	147,992
Santa Clara County	California	13,706	50	15	13,771	1,186,262
Denver County	Colorado	3,384	3	1	3,388	291,849
District of Col.	District of Col.	3,859	14	7	3,880	334,231
Broward County	Florida	1,124	1,558	575	3,257	280,565
Dade County	Florida	9,486	34,623	17,902	62,011	5,341,754
Duval County	Florida	3,416	41	25	3,482	299,947
Palm Beach County	Florida	690	1,092	428	2,210	190,374
DeKalb County	Georgia	6,051	13	8	6,072	523,054
Fulton County	Georgia	5,866	210	89	6,165	531,066
CHICAGO AREA	Illinois	17,240	412	182	17,834	1,536,257
Polk County	Iowa	3,301	1	0	3,302	284,441
Jefferson County [3]	Kentucky	3,213	551	158	3,922	337,849
Baltimore City	Maryland	2,683	3	0	2,686	231,378
Suffolk County	Massachusetts	5,090	73	103	5,266	453,624
Ingham County	Michigan	1,715	319	102	2,136	183,999
Oakland County	Michigan	3,409	8	4	3,421	294,692
Hennepin County	Minnesota	5,490	3	0	5,493	473,178
Ramsey County	Minnesota	3,744	10	4	3,758	323,722
St. Louis City	Missouri	6,614	1	0	6,615	569,830
Lancaster County	Nebraska	2,218	36	10	2,264	195,026
Hudson County	New Jersey	1,910	827	362	3,099	266,954
Bernalillo County	New Mexico	1,322	1,228	517	3,067	264,198
Broome County	New York	1,336	16	11	1,363	117,412
Monroe County	New York	2,884	514	209	3,607	310,714
NEW YORK CITY AREA	New York	69,582	728	454	70,764	6,095,755
Oneida County	New York	3,470	1	0	3,471	298,999
Cass County	North Dakota	1,535	3	1	1,539	132,573
Cuyahoga County	Ohio	4,131	6	2	4,139	356,542
PORTLAND OREGON AREA	Oregon	10,451	549	209	11,209	965,566
Philadelphia County	Pennsylvania	6,756	55	30	6,841	589,298
Davidson County	Tennessee	3,243	54	14	3,311	285,216
DALLAS AREA	Texas	11,398	610	243	12,251	1,055,326
Harris County	Texas	9,645	169	64	9,878	850,911
FAIRFAX AREA	Virginia	4,337	8	3	4,348	374,546
Richmond City	Virginia	1,981	103	42	2,126	183,138
Pierce County	Washington	2,713	10	3	2,726	234,823
SEATTLE AREA	Washington	15,355	52	15	15,422	1,328,482
Total		342,276	45,732	22,608	410,616	$35,371,300

[1] Refugees include: refugees, Kurdish asylees, and Amerasian immigrants from Vietnam.

[2] For 1997, 5101 Havana Parolees (HP's) were prorated to the qualifying counties based on the counties' proportion of the five year (FY 1993–1997) entrant population in the U.S.

For FY 1996, HP arrivals to the qualifying Florida counties (6910) were based on actual data while HP's in the non-Florida qualifying counties (1415) were prorated based on the counties' proportion of the five year (FY 1992–1996) entrant population in the U.S.

For FY 1995, HP arrivals to the qualifying Florida counties (7855) were based on actual data while HP's in the non-Florida qualifying counties (1327) were prorated based on the counties' proportion of the five year (FY 1991–1995) entrant population in the U.S.

[3] The allocation for Jefferson, KY will be awarded to the Kentucky Wilson-Fish project.

TABLE 2.—PROPOSED TARGETED ASSISTANCE ALLOCATIONS BY STATE: FY 1998

State	$35,371,300 Total FY 1997 proposed allocation
Arizona	$586,972
California	8,397,039
Colorado	291,849
District of Columbia	334,231
Florida	6,112,640
Georgia	1,054,120
Illinois	1,536,257
Iowa	284,441
Kentucky	337,849
Maryland	231,378
Massachusetts	453,624
Michigan	478,691
Minnesota	796,900
Missouri	569,830
Nebraska	195,026
New Jersey	266,954
New Mexico	264,198
New York	6,822,880
North Dakota	132,573
Ohio	356,542
Oregon	965,566
Pennsylvania	589,298
Tennessee	285,216
Texas	1,906,237
Virginia	557,684
Washington	1,563,305
Total	35,371,300

VIII. Application and Implementation Process

Under the FY 1988 targeted assistance program, States may apply for and receive grant awards on behalf of qualified counties in the State. A single allocation will be made to each State by ORR on the basis of an approved State application. The State agency will, in turn, receive, review, and determine the acceptability of individual county targeted assistance plans.

Pursuant to § 400.210(b), FY 1998 targeted assistance funds must be obligated by the State agency no later than one year after the end of the Federal fiscal year in which the Department awarded the grant. Funds must be liquidated within two years after the end of the Federal fiscal year in which the Department awarded the grant. A State's final financial report on targeted assistance expenditures must be received no later than two years after the end of the Federal fiscal year in which the Department awarded the grant. If final reports are not received on time, the Department will deobligate any unexpended funds, including any unliquidated obligations, on the basis of the State's last filed report.

The requirements regarding the discretionary portions of the targeted assistance program will be addressed separately in the grant announcements for those funds. Applications for these funds are therefore not subject to provisions contained in this notice but to other requirements which will be conveyed separately.

IX. Application Requirements

The proposed State application requirements for grants for the FY 1998 targeted assistance formula allocation are as follows:

States that are currently operating under approved management plans for their FY 1996 or FY 1997 targeted assistance program and wish to continue to do so for their FY 1998 grants may provide the following in lieu of resubmitting the full currently approved plan:

The State's application for FY 1998 funding shall provide:

A. Assurance that the State's current management plan for the administration of the targeted assistance program, as approved by ORR, will continue to be in full force and effect for the FY 1998 targeted assistance program, subject to any additional assurances or revisions required by this notice which are not reflected in the current plan. Any proposed modifications to the approved plan will be identified in the application and are subject to ORR review and approval. Any proposed changes must address and reference all appropriate portions of the FY 1996 or FY 1997 application content requirements to ensure complete incorporation in the State's management plan.

B. Assurance that targeted assistance funds will be used in accordance with the requirements in 45 CFR 400.

C. Assurance that targeted assistance funds will be used primarily for the provision of services which are designed to enable refugees to obtain jobs with less than one year's participation in the targeted assistance program. States must indicate what percentage of FY 1998 targeted assistance formula allocation funds that are used for services will be allocated for employment services.

D. Assurance that targeted assistance funds will not be used to offset funding otherwise available to counties or local jurisdictions from the State agency in its administration of other programs, e.g. social services, cash and medical assistance, etc.

E. The mount of funds to be awarded to the targeted county or counties. If a State with more than one qualifying targeted assistance county chooses to allocate its targeted assistance funds differently from the formula allocation for counties presented in the ORR targeted assistance notice in a fiscal year, its allocations must be based on the State's population of refugees who arrived in the U.S. during the most recent 5-year period. A State may use welfare data as an additional factor in the allocation of targeted assistance funds if it so chooses; however, a State may not assign a greater weight to welfare data than it has assigned to population data in its allocation formula. The application must provide a description of, and supporting data for, the State's proposed allocation plan, the data to be used, and the proposed allocation for each county.

F. Assurance that local administrative budgets will not exceed 15% of the lcoal allocation. Targeted assistance grants are cost-based awards. Neither a State nor a county is entitled to a certain amount for administrative costs. Rather, administrative cost requests should be based on projections of actual needs. States and counties are strongly encouraged to limit administative costs to the extent possible to maximize available funding for services to clients.

G. All applicants must establish targeted assistance proposed performance goals for each of the 6 ORR performance outcome measures for each targeted assistance county's proposed service contract(s) or sub-grants for the next contracting cycle. Proposed performance goals must be included in the application for each performance measure. The 6 ORR performance measures are: entered employments, cash assistance reductions due to employment, each assistance terminations due to employment, 90-day employment retentions, average wage at placement, and job placements with available health benefits. Targeted assistance program activity and progress achieved toward meeting performance outcome goals are to be reported quarterly on the ORR–6, the ''Quarterly Performance Report.''

States which are currently grantees for targeted assistance funds should base projected annual outcome goals on the past year's performance. Proposed targeted assistance outcome goals should reflect improvement over past performance and strive for continuous improvement during the project period from one year to another.

H. A line item budget and justification for State adminstrative costs limited to a maximum of 5% of the total award to the State. Each total budget period funding amount requested must be necessary, reasonable, and allocable to the project. States that administer the program locally in lieu of the county, through a mutual agreement with the qualifying county, may add up to, but

not exceed, 10% of the county's TAP allocation to the State's administrative budget.

I. A line item budget and justification for State administaratgve cost limited to a maximoum of 5% of the total award to the State. Each total budget period funding amount requested must be necessary, reasonable, and allocable to the project.

States administering the program locally: States that have administered the program locally or provide direct service to the refugee population (with the concurrence of the county) must submit a program summary to ORR for prior review and approval. The summary must include a description of the proposed services; a justification for the projected allocation for each component including relationship of funds allocated to numbers of clients served, characteristics of clients, duration of training and services, and cost per placement. In addition, the program component summary must describe any ancillary services or subcomponents such as day care, transportation, or language training.

X. Reporting Requirements

States are required to submit quarterly reports on the outcomes of the targeted assistance program, using Schedule A and Schedule C of the new ORR–6 Quarterly Performance Report form which was sent to States in ORR State Letter 95–35 on November 6, 1995.

Dated: Febuary 11, 1998.

Lavinia Limon,

Director, Office of Refuguee Resettlement.

[FR Doc. 98-3892 Filed 2-13-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4184-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reopening of Public Comment Period for Status Review of the Northern Goshawk in the Contiguous United States West of the 100th Meridian

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior

ACTION: Notice of the reopening of public comment period

SUMMARY: On September 29, 1997, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announced a 90-day finding for a petition to list the northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) in the contiguous United States west of the 100th meridian under the Endangered Species Act (62 FR 50892). In that finding, the Service found that the petition presented substantial information indicating that the listing of the northern goshawk as a threatened or endangered species in the contiguous United States west of the 100th meridian may be warranted. At that time, the Service initiated a status review for the northern goshawk and announced that a 12-month finding will be prepared at the conclusion of the review. The previous comment period for this action closed on December 29, 1997.

DATES: Comments and materials related to this petition must be received on or before March 19, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments and materials concerning this petition finding and status review should be sent to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Technical Support, 333 S.W. 1st Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204, ATTN: Goshawk Status Review Team. The petition, finding, supporting data and comments will be available for public inspection by appointment, during normal business hours at the following address: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Technical Support for Forest Resources, 333 S.W. 1st Avenue, 4th Floor, Portland, Oregon 97204, (503/808–2565).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Monty Knudsen, Office of Technical Support for Forest Resources, 333 S.W. 1st Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232–4181, (503/808–2564).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 4(b)(3)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (Act) requires that the Service make a finding on whether a petition to list, delist or reclassify a species presents substantial scientific or commercial information to indicate that the petitioned action may be warranted. To the maximum extent practicable, this finding is to be made within 90 days of the receipt of the petition (90-day finding), and notice of the finding is to be published promptly in the **Federal Register**. If a finding is made that substantial information was presented the Service is required to promptly commence a status review of the species and determine whether the petitioned action is warranted. The Act requires the Service to make this finding within 12-months of the receipt of the petition.

On September 29, 1997, the Service announced a 90-day finding for a petition to list the northern goshawk in the contiguous United States west of the 100th meridian under the Endangered Species Act (62 FR 50892). In that finding, the Service found that the petition presented substantial information indicating that the listing of the northern goshawk as a threatened or endangered species in the contiguous United States west of the 100th meridian may be warranted. At that time, the Service initiated a status review for the northern goshawk and announced that a 12-month finding will be prepared at the conclusion of the review.

At this time, the Service continues to seek additional data, information or comments from the public, other concerned government agencies, the scientific community, industry or any other interested party concerning the status of the northern goshawk in the western U.S. The Service is interested in information from throughout the species range in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

Public Comments Solicited

The following issues are of particular interest to the Service:

1. Genetic, morphological and ecological differences, including variations or intergradation of the subspecies *Accipiter gentilis atricapillus* and *Accipiter gentilis apache* within their range;

2. Data on historic and current population trends and dynamics, and documented or suspected influencing factors that may affect these population trends, and may, therefore, assist in determining population trends;

3. Reproductive trends and documented or suspected influencing factors that may affect reproduction in goshawks;

4. Trends in loss, modification and recovery of the forested habitat occupied by the two subspecies, and the extent to which habitat conversion and fragmentation affects goshawks and their prey;

5. Taxonomic clarification of North American goshawk subspecies;

6. Information on migration and dispersal patterns; and

7. Information on the goshawk in Canada and Mexico, as well as information on management and relevant regulatory mechanisms in Canada and Mexico.

Authority: The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: February 5, 1998.

Bill Shake,

Acting Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

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