

INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION

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

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

The Inter-American Foundation was created by Congress in 1969 (22 U.S.C. 290f) to support the self-help efforts of poor people in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Foundation was established because of congressional concern that traditional programs of development assistance were not reaching poor people. Instead of working through governments, the Foundation responds directly to the initiatives of the poor by supporting local and private organizations. Approximately 73 percent of the Foundation's funds are derived from congressional appropriations and the remainder from the Social Progress Trust Fund of the Inter-American Development Bank.

The Foundation is governed by a nine-member Board of Directors appointed by the President with the advice and

consent of the Senate. By law, six members of the Board are from private organizations and three are from the Government.

The Foundation has made 3,992 grants, totaling nearly \$447 million through fiscal year 1996 in 36 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Most grants are made to private, grassroots organizations, including community associations and small urban enterprises, or to larger organizations that work with local groups and provide them with credit, technical assistance, training, and marketing services. A small number of grants each year are made to centers in Latin America and the Caribbean for research on the problems of poor people and grassroots development.

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