

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Employment and Training
Administration****DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION****Office of Vocational and Adult
Education**

ACTION: Notice of Proposed Priority for School-to-Work Urban/Rural Opportunities Grants for Fiscal Year (FY) 1995.

SUMMARY: The Secretaries of Education and Labor (the Secretaries) propose a priority for FY 1995 under the Urban/Rural Opportunities Grants authorized by Title III of the School-to-Work Opportunities Act of 1994 (the Act). The Secretaries intend to use this priority, along with the selection criteria published in the November 14, 1995, issue of the Federal Register, to select applications for funding under the FY 1995 Urban/Rural Opportunities Grants competition. The Secretaries propose to take this action to focus Federal financial assistance on implementing School-to-Work Opportunities initiatives in urban or rural areas of high poverty. This proposed priority provides for a preference to be given to applications from local partnerships proposing to implement a School-to-Work Opportunities initiative for youth residing in or attending school in an Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community (EZ/EC) designated under section 1391 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC), as amended by Title XIII of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993.

Note: This notice is an invitation for comment upon the proposed priority as described; it is not a solicitation for applications for Urban/Rural Opportunities Grants.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before January 5, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Karen Clark, National School-to-Work Office, 400 Virginia Avenue, SW, Room 210, Washington, DC 20024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Clark, National School-to-Work Office, Telephone: (202) 401-6222 (this is not a toll-free number). Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:*Section A. Background*

The Secretaries intend to award grants to local partnerships to implement School-to-Work Opportunities initiatives serving youth residing or attending school in urban or rural high poverty areas, as discussed in the solicitation for grant applications published in the November 14, 1995, issue of the Federal Register. As discussed in the solicitation on pages 57276-57282, the Secretaries recognize the particular challenges faced by local partnerships serving youth in urban and rural high poverty areas in preparing them for first jobs in high-skill, high-wage careers and in increasing their opportunities for further education and training. Similarly, the Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community (EZ/EC) initiative is aimed at rebuilding communities in America's poverty-stricken inner cities and rural heartlands. Under the EZ/EC initiative, the Federal Government has designated certain geographic areas as EZs and as ECs in accordance with Internal Revenue Code (IRC) section 1391, as amended by Title XIII of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (Pub. L. 103-66). The selected areas were designated as EZs or ECs based on the quality of their strategic plans addressing how each zone or community would link economic development with education and training, as well as how community development, public safety, human services, and environmental initiatives together would support sustainable communities.

The Secretaries view Urban/Rural Opportunities Grants as well suited for inclusion in a comprehensive approach to economic and community development that addresses the special challenges facing youth in high poverty areas in making the transition from school to work or further education and training. By improving the quality of education and training provided to high poverty area youth, School-to-Work Opportunities initiatives enhance the economic opportunities of such youth and contribute to the improvement of impoverished communities. Communities designated as EZs or ECs have already demonstrated a capacity for the type of collaboration and cooperative planning that is critical to developing and implementing successful School-to-Work Opportunities initiatives.

Interested individuals may contact the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at 1-800-998-9999 for additional information on the urban

EZ/EC initiative and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) at 1-800-645-4712 for additional information on the rural EZ/EC initiative. A listing of areas that have been selected as EZs or ECs is included in an appendix to this notice.

Section B. Priority

In addition to the priority in section 302(b)(3) of the School-to-Work Opportunities Act, the Secretaries propose to give competitive preference to applications from partnerships that propose to implement a School-to-Work Opportunities initiative serving youth who reside or attend school in an area designated as an EZ or an EC. The Secretaries would select an application for an Urban/Rural Opportunities Grant that meets this priority over an application of comparable merit that does not meet the priority.

Invitation to Comment

Interested persons are invited to submit comments and recommendations regarding this proposed competitive preference. All comments submitted in response to this notice will be available for public inspection, during and after the comment period, at the National School-to-Work Office, 400 Virginia Avenue, SW., Room 210, Washington, DC, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday of each week, except Federal holidays.

Intergovernmental Review

This program is subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12372 as implemented in 34 CFR Part 79 and 29 CFR Part 17. The objective of the Executive order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism by relying on processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

In accordance with the order, this document is intended to provide early notification of the Departments' specific plans and actions for this program.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 6101. (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 278D: School-to-Work Opportunities: Urban/Rural Opportunities Grants)

Dated: November 27, 1995.

Timothy M. Barnicle,

Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, Department of Labor.

Patricia McNeil,

Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education, Department of Education.

Appendix—Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities

Empowerment Zones (EZ)

Georgia: Atlanta

Illinois: Chicago

Kentucky: Kentucky Highlands*

Maryland: Baltimore

Michigan: Detroit

Mississippi: Mid Delta*

New York: Harlem, Bronx

Pennsylvania/New Jersey: Philadelphia, Camden

Texas: Rio Grande Valley*

Supplemental Empowerment Zones (SEZ)

California: Los Angeles

Ohio: Cleveland

Enterprise Communities (EC)

Alabama: Birmingham

Alabama: Chambers County*

Alabama: Greene, Sumter Counties*

Arizona: Phoenix

Arizona: Arizona Border*

Arkansas: East Central*

Arkansas: Mississippi County*

Arkansas: Pulaski County

California: Imperial County*

California: Los Angeles, Huntington Park

California: San Diego

California: San Francisco, Bayview, Hunter's Point

California: Watsonville*

Colorado: Denver

Connecticut: Bridgeport

Connecticut: New Haven

Delaware: Wilmington

District of Columbia: Washington

Florida: Jackson County*

Florida: Tampa

Florida: Miami, Dade County

Georgia: Albany

Georgia: Central Savannah*

Georgia: Crisp, Dooley Counties*

Illinois: East St. Louis

Illinois: Springfield

Indiana: Indianapolis

Iowa: Des Moines

Kentucky: Louisville

Louisiana: Northeast Delta*

Louisiana: Macon Ridge*

Louisiana: New Orleans

Louisiana: Ouachita Parish

Massachusetts: Lowell

Massachusetts: Springfield

Michigan: Five Cap*

Michigan: Flint

Michigan: Muskegon

Minnesota: Minneapolis

Minnesota: St. Paul

Mississippi: Jackson

Mississippi: North Delta*

Missouri: East Prairie*

Missouri: St. Louis

Nebraska: Omaha

Nevada: Clarke County, Las Vegas

New Hampshire: Manchester

New Jersey: Newark

New Mexico: Albuquerque

New Mexico: Moro, Rico Arriba, Taos Counties*

New York: Albany, Schenectady, Troy

New York: Buffalo

New York: Newburgh, Kingston

New York: Rochester

North Carolina: Charlotte

North Carolina: Halifax, Edgecombe,

Wilson Counties*

North Carolina: Robeson County*

Ohio: Akron

Ohio: Columbus

Ohio: Greater Portsmouth*

Oklahoma: Choctaw, McCurtain Counties*

Oklahoma: Oklahoma City

Oregon: Josephine*

Oregon: Portland

Pennsylvania: Harrisburg

Pennsylvania: Lock Haven*

Pennsylvania: Pittsburgh

Rhode Island: Providence

South Carolina: Charleston

South Carolina: Williamsburg County*

South Dakota: Beadle, Spink Counties*

Tennessee: Fayette, Haywood Counties*

Tennessee: Memphis

Tennessee: Nashville

Tennessee/Kentucky: Scott, McCreary Counties*

Texas: Dallas

Texas: El Paso

Texas: San Antonio

Texas: Waco

Utah: Ogden

Vermont: Burlington

Virginia: Accomack*

Virginia: Norfolk

Washington: Lower Yakima*

Washington: Seattle

Washington: Tacoma

West Virginia: West Central*

West Virginia: Huntington

West Virginia: McDowell*

Wisconsin: Milwaukee

*denotes rural designee

Enhanced Enterprise Communities (EEC)

California: Oakland

Massachusetts: Boston

Missouri/Kansas: Kansas City, Kansas City

Texas: Houston

[FR Doc. 95-29698 Filed 12-5-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P