body) in cooperation with a private nonprofit organization, all as further defined in the regulations.

### **II. Implementation Grant Applications**

# A. Application Process

Application packages for implementation grants, including SF 424, other forms, and instructions for preparing applications, are available from HUD's Processing and Control Unit (PCU). Applicants should FAX their written requests for an application to the PCU at (202) 708-3363. The request should include the name and address of the applicant, the name of the competition (HOPE 3), and the Federal **Register** number of this NOFA. Only timely applications received in the appropriate Field Office will be considered for funding. Applications (original and two copies) must be physically received no later than 4:30 p.m. on the deadline (see DATES at the beginning of this NOFA) at the appropriate HUD Field Office, Attention: Director, Community Planning and Development Division. It is not sufficient for an application to bear a postmark within the deadline. Applications sent by facsimile (FAX) will not be accepted.

# B. Application Submission Requirements

Complete application submission requirements are contained in the application package. All potential applicants are urged to contact their **HUD Field Office for information and** guidance from HUD about program requirements and for the time and place of any workshops or training sessions to be held within the Field Office's jurisdiction. If an application is being submitted by an organization that is a current HOPE 3 grant recipient, the applicant may submit information from the previous year's application as long as the information is still current and accurate.

# C. Consolidated Plan/Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy

On January 5, 1995, the final consolidated plan regulation (to be codified in 24 CFR part 91) was published. The consolidated plan combines into a single plan the requirements of the comprehensive housing affordability strategy, the community development plan required for the Community Development Block Grant program, and the submission requirements for the Community Development Block Grant, HOME, Emergency Shelter Grant, and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS

formula programs. Changes to the HOPE 3 program regulations to substitute "consolidated plan" for "comprehensive housing affordability strategy" will be published shortly.

As provided in § 572.400, the application must contain a certification from the State or local government that the proposed activities are consistent with the HUD-approved comprehensive housing affordability strategy of the applicable state or local government. During FY 1995, jurisdictions will be making the transition from the comprehensive housing affordability strategies to the consolidated plans. If the jurisdiction has an approved consolidated plan, the certification of consistency must be made with respect to the consolidated plan. If the jurisdiction still has a comprehensive housing affordability strategy in effect, the certification of consistency must be made with respect to the comprehensive housing affordability strategy. The requirements in § 572.400 regarding the various types of applicants and the timing for submission of the certification of consistency remain in effect.

#### D. Selection Process

The selection process for implementation grants under the HOPE 3 Program consists of a screening review, and then, for those applications meeting all screening requirements, rating and ranking under substantive rating criteria. Rating and ranking will only occur if there are more applications that meet screening requirements than funds available in that former Region.

# E. Screening Process/Corrections to Deficient Applications

(1) HUD will screen each application submitted on or before the deadline to determine if it is complete, is internally consistent, contains correct computations, and complies will all requirements of this NOFA and the regulation. In addition, HUD will determine whether there appear to be a sufficient number of suitable, available properties in the general locations identified in the application for the proposed activities. For this purpose, at least ten suitable units in eligible properties must be currently available or have been available in the 12-month period prior to application submission. Where HUD determines that an application as initially submitted is fundamentally incomplete or would require substantial revisions, it will not consider the application further.

(2) Where HÜD determines an application is deficient in one or more of the areas in paragraph (E)(1) of this

section but is not fundamentally incomplete and does not require substantial revisions, it will notify the applicant in writing and give it an opportunity to correct the technical deficiencies in its application. HUD will not notify the applicant of any deficiencies that relate solely to the rating of the application.

(3) The notification will require the applicant to submit additional or corrected material so that it is received in the appropriate HUD Field Office no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on the 14th calendar day after the date of the written notification to the applicant giving it an opportunity to modify its application. HUD may not extend this deadline for actual receipt of the material for any reason. After review of all additional or corrected materials, HUD will not consider further any applications that do not comply with the requirements of the NOFA and the regulation.

## F. Rating Criteria

All applications meeting screening requirements will be selected for funding if sufficient funds are available within the allocation to each HUD geographical area (formerly Region). If there are more applications that meet screening requirements than funds available in that former Region, all applications meeting the screening requirements will be rated and ranked, using the following substantive rating criteria:

- 1. Capability of the Applicant—up to 25 points.
- 2. Demonstrated Public/Private Support—up to 20 points.
- 3. Quality of Program Design—up to 30 points.
  - 4. Efficiency—up to 10 points.
  - 5. Inventory—up to 5 points.
- 6. Minority Business Enterprise/ Women-owned Business Enterprise—up to 5 points.
- 7. Fair Housing Choice—up to 5 points.

Further description of the rating of applications and of the factors considered under each rating criterion may be found in § 572.320 of the final rule.

### G. Ranking and Selection

After assigning points under the selection criteria, HUD will rank applications within the former Regions. HUD shall examine the rankings and, where it determines that applications falling below a certain point total are not suitable or not feasible for homeownership, it may establish a minimum number of points for