agreements, letters of commitment, and information about prior experience with these partners with their applications, indicating which services will be affected and the levels of service (availability and cost) that will be provided to project participants from these provider organizations.

Applicant Capabilities and Management Qualifications

Applicants should present, through relevant information about their personnel and their experience, their qualifications for undertaking a demonstration program of the type proposed. They should identify proposed project leadership, submit the resumes of relevant education and experience, and describe the previous success of the team or of its key members with strengthening families and their housing arrangements through the delivery and coordination of quality family support services. They should also address the experience of project leadership—especially the individual accountable for effective service delivery to the selected clientele-in coordinating other agencies and project participants over whom he/she has influence but not control. The roles and commitments of the key people in the project should be defined.

Project Plans (Budgets) and Schedules

Applicants should detail the implementation plan and schedule for the project, using time-based displays as appropriate. The early months of the schedule should detail service-building and/or service redirecting activities, with major project milestones such as training capacities established, cooperative services open for use, and apprenticeship relationships created. Later entries should indicate when various kinds of project outcomes will begin to be realized in the lives of the community being served. The budget for the project should be correlated with this timeline, showing approximately when budget resources (including non-Federal) will be available and how they will be used to conduct project activity.

Project Reporting

Provide in descriptive terms, the manner in which required reports are to be assembled along with the identification of data sources. The application should identify and describe the mechanisms that will be instituted and the commitment of specific resources that will address the requisite evaluation activities, including commitment to meet information requirements. This would necessarily include the reliance on a useful information management system that is capable of producing program outcome data and responding to needs of a national evaluation study.

Renewal applications should, with regard to future program operations, include the basic information required above. In addition, renewal applications should also include a description of the program's previous 12 months of operation in sufficient detail that it can be reviewed against the project evaluation criteria found in Part IV of this document.

Part III: Description of the Gateway Demonstration Program

A. Program Purpose

This demonstration program will provide grant funds to local education agencies, in consultation with the local public housing authority and private industry council, to provide on-site education, training and necessary support services to economically disadvantaged residents of public housing who have encountered barriers to employment because of basic skills deficiencies.

B. Program Services and Requirements

The project awards will primarily allow for the development, establishment and operation of an education, training and support services program, at a minimum, consisting of the following mandatory services:

- Outreach and information services designed to make eligible individuals aware of available services;
- Literacy and bilingual education services, where appropriate and necessary;
- Remedial education and basic skills training;
- Employment training and personal management skill development or referrals for such services; and
- Child care or dependent care for dependents of eligible individuals during those times, including afternoons and evenings, when training services are being provided. (To the extent practicable, child care services shall be designed to employ public housing residents after appropriate training.)

Program may provide the following optional services:

- Pre-employment skills training;
- Employment counseling and application assistance;
- -Job development services;
- Federal employment-related activity services:
- Completion of high school or GED program services;
- —Transitional assistance, including child care for up to 6 months to

enable such individual to successfully secure unsubsidized employment; –Substance abuse prevention and education; and,

Other appropriate support services.

C. Program Beneficiaries

Projects proposed for funding under this portion of the announcement must directly target training and services to individuals who reside in public housing; are economically disadvantaged; and have encountered barriers to employment because of basic skills deficiency including not having a high school diploma, GED, or the equivalent. The grantee shall give priority to single heads of households with young dependent children.

D. Evaluation

The Department expects to contract for an independent evaluation of the programs and entities that receive assistance under this program. The anticipated evaluation shall examine, at a minimum, with respect to the fulfillment of program objectives for families with children residing in public housing, the ability of the Gateway Program to promote increases in literacy levels and basic employment skills and the securing of jobs.

Grantees are expected to cooperate with Federal evaluation contractor(s) that will be funded by the Department. Evaluation contractors will conduct assessments of program and service delivery models. Such cooperation will involve periodically furnishing needed process and outcome oriented data as required by the contractors and allowing them access to information that has not otherwise been provided by the grantee.

Grantees are expected to maintain sufficient resources to fulfill required data obligations and to respond to requests for information that is to be compiled for national evaluation and reporting.

E. Eligible Applicants

Eligible entities are local education agencies.

F. Project Period

This announcement is soliciting applications for project periods up to three years. Awards, on a competitive basis, will be for a seventeen (17) month budget period, although project periods may be for three years. Applications for continuation grants funded under these awards beyond the 17-month budget period, but within the three year project period, will be entertained in subsequent years on a non-competitive basis, subject to the availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the