- 1. Description of the impact area, i.e., a description of the low-income area it proposes to address;
- 2. Analysis of need in the distressed community;
- 3. Project objectives and measurable impact, i.e., a discussion of the types of projects that might be implemented to address the identified needs and how the proposed projects relate to the applicant's organizational goals and previous experience (if any); and

4. Implementation factors and quarterly work plans with specific task timelines.

Sub-priority area 1.4 Administrative and management expertise. OCS believes that one of the most effective means of assuring the successful operation of a project under the Discretionary Grants Program area is through the sharing amongst CDCs of their experiences in dealing with the day to day issues and challenges presented in promoting community economic development. Accordingly, OCS strongly encourages more experienced CDCs to share their administrative and management expertise with less experienced CDCs or with those who have encountered difficulties in operationalizing their work programs. In order to facilitate this, OCS will provide funds to one or more community development corporations (as defined in Part A.3) to enhance the management and operational capacities of the less experienced CDCs or those having difficulties.

The grant(s) would be for a maximum of \$500,000 with a project period not to exceed 17 months. Formal referrals to the grantee or grantees funded under this sub-priority area could be initiated by OCS with the concurrence of a grantee seeking to benefit from such contact. Such formal requests could also be initiated by a grantee with the concurrence of OCS. These contacts may occur on-site, by telephone, or by other methods of communication. Costs incurred in connection with participating in such activities will be borne by the recipient(s) of the OCS grant under this sub-priority area.

Sub-priority area 1.5 Training and technical assistance. Funds will be awarded to one organization under this priority area for the purpose of providing training and technical assistance to strengthen the network of CDCs and to evaluate projects funded under this section.

The grant will be for a maximum of \$235,000 with a grant period not to exceed 17 months. Applicant must have the ability to collect and analyze data nationally that may benefit CDCs and be

able to disseminate information to all of OCS funded grantees. The applicant will also be responsible for the development of instructional programs, conferences, seminars and other activities to assist community development corporations.

Eligible applicants are private nonprofit organizations. Applicants must operate on a national basis and have significant and relevant experiences in working with community development corporations.

Priority Area 2.0 Rural Community Development Activities

Sub-priority area 2.1 Rural housing (including rental housing for low-income individuals). Eligible applicants are States, public agencies or private nonprofit organizations, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

The purpose of this priority area is to assist low-income residents in rural communities by providing grants to eligible applicants to: (a) Provide technical assistance to help low-income families and individuals more effectively utilize existing local, State and Federal housing assistance programs; and (b) develop innovative ways to meet the housing needs of lowincome people, e.g., the rehabilitation or repair of existing substandard housing units for occupancy by low-income residents, the conversion of nonresidential buildings to low-income residential use, and the purchase of homes by low-income people.
OCS encourages applications that will

OCS encourages applications that will assist low-income homeowners to improve their housing through self-help rehabilitation. These applications should not include projects which can be funded through other existing Federal programs.

OCS also encourages the submission of proposals with the aim of assisting homeless families and those at risk of homelessness. Innovative ways to address housing needs of homeless families are of particular interest to OCS.

Projects should produce the following types of tangible improvements and benefits related to housing conditions for rural poor people: interior or exterior structural repairs including weatherization, asbestos and lead abatement, and alternative energy systems; jobs created for local unskilled residents while assuring quality work; technical assistance and professional services related to housing and community planning by community-based design and planning organizations. (Such projects should be conducted with maximum use of

voluntary services of professional and community personnel, and development of innovative housing strategies to help low-income rural residents acquire housing.)

Applications calling for new construction or "gut" rehabilitation will only be considered if the application documents that there is insufficient existing housing stock that can be economically rehabilitated.

Funds will not be available for the repair or rehabilitation of low-income rental housing unless the structure is either occupied by a low-income owner or the properties to be repaired are (a) owned by a private non-profit organization and (b) covered by a written agreement which will ensure continued occupancy by low-income people for at least three years after completion of repairs and rehabilitation.

OCS is particularly interested in receiving applications from such entities as rural housing development corporations, cooperatives, and other public and private organizations with proven accomplishments in the area of rural housing.

See Part F, 7, d, for special instructions on developing a work program for this priority area.

Sub-priority area 2.2 Rural community facilities development (water and waste water treatment systems development). Funds will be provided under this priority area to help low-income rural communities develop the capability and expertise to establish and/or maintain affordable, adequate and safe water and waste water treatment facilities.

Funds provided under this priority area may not be used for construction of water and waste water treatment systems or for operating subsidies for such systems, but other mobilized funds may be used for these activities.

Therefore, it is suggested that applicants coordinate projects with the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) and other Federal and State agencies to ensure that funds for hardware for local community projects are available.

Eligible applicants are public or private nonprofit organizations, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities, that provide training and technical assistance to small, rural communities in meeting their community facility needs.

See Part F, 7, d, for special instructions on developing a work program for this priority area.

Priority 3.0 Assistance for Migrants and Seasonal Farmworkers

Sub-priority 3.1 Assistance for migrants and seasonal farmworkers