Grant funds may cover only those costs which are appropriate and reasonable. Federal funds cannot be used to provide training which an employer is in a position to, and would otherwise, provide, nor can they be used to provide salaries for program participants.

Federal funds may not be used for acquisition of production equipment. The only type of equipment that may be acquired with Federal funds is equipment necessary for the operation of the grant. In the instance of a purchase, the cost of the equipment is to be prorated over the projected life of the equipment to determine the cost to the grant. USE OF GRANT FUNDS TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT WITH A UNIT COST OF \$5,000 OR MORE REQUIRES SPECIAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL FROM DOL PRIOR TO PURCHASE.

Applicants may budget limited amounts of grant funds to work with technical expert(s) to provide advice and develop more complete project plans.

2. Technical Proposal—The technical proposal shall demonstrate the offeror's capabilities in accordance with the Statement of Work/Project Summary in Part III of this solicitation. NO COST DATA OR REFERENCE TO PRICE SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE TECHNICAL PROPOSAL.

C. Submission

Grant applications will be evaluated carefully by a panel convened by the Department after closing date of this solicitation. Incomplete or non-responsive proposals may be returned without evaluation. An application will be reviewed based upon the overall responsiveness of the application's content to the submission requirements and to the selection criteria found in Part IV, taking into consideration the extent to which funds are available.

D. Hand-Delivered Proposals

Proposals should be mailed at least five (5) days prior to the closing date for the receipt of applications. However, if proposals are hand-delivered, they shall be received at the designated place by 2 p.m., Eastern Time on the closing date for receipt of applications. All overnight mail will be considered to be hand-delivered and must be received at the designated place by the specified time and closing date. Telegraphed and/or faxed proposals will not be honored. Failure to adhere to the above instructions will be a basis for a determination of nonresponsiveness.

E. Late Proposals

Any proposal received at the office designated in the solicitation after the exact time specified for receipt will not be considered unless it—

(1) was sent by the U.S. Postal Service registered or certified mail not later than the fifth calendar day before the date specified for receipt of the application (e.g., an offer submitted in response to a solicitation requiring receipt of applications by the 30th of January must have been mailed by the 25th); or

(2) was sent by U.S. Postal Service Express Mail Next Day Service—Post Office to Addressee, not later than 5 p.m. at the place of mailing two working days prior to the date specified for receipt of proposals. The term "working days" excludes weekends and U.S. Federal holidays.

The only acceptable evidence to establish the date of mailing of a late proposal sent either by the U.S. Postal Service registered or certified mail is the U.S. postmark both on the envelope or wrapper and on the original receipt from the U.S. Postal Service. Both postmarks must show a legible date or the proposal shall be processed as if mailed late. "Postmark" means a printed, stamped, or otherwise placed impression (exclusive of a postage meter machine impression) that is readily identifiable without further action as having been supplied and affixed by employees of the U.S. Postal Service on the date of mailing. Therefore, applicants should request the postal clerk to place a legible hand cancellation "bull's eye" postmark on both the receipt and the envelope or wrapper.

The only acceptable evidence to establish the date of mailing of a late proposal sent by "Express Mail Next Day Service—Post Office to Addressee" is the date entered by the post office receiving clerk on the "Express Mail Next Day Service—Post Office to Addressee" label and the postmark on both the envelope and wrapper and on the original receipt from the U.S. Postal Service. "Postmark" has the same meaning as defined above. Therefore, applicants should request the postal clerk to place a legible hand cancellation "bull's eye" postmark on both the receipt and the envelope or wrapper.

F. Withdrawal of Proposals

Proposals may be withdrawn by written notice or telegram (including mailgram) received at any time before award. Proposals may be withdrawn in person or by an applicant or an authorized representative thereof, if the representative's identify is made known and the representative signs a receipt for the proposal before an award.

G. Period of Performance

Project operators must be prepared to deliver services within 90 days following award. The delivery of services will be a period of 12 months. Grantees will be allowed up to 90 days for final reports and closeout. All projects must be completed not later than 18 months from the date of award.

H. Funding

DOL plans to set aside up to \$2 million to be disbursed for 8–10 projects, contingent upon resources being available for this purpose. It is expected that no project will be awarded more than \$400,000. No additional funds will be available under this demonstration. The project operator will be expected to seek continued support from funds distributed by formula through the JTPA system.

I. Availability of Funds

The Government's obligation under these grants are contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds from which payment for grant purposes can be made. No legal liability on the part of the Government for any payment may arise until funds are available to the Grant Officer for these grants and until the Grantees receive notice of such availability, to be confirmed in writing by the Grant Officer.

J. Page Count Limit

Applications are to be limited to 30 single-side pages 8.5 in. $\times 11$ in., single-spaced, with a maximum of 15 pages of attachments.

K. Cost Limitations

Demonstration grants are not subject to the cost limitations for formula-funded Title III grants at Section 315 of the JTPA. However, any offeror proposing administrative costs that exceed 15 percent of the budget and/or supportive services that exceed 25 percent of the funds requested in the application shall provide a narrative justification.

Part III. Statement of Work

Each application should follow the format outlined here. For every section, A through G, the application should include: (1) information that responds to the requirements in this part; (2) information that indicates adherence to the provisions described in Parts I and II of this solicitation; and (3) other information the offeror believes will