

areas, thus making the purchase of their leased property far more affordable. Lessees operating satisfactory homeless programs, and who purchase, will also have a competitive advantage under the rating criterion, "Capacity", since they may demonstrate experience with HUD homeless programs.

#### **VI. Employment Opportunities for Homeless Persons**

A key goal of the continuum of care approach is to assist homeless persons achieve independent living whenever possible. Each of the three programs under this NOFA has as a goal increasing the skill level and/or income of program participants. Employment opportunities not only help achieve these goals but are also important in rebuilding self-esteem.

The McKinney Act recognizes the importance of employment opportunities in requiring that, to the maximum extent practicable, recipients involve homeless persons through employment, volunteer services, or otherwise, in constructing, rehabilitating, maintaining, and operating the project and in providing supportive services. Under the Supportive Housing Program, employment assistance activities are eligible, and grant recipients can use these funds for such activities as job training, wages, and educational awards for homeless persons. While Shelter Plus Care Program and SRO Program funds may only be used for rental assistance, employment assistance activities paid from other sources count towards the match requirement of the Shelter Plus Care Program and can also count for purposes of the "leveraging" rating criterion.

Inclusion in the application of employment assistance activities for homeless persons may improve the rating score under the "Quality of Project" criterion, making the application more competitive.

#### **VII. Linking Homeless Assistance Programs and AmeriCorps**

The Corporation for National Service, established in 1993 to engage Americans of all ages and backgrounds in community-based service, supports a range of national and community service programs. AmeriCorps, one of the national service programs supported by the Corporation, engages thousands of young Americans on a full or part-time basis to help communities address their toughest challenges, while earning support for college, graduate school, or job training.

Applicants for the Supportive Housing Program are encouraged to link

their proposed projects with AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps Members can be an excellent source of committed, caring staff. An applicant may call The Corporation for National Service in Washington, DC, on (202) 606-5000 to ask for the State Commission contact name and phone number. Through the information received from the State Commission, the applicant may contact an AmeriCorps Program Sponsor in the local area. The Sponsor recruits, selects, trains, and places individuals who become AmeriCorps Members.

Full-time AmeriCorps members (those working 1,700 hours over a 9 to 12 month period) are eligible to receive approximately \$7,600 as a living allowance, health care and child care if necessary, and a post-service award of \$4,725 to be used for current or future college, graduate school, or job training, or to repay existing qualified loans. AmeriCorps is able to support a greater number of Members if other organizations or programs, such as the Supportive Housing Program, can pay the program and Member-related expenses, with AmeriCorps providing the post-service educational awards.

For Supportive Housing, applicants may request funds for paying operating and supportive services costs. These costs may include payment for AmeriCorps Members, such as living allowances, health care costs, and reasonable overhead costs of the AmeriCorps program sponsor, but may not exceed the cost which would be paid by the applicant for the same services when procured from a contractor. An applicant does not fill out a special exhibit for AmeriCorps Members. Instead, the costs for the AmeriCorps Members are included in the operating and supportive services budgets, as appropriate, just as other staff costs are.

If Members are used in operating the Supportive Housing project, the costs are subject to the requirement that operating costs be shared. Examples of how Members may be used in operating a project include maintenance, security, and facility management. Supportive services are not subject to cost-sharing, so if Members are engaged in delivering supportive services, such as substance abuse counseling, case management, or recreational programs, no local share is required.

#### **VIII. Other Matters**

##### *Prohibition Against Lobbying Activities*

The use of funds awarded under this NOFA is subject to the disclosure requirements and prohibitions of Section 319 of the Department of

Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1990 (31 U.S.C. 1352) (the "Byrd Amendment") and the implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 87. These authorities prohibit recipients of Federal contracts, grants, or loans from using appropriated funds for lobbying the Executive or Legislative branches of the Federal government in connection with a specific contract, grant, or loan. The prohibition also covers the awarding of contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, or loans unless the recipient has made an acceptable certification regarding lobbying. Under 24 CFR part 87, applicants, recipients and sub-recipients of assistance exceeding \$100,000 must certify that no Federal funds have been or will be spent on lobbying activities in connection with the assistance.

##### *Environmental Impact*

In accordance with 40 CFR 1508.4 of the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality and 24 CFR 50.20(k) and (l) of the HUD regulations, the policies and procedures set forth in this document are determined not to have the potential for having a significant impact on the quality of the human environment, and therefore are exempt from further environmental reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. (This same determination was made at the time of development of the interim rule on the Supportive Housing Program, Shelter Plus Care, and Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy Program for Homeless Individuals, that was published in the **Federal Register** on May 10, 1994 (59 FR 24252).

##### *Executive Order 12606, The Family*

The General Counsel, as the Designated Official under Executive Order 12606, *The Family*, has determined that the policies announced in this Notice would have a significant impact on the formation, maintenance, and general well-being of families, but since this impact would be beneficial, no further analysis under the Order is necessary.

##### *Executive Order 12612, Federalism*

The General Counsel has determined, as the Designated Official for HUD under section 6(a) of Executive Order 12612, *Federalism*, that the policies contained in this Notice will not have federalism implications and, thus, are not subject to review under the Order. The promotion of activities and policies to end homelessness is a recognized goal of general benefit without direct