

encouraged. The selection process described in this NOFA provides for applicants to receive points where grant applications contain evidence of interest (for planning applications) or commitments (for implementation applications) from Federal, State, local, or private sources to provide resources to carry out Youthbuild activities.

I. Environmental Procedures and Standards

Implementation grant applicants are encouraged to select hazard-free and problem-free properties for their Youthbuild projects. Environmental procedures apply to HUD approval of implementation grants when the applicant proposes to use Youthbuild funds to cover any costs for the lease, acquisition, rehabilitation, or new construction of real property proposed for housing project development. Environmental procedures do not apply to HUD approval of implementation applications when applicants propose to use their Youthbuild funds solely to cover any costs for classroom and/or on-the-job construction training and support services.

For those implementation grant applicants that propose to use their Youthbuild funds to cover any costs of the lease, acquisition, rehabilitation, or new construction of real property, the applicant shall submit all relevant environmental information in its application to support HUD decision-making in accordance with the environmental procedures and standards set forth in 24 CFR 585.307.

J. Grant Periods

Funds awarded for a planning grant should be used within 12 months of the effective date of the planning grant agreement. Funds awarded for an implementation grant should be used within 30 months of the effective date of the implementation grant agreement.

III. Selection Criteria for Youthbuild Applications

HUD will review each application for a planning or an implementation grant and assign points in accordance with the selection criteria described in this section. Where there are differences between the criteria for planning and implementation applications, they are so noted. Each application will be assigned up to 100 points. In addition, applications may receive up to 5 bonus points for AmeriCorps participation (see section F below), and implementation applications may receive an additional 10 housing priority points (see section G below).

A. Capability: the qualifications, experience, or potential capabilities of the applicant and participating parties. (Maximum Points: 25) The capability of the applicant and participating parties to plan or implement a successful young adult education and training program within a reasonable time period, within budget, and in an effective manner as demonstrated through past performance. In assigning points for this criterion, HUD will consider evidence in the application that demonstrates:

(1) Young adult education and training experience: The past performance and experience of the applicant entity or other participating parties (applicant's partner, member of local Youthbuild consortium, or other entity participating in the program) in planning or implementing young adult education and training programs, including programs for low-income persons from economically distressed neighborhoods, or an explanation of how such capability will be obtained.

(2) Young adult leadership development experience: The past experience of the applicant entity or other participating party in providing leadership development training and activities for young adults, or an explanation of how such capability will be obtained.

(3) Housing experience: The knowledge, experience, and performance of the applicant entity or other participating parties in producing sound and affordable housing for the homeless and low-income families, or an explanation of how such knowledge and experience will be obtained.

B. Need: the need for the proposed program, as determined by the degree of distress of the community. (Maximum Points: 20) In assigning points for this criterion, HUD will consider the relative degree of distress of the jurisdiction(s) from which participants will be recruited and in which the housing will be constructed or rehabilitated. HUD will calculate the degree of need of the jurisdiction(s) in which the program will be located from generally available data. In addition, HUD will consider information provided by the applicant on the distress of target areas within the jurisdiction(s).

C. Program Quality and Feasibility: comprehensiveness and effectiveness of the proposed Youthbuild program.

(Maximum Points: 35) HUD will consider the overall quality and feasibility of the proposed program as measured by the principles and goals of the proposed program, whether proposed program activities meet the overall objectives of the Youthbuild program, whether the proposed program

activities will be accomplished within a reasonable time and at reasonable expense, whether the proposed program activities are comprehensive and integrated, and the potential success of the proposed program. Planning applications will be evaluated by the extent to which the applicant describes a strategy for developing plans. Implementation applications will be evaluated by the actual plan. Areas to be considered in this evaluation are:

(1) Outreach, recruitment and selection activities: A description of the proposed (a) outreach, recruitment (including specific steps to be taken to attract potential eligible participants who are unlikely to be aware of this program because of race, ethnicity, sex, or disability) and selection strategies; (b) special outreach efforts to recruit eligible young women and young women with dependent children; and (c) recruitment arrangements made with public agencies, courts, homeless shelters, local school systems, community-based organizations, etc.;

(2) Educational and job training services and activities: A description of the educational component of the program, including: (a) the types of instructional services to be provided; (b) the number and qualifications of program instructors and ratio of instructors to participants; (c) realistic scheduling plan for classroom and on-the-job training; and (d) reasonable payments of participant wages, stipends, and incentives.

(3) Leadership development and support services: A description of the leadership development, counseling, and referral services to be offered to participants, including: (a) leadership development strategies and activities and plans to build group cohesion and peer support; and (b) the type of counseling and support services and/or need-based stipends to be provided.

(4) Coordination: A description of how the Youthbuild program will make use of ongoing Federal, State, Indian tribe, local, private and community-based services and activities associated with (a) educational, job training, child care, social services, counseling and referral services; (b) homeless and housing programs; and (c) apprenticeship programs of local building trade unions.

(5) On-site training: A description of (a) the housing construction or rehabilitation activities to be undertaken by participants at the site(s) to be used for the on-site training component of the program, (b) the qualifications and number of on-site supervisors; and (c) the amounts, reasonable wages and/or