



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20410-7000

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

NOTE TO: Economic Development Professionals

FROM: Donald P. Mains, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Development

In the coming days HUD will announce this year's competition under the Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (**BEDI**) and it's not too soon for you to think about applying. Since 1998 BEDI has provided grants of up to \$2 million for redevelopment activities at brownfield sites. Under current law, BEDI grants must be used for projects or activities also assisted with loans provided under HUD's Section 108-guaranteed loan program.

Although federal law prohibits me from divulging specific information about the 2003 BEDI Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) that would give an unfair competitive edge to any applicant, I am able to outline the general parameters and requirements of the BEDI program.

BEDI is designed to help communities redevelop abandoned or underutilized property where redevelopment is complicated by the presence or potential presence of environmental contamination. Although BEDI is an economic development initiative, BEDI projects can generally include any activities eligible under the regulations for the Section 108 loan guarantee program (24 CFR 570.703), including activities to combat homelessness in your community through projects that create low- and moderate-income jobs or entail the construction or rehabilitation of low- and moderate income housing.

Each BEDI application will be rated against the selection criteria provided in the BEDI program section of HUD's 2003 SuperNOFA. That NOFA will also be posted on the HUD Website shortly after it is published. If you have questions or would like further information, please call Bill Seedyke, BEDI Program Coordinator, at (202) 708-3484, extension 4445, or send an email to william_seedyke@hud.gov.

The rush is on! Older warehouses and industrial sites are being acknowledged as desirable locations for housing. Abandoned gas stations are coming back to life as neighborhood businesses. Riverfront properties are shedding their industrial pallor for the bright lights of restaurants and shops. Be creative. Tell your local developers about HUD's package of BEDI grants and low-interest federally guaranteed loans available to close their most persistent financing gaps. Keep the urban revitalization momentum moving!