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PROGRAM GUIDANCE

PROGRAM: ROSS

FOR: Tribal Government Leaders and Tribally Designated Housing Entities

R.J.B.

FROM: Rodger J. Boyd, Deputy Assistant Secretary, PN

TOPIC: Fiscal Year 2003 Super Notice of Funding Availability for the Resident Opportunities and Self Sufficiency Program

Purpose: The purpose of this guidance is to provide tribes and tribally designated housing entities (TDHEs) with a summary of the Department's Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 Super Notice of Funding Availability (SuperNOFA) for the Resident Opportunities and Self Sufficiency (ROSS) Program that was published in the Federal Register on April 25, 2003.

Background: The purpose of the ROSS Program is to link services to public and Indian housing residents by providing grants for supportive services, resident empowerment activities and activities to assist residents in becoming economically self-sufficient.

Program Information: The following chart summarizes the funding categories available, eligible applicants and amounts available for each category:

GRANT	ELIGIBILITY	DUE DATE	TOTAL AMOUNT AVAILABLE
RSDM - Elderly and Persons with Disabilities	Indian tribes, TDHEs, resident organizations (ROs) for tribal entities, nonprofits	06/11/03	\$9,300,300
Resident Services Delivery Model (RSDM) -Family	Indian tribes, TDHEs, ROs for tribal entities, nonprofits	06/19/03	\$14,345,000
Homeownership Supportive Services (HSS)	Indian tribes, TDHEs, ROs for tribal entities, nonprofits	07/07/03	\$11,127,200

Application submission requirements: All applications must address general SuperNOFA requirements as well as specific ROSS Program requirements. General requirements are published separately from the ROSS Program requirements in the Federal Register and begin on page 21002. The specific ROSS Program requirements begin on page 21509.

Highlights of the ROSS component of the FY 2003 SuperNOFA:

- All of the forms necessary to submit applications for the FY 2003 funding round are available in the General and Program Sections of the SuperNOFA. Application Kits are not available for the ROSS Program in FY 2003.
- Eligible applicants may submit an application for more than one funding category; however, separate applications must be submitted for each category.
- Tribes and TDHEs need not serve an RO in order to apply for the FY 2003 ROSS funding year. This is a change from the FY 2002 application process.
- Tribes and TDHEs are eligible for the HSS component of ROSS in FY 2003.
- Grantees may hire a Project Coordinator to create a resident group to promote self-sufficiency efforts on the reservation.
- For those who have prior year ROSS grants, applicants for FY 2003 will be rated on prior year performance.
- In FY 2003, grantees must have online access as a means to communicate with HUD on grant matters, including submission of reports. If the grantee cannot obtain Internet access, they may submit a request to waive this requirement. Details are located at Section VII, Program Requirements, Certifications, and Procedures for ROSS Applicants, on page 21536 of the Federal Register.

Suggestions for developing a successful application:

- ✓ All applicants are required to have adequate documentation showing that they have in place a 25 percent match in cash or in-kind donations. This is a threshold requirement; details are in Section II, Definition of Terms.
- ✓ Forms must be complete and signed by the applicant's Executive Officer.
- ✓ All documents must be attached or located according to the sequence shown for each funding category. The RSDM-Family and RSDM-Elderly and Persons with Disabilities sections are located on page 21536 and the HSS category on page 21537 of the Federal Register.
- ✓ Threshold items must be included in the application at the time of submission. If they are missing, the application will not be reviewed. These requirements are located in Section VII, Program Requirements, Certifications, and Procedures for ROSS Applicants.
- ✓ An original and two copies of all applications developed for the ROSS Program must be submitted to the Denver Program ONAP located at 1999 Broadway Street, Suite 3390, Denver, CO 80202, by the time indicated in the SuperNOFA. Please do not submit applications to the Area ONAP.

If you need additional assistance regarding submission of your FY 2003 ROSS application, contact Carol Quinlan at the Denver Program ONAP. She can be reached on (303) 675-1613.