

**§ 3015.153**

**§ 3015.153 Notice of preapplication review action.**

Awarding agencies shall inform governmental applicants of the results of their review of preapplications by using the Notice of Preapplication Review Action form prescribed by Circular A-102. If the review cannot be completed within 45 days, the awarding agency shall inform the applicant, in writing, when it will complete the review.

**§ 3015.154 Application for Federal assistance (nonconstruction programs).**

Governments shall use the Application for Federal Assistance (Nonconstruction Programs) form prescribed by OMB Circular A-102 in applying for discretionary grants unless a form specified in § 3015.155 or § 3015.156 is to be used.

**§ 3015.155 Application for Federal assistance (construction programs).**

Governments shall use the Application for Federal Assistance (for Construction Programs) form prescribed by Circular A-102 in applying for any grant whose purpose is solely or primarily construction, land acquisition, or land development.

**§ 3015.156 Application for Federal assistance (short form).**

Governments shall use the Application for Federal Assistance (Short Form) form prescribed by Circular A-102 in applying for any single-purpose, one-time grant of less than \$10,000 not requiring Circular A-95 clearinghouse review, an environmental impact statement, or the relocation of persons, businesses, or farms. Awarding agencies may, at their discretion, authorize or require this form for applications for larger amounts.

**§ 3015.157 Authorized form for nongovernmental organizations.**

Nongovernmental organizations shall use application forms prescribed by the awarding agency. The facesheet of these applications shall be Standard Form 424.

**7 CFR Ch. XXX (1-1-05 Edition)**

**§ 3015.158 Competition in the awarding of discretionary grants and cooperative agreements.**

(a) *Standards for competition.* Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, awarding agencies shall enter into discretionary grants and cooperative agreements only after competition. An awarding agency's competitive award process shall adhere to the following standards:

(1) Potential applicants must be invited to submit proposals through publications such as the FEDERAL REGISTER, professional trade journals, agency or program handbooks, the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, or any other appropriate means of solicitation. In so doing, awarding agencies should consider the broadest dissemination of project solicitations in order to reach the highest number of potential applicants.

(2) Proposals are to be evaluated objectively by independent reviewers in accordance with written criteria set forth by the awarding agency. Reviewers should make written comments, as appropriate, on each application. Independent reviewers may be from the private sector, another agency, or within the awarding agency, as long as they do not include anyone who has approval authority for the applications being reviewed or anyone who might appear to have a conflict of interest in the role of reviewer of applications. A conflict of interest might arise when the reviewer or the reviewer's immediate family members have been associated with the applicant or applicant organization within the past two years as an owner, partner, officer, director, employee, or consultant; has any financial interest in the applicant or applicant organization; or is negotiating for, or has any arrangement, concerning prospective employment.

(3) An unsolicited application, which is not unique and innovative, shall be competed under the project solicitation it comes closest to fitting. Awarding agency officials will determine the solicitation under which the application is to be evaluated. When the awarding agency official decides that the unsolicited application does not fall under a recent, current, or planned solicitation, a noncompetitive award

may be made, if appropriate to do so under the criteria of this section. Otherwise, the application should be returned to the applicant.

(b) *Project solicitations.* A project solicitation by the awarding agency shall include or reference the following, as appropriate:

(1) A description of the eligible activities which the awarding agency proposes to support and the program priorities;

(2) Eligible applicants;

(3) The dates and amounts of funds expected to be available for awards;

(4) Evaluation criteria and weights, if appropriate, assigned to each;

(5) Methods for evaluating and ranking applications;

(6) Name and address where proposals should be mailed and submission deadline(s);

(7) Any required forms and how to obtain them;

(8) Applicable cost principles and administrative requirements;

(9) Type of funding instrument intended to be used (grant or cooperative agreement); and

(10) The *Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance* number and title.

(c) *Approval of applications.* The final decision to award is at the discretion of the awarding/approving official in each agency. The awarding/approving official shall consider the ranking, comments, and recommendations from the independent review group, and any other pertinent information before deciding which applications to approve and their order of approval. Any appeals by applicants regarding the award decision shall be handled by the awarding agency using existing agency appeal procedures or good administrative practice and sound business judgment.

(d) *Exceptions.* The awarding/approving official may make a determination in writing that competition is not deemed appropriate for a particular transaction. Such determination shall be limited to transactions where it can be adequately justified that a non-competitive award is in the best interest of the Government and necessary to the accomplishment of the goals of the program. Reasons for considering non-competitive awards may include, but

are not necessarily limited to, the following:

(1) Nonmonetary awards of property or services;

(2) Awards of less than \$75,000;

(3) Awards to fund continuing work already started under a previous award;

(4) Awards which cannot be delayed due to an emergency or a substantial danger to health or safety;

(5) Awards when it is impracticable to secure competition; or

(6) Awards to fund unique and innovative unsolicited applications.

[51 FR 17172, May 9, 1986]

### Subpart R—Property

#### § 3015.160 Scope and applicability.

(a) Except as explained in paragraphs (c), (d), and (e) of this section, this subpart applies to real property, equipment (including ADP) and supplies whose acquisition is supported by a grant.

(b) Also contained in this subpart are standards covering inventions, patents, and copyrights arising out of activities supported by a grant.

(c) This subpart does not apply to:

(1) Property for which only depreciation or use allowances are charged;

(2) Property donated entirely as a third party in-kind contribution; or

(3) Equipment or supplies acquired primarily for sale or rental, rather than for use.

(d) This subpart applies to equipment or supplies acquired by a contractor under a grant or subgrant only if, by terms of the contract, title vests in the recipient or subrecipient.

(e) For research grants that are subject to an institutional cost-sharing agreement, real property, equipment, and supplies shall be subject to this subpart only if at least some part of the acquisition cost is supported as a direct cost by Federal grant funds.

#### § 3015.161 Additional requirements.

Provided they observe the requirements of this subpart, recipients may follow their own property management policies and procedures. Unless specifically required by Federal statutes or Executive Orders, awarding agencies