

**FY 06 SECTIONS 202 AND 811
NOFA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

1. **QUESTION:** What is the definition of “project area” that is to be applied in rating 202/811 applications under Rating Factor 3.1., the extent of the Sponsor’s plans for expanding economic opportunities for low- and very-low income persons in the area of the proposed project (Section 3 provisions).

ANSWER: The FY06 Sections 202 and 811 NOFAs provide for up to 2 points for applications proposing to contract with business concerns which provide economic opportunities for low and very low-income persons in the area of the proposed project as well as to expand training and employment opportunities for such persons in the project area. Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 as well as Part 135 of Part 24 CFR, provide that economic opportunities be given to low- and very low-income persons residing within the metropolitan area (or nonmetropolitan county) in which the project is located, with priority given to such persons within the service area of the project or the neighborhood in which the project is located and to participants in the HUD Youthbuild programs under subtitle D of Title IV of the National Affordable Housing Act.

For purposes of compliance with Section 3 requirements:

- (a) “**Metropolitan Area**” means a metropolitan statistical area, as established by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).
- (b) “**Nonmetropolitan County**” means any county outside of a metropolitan area.
- (c) “**Neighborhood Area**” means a geographical location within the jurisdiction of a unit of general local government (but not the entire jurisdiction) designated in ordinances, or other local documents as a neighborhood, village, or similar geographical designation.
- (d) “**Service Area**” means the geographical area in which the persons benefiting from the Section 3 covered project reside. The service area does not extend beyond the unit of general local government in which the Section 3 covered assistance is expended.

2. **QUESTION:** What is the dollar value to be used for volunteer time in calculating the amount of private funding commitments and donations towards the development and operation of the project under Rating Factor 4, Leveraging Resources?

ANSWER: Independent Sector, an organization that supports charitable organizations and the philanthropic sector via research programs and other activities, has developed estimates of the dollar value of volunteer time using data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. For example, the Independent Sector reports that the national average for 2005 of volunteer time is \$18.04 per hour. However, the Independent Sector provides the estimated dollar value by State, which may be used to determine a dollar value of volunteer time. To obtain this information, go to Independent Sector's website at http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html.

3. **QUESTION:** The General Section of the SuperNOFA states that applicants may not submit scanned files with their electronic application unless the facsimile solution will not work due to the nature of the document. Does this mean that applicants cannot scan documents to create an electronic file and submit the documents in a zipped file?

ANSWER: No. Applicants can scan and zip files. However, Applicants should be aware that scanning documents increases the size of the files and if Applicants are using dial up connection or have a slow speed computer, the heavy attachments may slow the transmission. The slow upload may cause some Applicant's Internet connection to time out. That is why the General Section discourages the scanning of documents and suggested using the facsimile solution. Applicants that will not have problems with their Internet connection timing out or their computer can handle large files, may submit scanned and zipped files.