

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-5200-N-01A]

Fiscal Year 2008 SuperNOFA for HUD's Discretionary Programs

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, HUD.

ACTION: Notice of HUD's 2008 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for HUD's Discretionary Programs (SuperNOFA).

SUMMARY: On March 19, 2008, HUD published its Notice of Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 Notice of Funding Availability Policy Requirements and General Section to HUD's FY2008 NOFAs (General Section). HUD published the General Section of in advance of the individual NOFAs to give prospective applicants sufficient time to understand policy and program requirements that apply to the majority of HUD's programs in advance of the publication of the program section NOFAs, to register early with Grants.gov in order to facilitate their application submission process, and to gain a better understanding of the Grants.gov application receipt and validation process. Today's publication contains the 36 funding opportunities that constitute HUD's FY2008 SuperNOFA. Today's publication also provides a revised Appendix A that lists the programs contained in the FY2008 SuperNOFA and corrects two items contained in the General Section published on March 19, 2008.

DATES: Application deadline and other key dates that apply to all HUD federal financial assistance made available through HUD's FY2008 SuperNOFA are contained in each individual program NOFA and in Appendix A of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The individual program NOFA identifies the applicable agency contact(s) for each program. Questions regarding today's

Introduction to the SuperNOFA should be directed to the NOFA Information Center between the hours 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. eastern time at (800) HUD-8929. Hearing-impaired persons may access this telephone via TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Questions regarding specific program requirements should be directed to the agency contact(s) identified in each program NOFA.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

HUD published the Policy Requirements and General Section to HUD's FY2008 NOFAs (the **General Section**) in the Federal Register on March 19, 2008 (73 FR 14882). HUD published the **General Section** in advance of the individual program NOFAs to give prospective applicants sufficient time to understand policy and program requirements that apply to the majority of HUD's programs in advance of the publication of the program section NOFAs, to register early with Grants.gov in order to facilitate their application submission process, and to gain a better understanding of the Grants.gov application receipt and validation process. Today's publication contains the 36 individual funding opportunities that constitute HUD's FY2008 SuperNOFA. Through the FY2008 SuperNOFA, HUD is making available approximately \$1.02 billion in federal financial assistance. Today's publication also provides a revised Appendix A that lists the programs contained in the FY2008 SuperNOFA and corrects items contained in the **General Section** published on March 19, 2008.

Each program NOFA provides the statutory and regulatory requirements, threshold requirements, and rating factors applicable to funding made available through the individual NOFA. Applicants must also read, however, the **General Section** for

important application information and requirements, including submission requirements that provide explicit instructions on file formats acceptable to HUD.

Appendix A to the **General Section** identified the funding opportunities that HUD anticipated would be included in the FY2008 SuperNOFA. HUD is revising and republishing Appendix A (Revised Appendix A) as part of today's publication. Revised Appendix A provides a corrected and up-to-date list of the funding opportunities included in today's FY2008 SuperNOFA publication. Revised Appendix A also lists the application deadline date and the approximate amount of funding available for each of the program NOFAs contained in the FY2008 SuperNOFA. Applicants are reminded that, unless they obtain a written waiver, applications must be **received and validated** by Grants.gov by 11:59:59 p.m. eastern time on the application deadline date. The validation check can take 24 to 48 hours after an application is received by Grants.gov. **As a result, HUD strongly encourages applicants to submit their applications 48 to 72 hours prior to the application deadline date.** By submitting prior to the application deadline date, applicants will have time to cure any deficiency in their applications should it fail the validation process. HUD also reminds applicants that, if they have changed their email address, they must also update their Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) registration with Grants.gov. Failure to update the AOR email address will prevent individuals submitting applications on behalf of an applicant from receiving a validation receipt or rejection notice from Grants.gov.

In reviewing Revised Appendix A, applicants should note that the HOPE VI program is not part of the FY2008 SuperNOFA. HUD published the HOPE VI NOFA separately in the Federal Register on March 26, 2008 (73 FR 16140). The application

and instructions for the HOPE VI NOFA can be found on the Grants.gov website at http://www07.grants.gov/applicants/find_grant_opportunities.jsp. In addition, the Continuum of Care program is not part of today's publication. Applicants for the Continuum of Care program should be advised that HUD will require applicants to submit Continuum of Care applications electronically in FY2008. Because the electronic application is not yet available, however, details of the registration process and other submission details (including, application submission date and timely receipt requirements) will be published in two notices that will be published in the Federal Register later this year. HUD expects the first notice to be available in spring 2008. HUD expects to publish the Continuum of Care NOFA no earlier than July 1, 2008. Notification of the availability of registration instructions, the application and other information will be released through the Grants.gov/Find website. To be placed on the Grants.gov notification service for notices about the Continuum of Care electronic application process, go to <http://www.grants.gov/search/subscribeAdvanced.do>. To join the HUD homeless assistance programs listserv go to <http://www.hud.gov/subscribe/signup.cfm?listname=Homeless%20Assistance%20Program&list=HOMELESS-ASST-L>.

HUD is also using today's publication to correct the following items in the General Section published on March 19, 2008:

On page 14885, Section III, C.2.j., the section on Debarment and Suspension, is modified to reference the December 24, 2007 final rule on Implementation of OMB Guidance on

Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension (72 FR 73484). The December 24, 2007, final rule relocated HUD's regulations governing nonprocurement debarment and suspension to a new part in title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The relocation of HUD's nonprocurement debarment and suspension regulation is part of a governmentwide initiative to create one location where the public can access both the Office of Management and Budget guidance for grants and agreements and the associated federal agency implementing regulations. HUD's final Rule is available at <http://www.hud.gov/grants/index.cfm> on the right hand side of the page under "What's Hot!"

On page 14890, Section VI.B.b. "Step Two: Register with CCR," is corrected to reflect the operating hours of the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) Assistance Center. If you need assistance you can contact the CCR Assistance Center, Monday to Friday, except federal holidays, from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. eastern time by calling 888-227-2423 or 269-961-5757. CCR also has on line help incorporated into its website. To obtain the online help, use the HELP link at the top of the page.

Applicants are invited and encouraged to participate in HUD's satellite training and webcast sessions designed to provide a detailed explanation of the general section and program section requirements for each of the SuperNOFA programs. The interactive broadcasts provide an opportunity to ask questions of HUD staff. These broadcasts are archived and accessible from HUD's Grants page at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/fundsavail.cfm>. HUD also encourages all applicants to subscribe to the Grants.gov free notification service. By doing so, applicants will receive email notification as soon as items are posted to Grants.gov and

have access to a significant amount of useful information, including responses to frequently asked questions that arise during the funding application period. The address to subscribe to the Grants.gov free notification service is

http://www.grants.gov/applicants/email_subscription.jsp. Corrections to the **General**

Section, program NOFAs, or the application are posted to www.Grants.gov as soon as they are available. HUD will also post the Continuum of Care NOFA (and any corrections to the Continuum of Care NOFA) on the Grants.gov/Find site.

HUD hopes that the steps that it has taken to provide information early in the FY2008 funding process will be of benefit to you, our applicants and urges applicants to carefully read the instructions provided in the **General Section** and program sections of the NOFA and to apply early so any issues can be addressed prior to the deadline date

Dated: April 15, 2008

Dawn Luepke
General Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Administration

[FR 5200-N-01A]

SELF-HELP HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM (SHOP)

OVERVIEW INFORMATION

A. Federal Agency Name: Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development.

B. Funding Opportunity Title: Self-help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP).

C. Announcement Type: Initial announcement.

D. Funding Opportunity Number: FR-5200-N-23; OMB Approval Number 2506-0157.

E. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: Self-help Homeownership Opportunity Program. The CFDA number is 14.247.

F. Dates: The application deadline date for electronic submission and validation in Grants.gov is **July 11, 2008**. Applications submitted through <http://www.grants.gov> must be received and validated by grants.gov no later than 11:59:59 Eastern time on the application deadline date. The validation process may take up to 72 hours.

G. Optional, Additional Overview Information:

SHOP funds are awarded to national and regional nonprofit organizations and consortia demonstrating experience in administering self-help housing programs in which the homebuyers contribute a significant amount of sweat-equity toward construction or rehabilitation of the dwelling. The amount available for SHOP in Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 is \$26,500,000.

FULL TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT

I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Program Description

SHOP funds are to be used to facilitate and encourage innovative homeownership opportunities on a national geographically diverse basis through self-help housing programs that require significant sweat-equity by the homebuyer toward the construction or rehabilitation of the dwelling.

SHOP programs are administered by national and regional nonprofit organizations and consortia. Units developed with SHOP funds must be decent, safe, and sanitary non-luxury dwellings and must be made available to eligible homebuyers at prices below the prevailing market prices. Eligible homebuyers are low-income individuals and families (i.e., those whose annual incomes do not exceed 80 percent of the median income for the area, as established by HUD) who would otherwise be unable to purchase a dwelling but for the provision of sweat equity. Housing assisted under this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) must involve labor contributed by homebuyers and volunteers in the construction of dwellings and other activities that involve the community in the project.

B. Authority

Funding made available under SHOP is authorized by section 11 of the Housing Opportunity Program Extension Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 12805 note) (the “Extension Act”).

II. Award Information

Approximately \$26,500,000 will be available for this program in FY 2008. Any unobligated funds from previous competitions or additional funds that may become available due to deobligation or recapture from previous awards or budget transfers may

be added to the FY 2008 appropriation to fund applications submitted in response to this NOFA. Awards will be made to successful applicants in the form of a grant. Grant funds must be expended within 24 months of the date that they are first made available for draw-down in a line of credit established by HUD for the grantee, except that grant funds provided to affiliates that develop five or more units must be expended within 36 months.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

You must be a national or regional nonprofit public or private organization or consortium that has the capacity and experience to provide or facilitate self-help housing homeownership opportunities. Your organization or consortium must undertake eligible SHOP activities directly and/or provide funding assistance to your local affiliates to carry out SHOP activities. You must propose in your application to use a significant amount of SHOP funds in at least two states. Affiliates must be located within the regional organization's or consortium's service area.

A national organization is defined as an organization that carries out self-help housing activities or funds affiliates that carry out self-help housing activities on a national scale.

A regional organization is defined as an organization that carries out self-help housing activities or funds affiliates that carry out self-help housing activities on a regional scale.

A regional area is a geographic area, such as the Southwest or Northeast that includes at least two states. The states in the region need not be contiguous, and the service area of the organization need not precisely conform to state boundaries.

A consortium is defined as two or more nonprofit organizations located in at least two states that individually have the capacity and experience to carry out self-help housing

activities or fund affiliates that carry out self-help housing activities on a national or regional scale and enter into an agreement to submit a single application for SHOP funding on a national or regional basis. The consortium must propose to use a significant amount of SHOP funds in each state represented in the consortium. All consortium members must receive SHOP funds and one organization must be designated as the lead entity. The lead entity must submit the application and, if selected for funding, execute the SHOP Grant Agreement with HUD and assume responsibility for the grant on behalf of the consortium in compliance with all program requirements.

A consortium agreement, executed and dated by all consortium members for the purpose of applying for and using FY 2008 SHOP funds, must be submitted with your application. A consortium's application must be a single integrated document that demonstrates the consortium's comprehensive approach to self-help housing. All consortium members must be identified in your application. The integrated application must reflect all consortium members' programs as a single program and may only briefly summarize the individual consortium members' past experiences in factor 1. All other components of the application must reflect an overall consortium program design. Individual program designs for consortium members or affiliates within the integrated document will not be considered by HUD in scoring an application. Upon being funded, the lead entity must enter into a separate agreement with each individual consortium member. The agreement must include the requirements of the FY 2008 SHOP Grant Agreement between HUD and the consortium and set forth the individual consortium member's responsibilities for compliance with HUD's 2008 SHOP program.

An affiliate is defined as:

(1) a local public or private nonprofit self-help housing organization that is a subordinate organization (i.e., chapter, local, post, or unit) of a central organization and covered by the group exemption letter issued to the central organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; or

(2) a local public or private nonprofit self-help housing organization with which the applicant has an existing relationship (e.g., the applicant has provided technical assistance or funding to the local self-help housing organization); or

(3) a local public or private nonprofit self-help housing organization with which the applicant does not have an existing relationship, but to which the applicant will provide necessary technical assistance and mentoring as part of funding under the application.

You must carry out eligible activities or you must enter into an agreement to fund affiliates to carry out eligible activities. If you are a consortium, each of your affiliates must receive funds and be linked to an individual consortium member.

Your application may not propose to fund any affiliate or consortium member that is also included in another SHOP application. You must ensure that any affiliate or consortium member under your FY2008 application is not also seeking FY2008 SHOP funding from another SHOP applicant. If an affiliate applies for funds through more than one applicant, it may be disqualified for funding from any applicant that receives a grant.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

Applicants are required to leverage resources for the construction of self-help housing assisted with SHOP. Failure to provide documentation of leveraged resources that meet

the submission requirements for firm commitments as stated in factor 4 will result in a lower application score.

C. Other

1. Eligible Activities

The costs of eligible activities may be incurred by the applicant (and by affiliates, if permitted by the applicant) after the publication date of the NOFA and charged to the SHOP grant, provided the applicant and affiliates comply with the requirements of this NOFA (including relocation and environmental review requirements) and provided that these costs are included in the application. Applicants and affiliates incur pre-agreement costs at their own risk, because applicants that do not receive a SHOP grant cannot be reimbursed or reimburse affiliates.

Eligible activities are:

- a. Land acquisition**, including financing and closing costs, which may include reimbursing an organization, consortium, or affiliate, upon approval of any required environmental review, for non-grant funds expended by the organization, consortium, or affiliate to acquire land before completion of the environmental review;
- b. Infrastructure improvements**, including installing, extending, constructing, rehabilitating, or otherwise improving utilities and other infrastructure, including removal of environmental hazards; and
- c. Administration, planning, and management development**, including the costs of general management, oversight, and coordination of the SHOP grant; staff and overhead costs of the SHOP grant; costs of providing information to the public about the SHOP grant; costs of providing civil rights and fair housing training to local affiliates as well as

any expenses involved in affirmatively furthering fair housing; and indirect costs (such as rent and utilities) of the grantee or affiliate in carrying out the SHOP activities.

2. Threshold Requirements

HUD will not consider an application from an ineligible applicant. An applicant must meet all applicable threshold requirements listed in the **General Section** published on March 19, 2008 (73 FR 14882) and the SHOP threshold requirements described below:

- a. Organization and Eligibility.** You must be eligible to apply under SHOP (see Section III.A.).
- b. Nonprofit Status.** You must describe how you qualify as an eligible applicant and provide evidence of your public or private nonprofit status, such as a current Internal Revenue Service (IRS) ruling that your organization is exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. If you are a consortium, each consortium member must submit evidence of its nonprofit status to the lead entity for inclusion in the consortium's application package.
- c. Consortium Agreement.** If you are a consortium, each consortium member must enter into and sign a consortium agreement for the purpose of applying for SHOP funds and carrying out SHOP activities. Your consortium agreement must be submitted as an appendix to your application.
- d. Amount.** The amount of SHOP funds you request must be sufficient for a minimum of 30 self-help housing units and may not exceed an average investment of \$15,000 per unit.

e. Homebuyer Eligibility. Eligible homebuyers are low-income individuals and families (i.e., those whose incomes do not exceed 80 percent of the median income for the area, as established by HUD). You must specify the definition of “annual income” to be used in your proposed program. You may use one of the following three definitions of “annual income” to determine whether a homebuyer is income-eligible under SHOP:

(1) “Annual income” as defined at 24 CFR 5.609; or

(2) “Annual income” as reported under the Census long-form for the most recent available decennial Census; or

(3) “Adjusted gross income” as defined for purposes of reporting under the IRS Form 1040 series for individual federal annual income tax purposes.

You may also adopt or develop your own definition of annual income for use in determining income eligibility under SHOP subject to review and approval by HUD.

You must include your definition of “annual income” in your Program Summary.

f. Experience. You must demonstrate successful completion of at least 30 self-help homeownership units in a national or regional area within the 24-month period immediately preceding the publication of this NOFA. For dwellings to qualify as self-help homeownership units, the homebuyers must have contributed a significant amount of sweat-equity toward the construction as set forth in this section.

g. Sweat Equity. Your program must require homebuyers to contribute a minimum of 100 hours of sweat equity toward the construction or rehabilitation of their own homes and/or the homes of other homebuyers participating in the self-help housing program. In the case of a household with only one adult, the requirement is 50 hours of sweat equity toward the construction of these homes. Sweat equity includes training for construction

on the dwelling units, but excludes homebuyer counseling and home maintenance training. All homebuyers, including homebuyers with disabilities, must meet these minimum hourly sweat equity requirements; however, grantees must permit reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities in order for them to meet the hourly requirements. For example, homebuyers with disabilities may work on less physical tasks or administrative tasks to meet this requirement, or a volunteer(s) may enter into a written agreement to substitute for the disabled person. No exception to meeting these hourly sweat equity requirements may be made.

h. Community Participation. Your program must involve community participation in which volunteers assist in the construction or rehabilitation of dwellings. Volunteer labor is work performed by an individual without promise, expectation, or compensation for the work rendered. For mutual self-help housing programs that are assisted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Housing Services/Rural Development under section 523 of the Housing Act of 1949 (7 CFR part 1944, subpart I) or which have a program design similar to the section 523 program, the work by each participating family on other participating families' homes may count as volunteer labor. A mutual self-help housing program generally involves four to ten participating families organized in a group to use their own labor to reduce the total construction cost of their homes and complete construction work on their homes by an exchange of labor with one another.

i. Eligible Activities. You must use the SHOP funds for eligible activities (see Sections III.C.1 and IV.E.) and carry out the activities yourself or fund affiliates to carry out the activities.

3. Threshold Submission Requirements.

In order for your application to be rated and ranked, all threshold requirements must be met. Threshold requirements 2(d) through (i) above do not require separate submissions, but must be addressed in the program summary and/or in the submission requirements for the rating factors listed below in Section V, Application Review Information.

4. Other Requirements.

Other requirements applicable to the SHOP program are set forth in Section III.C.4, “Additional Nondiscrimination and Other Requirements” of the **General Section**. The following requirements also apply to SHOP:

a. Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing.

Successful applicants must affirmatively further fair housing by promoting fair housing rights and fair housing choice in housing programs funded by the award. Instead of the actions for affirmatively furthering fair housing in the **General Section** of the SuperNOFA, successful applicants must affirmatively further fair housing by requiring each affiliate to adopt and follow procedures and requirements to affirmatively market the self-help housing program. (If the applicant will carry out self-help housing activities under the grant, it must also adopt and follow affirmative marketing requirements.)

Affirmative marketing consists of taking actions to provide information and otherwise attract eligible persons in the housing market to the self-help housing program without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, familial status or disability. The requirements and procedures include: methods for informing the public and potential homebuyers about federal fair housing laws; use of the Equal Housing Opportunity logo; procedures to inform and solicit applications from persons in the housing market area who are not likely to apply for the program without special outreach.

b. Economic Opportunities for Low- and Very Low-Income Persons (Section 3).

SHOP recipients must comply with section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (Section 3), 12 U.S.C. 1701u (Economic Opportunities for Low- and Very Low-Income Persons in Connection with Assisted Projects), and the HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 135, including the reporting requirement of subpart E. Section 3 requires recipients to ensure that to the greatest extent feasible, training, employment, and other economic opportunities will be directed to low- and very-low income persons, particularly those who are recipients of government assistance for housing, and to business concerns that provide economic opportunities to low- and very-low income persons.

c. Real Property Acquisition and Relocation. SHOP projects are subject to the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended (Uniform Act or URA) (42 U.S.C. 4601), and the government-wide implementing regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation at 49 CFR part 24. The URA is a federal law that establishes minimum standards for federally-funded programs and projects that require the acquisition of real property (real estate) or displace persons from their homes, businesses, or farms. The URA's protections and assistance apply to the acquisition, rehabilitation, or demolition of real property for federal or federally funded projects.

SHOP grantees and affiliates must comply with all applicable URA requirements in order to receive SHOP funds for their programs and projects; non-compliance could jeopardize SHOP funding. Real property acquisitions for a SHOP-assisted program or project conducted before completion of an environmental review and HUD's approval of

a request for release of funds and environmental certification are also subject to the URA. SHOP grantees and affiliates must ensure that all such real property acquisitions comply with applicable URA requirements.

Generally, real property acquisitions conducted without the threat or use of eminent domain, commonly referred to as “voluntary acquisitions,” must satisfy the applicable requirements and criteria of 49 CFR 24.101(b)(1) through (5). Evidence of compliance with these requirements must be maintained by the affiliate and submitted to and maintained by the SHOP grantee. It is also important to note that tenants who occupy property that may be acquired through voluntary means must be fully informed of their eligibility for relocation assistance. This includes notifying such tenants of their potential eligibility when negotiations are initiated, notifying them if they become fully eligible, and, in the event the purchase of the property will not occur, notifying them that they are no longer eligible for relocation benefits. Evidence of compliance with these requirements must be maintained by the affiliate and submitted to and maintained by the SHOP grantee.

Additional information and resources pertaining to real property acquisition and relocation for HUD-funded programs and projects are available on HUD’s Real Estate Acquisition and Relocation website at <http://www.hud.gov/relocation>. You will find applicable laws and regulations, policy and guidance, publications, training resources, and a listing of HUD contacts if you have questions or need assistance.

d. Environmental Requirements. The environmental review requirements for SHOP supersede the environmental requirements in the **General Section**. All SHOP assistance is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related federal

environmental authorities and regulations at 24 CFR part 58. SHOP grant applicants are cautioned that no activity or project may be undertaken, or federal or non-federal funds or assistance committed, if the project or activity would limit reasonable choices or could produce an adverse environmental impact, until all required environmental reviews and notifications have been completed by a unit of general local government, tribe, or state, and until HUD approves a recipient's request for release of funds under the environmental provisions contained in 24 CFR part 58. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, in accordance with section 11(d)(2)(A) of the Housing Opportunity Extension Act of 1996 and HUD Notice CPD-01-09, an organization, consortium, or affiliate may advance non-grant funds to acquire land before completion of an environmental review and HUD's approval of a request for release of funds and environmental certification. Any advances to acquire land prior to such approval are made at the risk of the organization, consortium, or affiliate, and reimbursement from SHOP funds for such advances will depend on the result of the environmental review.

e. Reduce Energy Costs. Applicants are required to take specific energy-saving actions. In the construction and/or rehabilitation of self-help housing, SHOP applicants must incorporate energy-efficiency measures in the design, construction, and/or rehabilitation of self-help housing units. Applicants must meet Energy Star construction standards and use Energy Star labeled products and appliances.

f. Statutory and Program Requirements. SHOP is governed by section 11 of the Housing Opportunity Program Extension Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 12805 note) (the Extension Act), and this NOFA. There are no program regulations. You must comply with all statutory requirements applicable to SHOP as cited in Section I, Funding

Opportunity Description, and the program requirements cited in this NOFA. Pursuant to these requirements, you must:

(1) Develop, through significant amounts of sweat-equity by each homebuyer and volunteer labor, at least 30 dwelling units at an average cost of no more than \$15,000 per unit of SHOP funds for land acquisition and infrastructure improvements;

(2) Use your grant to leverage other sources of funding, including private or other public funds, to complete construction or rehabilitation of the housing units;

(3) Develop quality dwellings that comply with local building and safety codes and standards that will be made available to homebuyers at prices below the prevailing market price;

(4) Schedule SHOP activities to expend all grant funds awarded and substantially fulfill your obligations under your grant agreement, including timely development of the appropriate number of dwelling units. Grant funds must be expended within 24 months of the date that they are first made available for draw-down in a line of credit established by HUD for the grantee, except that grant funds provided to affiliates that develop five or more units must be expended within 36 months; and

(5) Not require a homebuyer to make an up-front financial contribution to a housing unit other than cash contributed for down payment or closing costs at the time of acquisition.

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Address to Request Application Package

This NOFA contains all the information necessary for national and regional nonprofit organizations and consortia to submit an application for SHOP funding. This

section describes how you may obtain application forms and additional information about the SHOP program NOFA. Copies of the published SHOP NOFA and related application forms for this NOFA may be downloaded from the grants.gov website at http://www.grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp. If you have difficulty accessing the information, you may receive customer support from Grants.gov by calling its help desk at (800) 518-GRANTS or by sending an email to support@grants.gov. If you do not have Internet access and you need to obtain a copy of this NOFA, you may contact HUD's NOFA Information Center toll-free at (800) HUD-8929. Individuals with hearing or speech impairments may access this number via the toll-free Federal Information Relay Service at 800-877-8339.

1. Application Kit. There is no paper application kit for this program. All the information you need to apply is contained in this NOFA and is available on-line at http://www.grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp. The NOFA forms are available to be downloaded from http://apply.grants.gov/forms_apps_idx.html. Pay attention to the submission requirements and format for submission specified for this NOFA to ensure that you have submitted all required elements of your application.

The published Federal Register document is the official document that HUD uses to solicit applications. Therefore, if there is a discrepancy between any materials published by HUD in its Federal Register publications and other information provided in paper copy, electronic copy, or at www.grants.gov, the Federal Register publication prevails. Be sure to review your application submission against the requirements in the Federal Register for this NOFA.

2. Guidebook and Further Information. See the **General Section**.

B. Content and Form of Application Submission

You must meet all application and submission requirements described in the **General Section**. Your application should consist of the items listed in the section below called Assembly Format and Content. HUD's standard forms can be found in the application located on Grants.gov.

1. Page Limits. There are page limits for responses to the five rating factors. A national or regional organization is limited to 40 pages of narrative to respond to the five rating factors. A consortium is permitted up to 5 additional pages to address the past experiences of its individual consortium members. Required appendices, forms, certifications, statements, and assurances are not subject to the page limitations. All pages must be numbered sequentially 1 through 40 or 45, for factors 1 through 5. Your application may contain only the items listed in the **Assembly Format and Content checklist** below. **In responding to the five factors, information must be included in your narrative response to each factor, unless this NOFA states that it should be included as an appendix.** If you are submitting material using the fax method described in the **General Section**, the narrative should refer to the documents being faxed as part of your narrative response to the factor. Any supplemental information not required in the program summary, narratives or appendices requested by HUD that further explains information required in the five factors will not be reviewed for consideration in the scoring of the application.

2. Assembly Format and Content. Your FY 2008 application will be composed of an Application Overview, Narrative Statements (rating factors), Forms, and Appendices. In

order to receive full consideration for funding, you should use the following checklist to ensure that all requirements are addressed and submitted with your electronic application.

a. Application Overview. (Not subject to the page limitations.)

_____ SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance (signed by the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) who is legally authorized to submit the application on behalf of the applicant and has been approved by the eBusiness Point of Contact to submit the application via Grants.gov. (See the **General Section**.)

_____ SF-424 Supplement, Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunities for Applicant ("Faith Based EEO Survey (SF-424-SUPP)" on Grants.gov).

_____ Self-Help Housing Organization Qualification--Narrative describing qualification as an eligible applicant and Evidence of Nonprofit Tax Exempt Status (in accordance with Section III.C. of this NOFA).

_____ Consortium Agreement, if applicable.

_____ Program Summary (including definition of "annual income"). (Limited to five pages.)

b. Narrative Statements Addressing: (Subject to the page limitations described above.)

_____ Factor 1 - Capacity of the Applicant and Relevant Organizational Staff (including organizational chart).

_____ Factor 2 - Need/Extent of the Problem. (Limited to five pages.)

_____ Factor 3 - Soundness of Approach.

_____ Factor 4 - Leveraging Resources.

_____ Factor 5 - Achieving Results and Program Evaluation.

c. Forms, Certifications, and Assurances: (Not subject to the page limitations.)

_____ HUD-424-CB, Grant Application Detailed Budget ("HUD Detailed Budget Form" on Grants.gov).

_____ HUD-424-CBW, Grant Application Detailed Budget Worksheet.

_____ SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, as applicable.

_____ HUD-2880, Applicant/Recipient Disclosure/Update Report. ("HUD Applicant Recipient Disclosure Report" on Grants.gov.)

_____ HUD-2990, Certification of Consistency with the RC/EZ/EC-II Strategic Plan.

_____ HUD-96011, Third Party Documentation Facsimile Transmittal ("Facsimile Transmittal Form" on Grants.gov) required for electronic submissions of third party documents.

_____ HUD-2994-A, You Are Our Client Grant Applicant Survey (Optional).

_____ HUD-96010, Program Outcome Logic Model.

d. Appendices (Not subject to the page limitations.)

_____ A copy of your code of conduct. (see the **General Section**.)

_____ Leveraging documentation—firm commitment letters. (See factor 4.)

_____ Survey of potential affiliates, if applicable. (See factor 2.)

_____ Demonstration of past performance for new applicants. (See factor 1.)

_____ HUD-27300, Questionnaire for HUD's Initiative on Removal of Regulatory Barriers ("HUD Communities Initiative Form" on Grants.gov), if applicable. (See factor 3.)

_____ Evaluative criteria for Removal of Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Housing in affiliate

selection process, if applicable. (See factor 3.)

Other information should not be submitted and will not be considered in scoring the application.

e. Certifications and Assurances. Applicants are placed on notice that by signing or electronically submitting the SF-424 cover page noted above in 2.a., Application Overview, the applicant is certifying to all information described in Section IV.F.2 of the **General Section**.

C. Submission Date and Time

The electronic application must be received and validated no later than 11:59:59 p.m. Eastern time by Grants.gov on the application deadline date, which is **July 11, 2008**. The validation process may take 24 - 48 hours. Applicants are advised to submit applications 72 hours in advance. By doing so, if your application fails validation and Grants.gov rejects the application, you have time to correct the noted problems prior to the deadline date. If an applicant is granted a waiver to the electronic application submission requirement, the application must be received at HUD Headquarters by the application deadline date (see **General Section**).

D. Intergovernmental Review

Executive Order 12372 review does not apply to SHOP.

E. Funding Restrictions

1. Administrative costs. Administrative costs may not exceed 20 percent of any SHOP grant. Indirect costs may only be charged to the SHOP grant under a cost allocation plan prepared in accordance with OMB Circular A-122.

2. Pre-agreement costs. After the publication date of the NOFA, but before the effective date of the SHOP Grant Agreement, an applicant and affiliates, if permitted by the applicant, may incur costs that may be charged to their SHOP grant, provided the costs are eligible (see Section III.C.1.) and in compliance with the requirements of this NOFA (including relocation and environmental review requirements) and the application. Applicants and affiliates incur costs at their own risk, because applicants that do not receive a SHOP grant cannot be reimbursed or reimburse affiliates. **To be eligible for reimbursement with SHOP funds, pre-agreement costs must be identified in the application.**

3. Ineligible Costs. Costs associated with the rehabilitation, improvement, or construction of dwellings and any other costs not identified in Section III.C.1. are not eligible uses of SHOP funds. Acquiring land for land banking purposes (i.e., holding land for an indefinite period) is an ineligible use of program funds. Acquisition undertaken by the applicant or its affiliate before the publication date of the NOFA is not an eligible cost. Pre-agreement costs not identified in the application are ineligible costs. SHOP funds may not be expended on a property unless its acquisition by the grantee, (includes individual consortium members), or its affiliates complies with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (URA). SHOP funds may not be used for lobbying activities. These requirements also apply to the reimbursement of pre-agreement costs (see Section IV.E.2).

F. Other Submission Requirements

You must meet all submission requirements described in the **General Section**. Refer to the **General Section** for detailed submission instructions, including methods and deadlines for submission.

1. No Facsimiles or Videos. HUD will not accept an entire application sent by facsimile (fax). However, third-party documents or other materials sent by facsimile in compliance with the submission requirements and received by the application deadline date will be accepted. Facsimile corrections to technical deficiencies will not be accepted. Videos submitted as part of an application will not be viewed.

2. Applications must be received and validated by Grants.gov by the application deadline date.

3. Waivers to the Electronic Submission Process: Applicants may request a waiver of the electronic submission process for good cause (see the **General Section** for more information). Applicants may submit waiver requests by facsimile or by email no later than 15 days prior to the application deadline date. Applicants may email their requests to louise.d.thompson @hud.gov or send a facsimile to Lou Thompson at (202) 708-1744. Requests should include a subject line titled "SHOP--Electronic Application Waiver Request." Applicants who are granted a waiver based on a HUD-approved justification must submit their applications in accordance with the requirements stated in the approval to the waiver request.

V. Application Review Information

A. Criteria

1. Rating Factor 1: Capacity of the Applicant and Relevant Organizational Staff
(30 points)

This factor examines the extent to which you, as a single applicant or consortium (including individual consortium members), have the experience and organizational resources necessary to carry out the proposed activities effectively and in a timely manner. Any applicant that does not receive at least 20 points under this factor will not be eligible for funding.

In evaluating this factor, HUD will consider your recent (last five years) and relevant experience in carrying out the activities you propose (including experience in developing accessible/visitable housing), and your administrative and fiscal management capability to administer the grant, including the ability to account for funds appropriately. All applicants, including individual consortium members, must have capacity and experience in administering or facilitating self-help housing. If you are sponsoring affiliate organizations that do not have experience in developing self-help housing, HUD will assess your organization's experience in providing technical assistance as it relates to self-help housing and the ability to mentor new affiliates.

For applicants that previously received SHOP grants, HUD will assess your organization's past performance based upon performance reports and other available data that demonstrate your organization's completion of eligible SHOP activities, the number of families provided housing, financial status information focusing on timely use of funds, and other program outcomes. HUD will consider whether you had funds deobligated for failure to meet your drawdown and construction schedules or funds were returned because of monitoring findings or other program deficiencies. HUD may also use monitoring reports, audit reports, prior years' logic models, financial closeout reports, and other information available to HUD in making its determination under this factor.

For applicants that received SHOP grants in previous years, HUD will assess your success in meeting benchmarks for all open grants during the most recent five full years of participation in the program. “Open grants” means all grants with incomplete properties and/or a final Closeout Agreement has not been issued. If you are not a current SHOP grantee, HUD will assess your performance in undertaking similar activities and identifying and meeting outcomes during the past five years. You must supplement your narrative with internal or external performance reports or other information that will assist HUD in making its determination under this factor. Supplemental information and reports from applicants that have not received SHOP grants do not count against the page limitations.

Submission Requirements for Rating Factor 1

a. **Past Experience (10 points).** You must describe the most recent five years of your organization in carrying out self-help housing activities (specify the time frame during which these activities occurred) that are the same as, or similar to, the activities you propose for funding, and demonstrate that you have had reasonable success in carrying out and completing those activities. In addition, you must provide the specific number of self-help housing units completed within the previous 24 months of the date of this NOFA. Further, you must include the average number of sweat equity hours provided per homebuyer family, and the average number of volunteer labor hours provided per unit. You may demonstrate reasonable success by showing that your previous activities were carried out as proposed, consistent with the time frame you proposed for completion of all work.

b. Past Performance (7 points). For applicants that received SHOP grants in previous years, you must summarize your past performance, including any delays you encountered and the mitigating actions taken to overcome them to successfully complete your program. HUD will measure your past performance using tools such as monitoring reports, audit reports, quarterly and annual reports, disbursement data, prior years' logic models demonstrating success in meeting outputs and outcomes, closeout reports and other information currently in-house against what you stated you would do in your previous applications and your summary. New applicants must provide a summary of your performance in carrying out self-help housing, including any delays you encountered and the mitigating actions taken to overcome them to successfully complete your program. Your narrative summary must be supported by existing internal or external performance reports or other information that will assist HUD in measuring your performance for carrying out self-help housing and demonstrating outcomes beyond the provision of housing units as stated in prior years' logic models. The supplemental reports and information must be included as an appendix and will not count against the page limitations.

c. Management Structure (10 points). You must provide a description of your organization's or consortium's management structure, including an organizational chart that identifies all key management positions and the names and positions of staff managing SHOP. You must also describe your key staff and their specific roles and responsibilities for the day-to-day management of your proposed program to be funded from FY 2008 SHOP funds. Do not include individuals' Social Security Numbers in your application.

You must specifically state that you will or will not be working with affiliates that are inexperienced in carrying out self-help housing. If you propose to fund inexperienced affiliates, you must describe the technical assistance you will provide and how you will directly or indirectly mentor these affiliates to develop their capacity that results in development of FY 2008 SHOP-assisted units.

d. Experience Developing Accessible Housing (3 points). You must demonstrate your experience in and ability to construct and alter self-help housing by describing the kinds of features you have used to design homes in accordance with universal design and visitability standards, or to otherwise make homes physically accessible. You must provide yearly data for the last five years from the date of the NOFA on the number of accessible units completed.

2. Rating Factor 2: Need/Extent of the Problem (5 points)

This factor examines the extent to which you demonstrate an urgent need for SHOP funds in your proposed target areas based on the need for affordable housing, using quality data identified by sources to substantiate that need.

The purpose of this factor is to make sure that funding is provided where a need for SHOP funding exists. You must identify the community need or needs that your proposed SHOP activities are designed to address. If you plan to select some or all affiliates after application submission, you must demonstrate how the selection of affiliates will help to address the needs identified in the proposed target areas.

Submission Requirements for Rating Factor 2 (five page limit)

Extent of Need for Self-help Housing (5 points). You must establish the need for self-help housing and the specific need for SHOP funds in identified communities or areas in

which your proposed activities will be carried out. You must specifically address the need for acquisition and/or infrastructure assistance for self-help housing activities in these identified areas and how your proposed SHOP activities meet these needs. You must include data on housing problems in the proposed target areas, such as overcrowding, cost burden, housing age or deterioration, low homeownership rate (especially among minority families, lack of housing for families with children, and families with members with disabilities), and lack of adequate infrastructure or utilities. Also, to the extent information is available, you must address the need for accessible homes in the target area(s); evidence of housing discrimination in the target area(s); and any need for housing shown in the local Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, if appropriate. This information must be tied to the examples of housing problems noted above.

Applicants that select affiliates after application submission must submit a list of affiliates they surveyed and upon which they are basing their need for SHOP funding, and the specific criteria to be used to select communities or projects based on need.

In reviewing applications, HUD will consider the extent, quality, and validity of the information and data submitted that addresses the need for self-help housing in the target area and how recent the data sources are. “Recent” means the most recent updated U.S. Census data, as appropriate, and other information and data issued within the last five years of this NOFA that address indicators of social or economic decline that best capture the applicant’s situation.

3. Rating Factor 3: Soundness of Approach (45 points)

This factor examines the quality and soundness of your plan to carry out a self-help housing program. In evaluating this factor, HUD will consider the areas described below:

a. Your proposed use of SHOP funds, including the number of units and the type(s) of housing to be constructed, and the use of sweat equity and volunteer labor; your schedule for expending funds and completing construction, including interim milestones; the proposed budget and cost effectiveness of your program; your plan to reach all potentially eligible homebuyers, including those with disabilities and others least likely to apply; and your procedures for meeting Section 3 requirements.

b. How your planned activities further four of eight HUD policy priorities described in the **General Section**. The four policy priorities that apply specifically to SHOP in FY 2008 are:

(1) Providing increased homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons, persons with disabilities, the elderly, minorities, and families with limited English proficiency;

(2) Encouraging accessible design features: visitability in new construction and substantial rehabilitation and universal design;

(3) Providing full and equal access to grassroots, faith-based, and other community-based organizations in HUD program implementation; and

(4) Removal of regulatory barriers to affordable housing.

c. How you plan to meet Section 3 requirements for jobs and training and contracting opportunities for SHOP-funded infrastructure improvements.

Submission Requirements for Rating Factor 3.

Activities. Describe the types of activities that you propose to fund with SHOP, the proposed number of units to be assisted with SHOP funding, the housing type(s) (single family or multifamily, or both) to be assisted, the form of ownership (fee simple, condominium, cooperative, etc.) and the Energy Star measures and appliances you propose to use. Applicants must indicate if they will provide pre- and post-homebuyer counseling and/or training.

a. Sweat Equity and Volunteer Labor (7 points). Describe your program's requirements for sweat equity and volunteer labor (i.e., types of tasks and numbers of hours required for both sweat equity and volunteer labor) and how you will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities by identifying sweat equity assignments that can be performed by the homebuyer regardless of the disability, such as providing administrative, clerical, organizational, or other office work or minor tasks on-site. Reasonable accommodation can include sweat equity by the homebuyer that can be performed regardless of the disability or substitution of a non-homebuyer designee(s) to perform the sweat equity assignments on behalf of the homebuyer. Volunteers substituting for disabled homebuyers must enter into a written agreement to complete the work on behalf of the homebuyers. Include the per unit and total dollar values of both the sweat equity and volunteer labor contributions.

b. Funds Expenditure, Construction, and Completion Schedules (7 points). Submit a construction and completion schedule that expends SHOP funds and substantially fulfills your obligations if you are funded. You must specifically state the percentage or number of properties that you propose to be completed and conveyed to homebuyers at the time all grant funds are expended. Your construction schedule must include the

number of dwelling units to be completed within 24 months or, in the case of affiliates that develop five or more units, within 36 months, and a time frame for completing any unfinished units.

Your schedule must also include interim milestones or benchmarks against which HUD can measure your progress in: 1) selecting local affiliates if they are not specifically identified in the application, 2) expending funds, and 3) completing acquisition, infrastructure, and housing construction activities, and occupancy by homebuyers within these schedules. These milestones or benchmarks should be established at reasonable intervals (e.g., monthly, quarterly, but no greater than semiannually).

c. Budget (7 points). Provide a detailed budget including a breakdown for each proposed task and each budget category (acquisition, infrastructure improvements, and administration) funded by SHOP in the HUD-424-CB and 424-CBW. The budget must include line items for the cost of monitoring consortium members and affiliates at least once during the grant period and pre-and post- homebuyer counseling for homebuyers regardless of the funding source(s). Your detailed budget must also include leveraged funding to cover costs of completing construction of the proposed number of units, including the cost of Energy Star appliances. You must state whether your budget includes the value of sweat equity contributions of homebuyers and other volunteer labor. Budget amounts on the HUD-424-CB and 424-CBW must agree with amounts stated elsewhere in the application.

d. Cost Effective to the Homebuyer (7 points). State how the sales price for SHOP-assisted units is established (provide a table outlining separate costs for land purchase and

infrastructure improvements paid by the affiliate; land and infrastructure improvements charged to the homebuyer; construction and project-related soft costs, such as architectural, engineering and related professional services; and any other costs charged to the homebuyer including 2nd or additional mortgages that must be repaid by the homebuyer upon sale of the property). You must demonstrate the extent to which the investment of SHOP funds, the contribution of sweat equity and volunteer labor, donations (e.g., land or building materials), in-kind contributions, and financing subsidies, further reduce the sales price to the homebuyer below the appraised value of the house or market value of comparable housing in the neighborhood. This must be demonstrated for homebuyers receiving both USDA and non-USDA construction assistance. Applicants showing a larger reduction of the sales price to the homebuyer from the appraised or market value as a result of the use of the SHOP funds for costs that are not charged to the homebuyer, the SHOP homebuyer's sweat equity, volunteer labor, and other contributions and subsidies not repaid by the homebuyer will receive a higher score.

e. Policy Priorities (5 points). Describe how each of the four HUD policy priorities identified specifically for SHOP is furthered by your proposed activities. You will receive up to one point for each of the first three policy priorities based on how well your proposed work activities address the specific policy. You can receive up to two points based on how well you address policy priority 4, removal of regulatory barriers to affordable housing, for which you must submit form HUD-27300 (America's Affordable Communities Initiative, Questionnaire for HUD's Initiative on Removal of Regulatory Barriers) and where required, provide the documentation and point of contact

information. Applicants are encouraged to read HUD's notices published in the Federal Register on March 22 (69 FR 13450) and April 21 (69 FR 21663), 2004, to obtain an understanding of this policy priority and how it can impact your score. There are exceptions as provided below.

Applicants that identify affiliate organizations and jurisdictions to be served in their application to HUD should address the questions in Part A or Part B, but not both, of form HUD-27300 for the jurisdiction in which the majority or plurality of services will be performed.

Applicants that do not identify affiliates and communities to be served in their application to HUD, but select affiliates competitively or through another method after application submission to HUD, may address this policy priority by including it as an evaluative criterion in their affiliate selection process. Such applicants may receive up to 2 points by requiring affiliate applicants for the awarded SHOP funds to complete the questions in either Part A or B, as appropriate. In order to receive points, applicants that identify affiliates after application submission must include their evaluative criterion as an appendix, and, if awarded SHOP funds in FY 2007, must demonstrate how the evaluative criteria that were included in your FY 2007 application were implemented. You must also describe how the evaluative criteria in your FY2007 SHOP program affected or will affect the selection and funding of affiliates for FY 2008, to the extent this has been completed. The narrative for your evaluative criteria may be included as an appendix and will not count against the page limits described in Section IV.B.1., Page Limits.

Applicants applying for funds for projects located in local jurisdictions and counties/parishes are invited to answer the 20 questions under Part A. An applicant that scores at least five points in column 2 will receive 1 point in the NOFA evaluation. An applicant that scores 10 points or more in column 2 will receive 2 points in the NOFA evaluation. The community(ies) must be identified on the form HUD-27300.

Applicants applying for funds for projects located in unincorporated areas or areas otherwise not covered in Part A are invited to answer the 15 questions in Part B. Under Part B, an applicant that scores at least 4 points in Column 2 will receive 1 point in the NOFA evaluation. An applicant that scores 8 points or greater will receive a total of 2 points in the evaluation. The community(ies) must be identified on the form HUD-27300.

A limited number of questions on form HUD-27300 expressly request the applicant to provide brief documentation with its response. For the remaining questions for each affirmative response, applicants must supply a reference, website address, or brief statement indicating where the back-up information may be found, and a point of contact including a telephone number or email address. To receive points for this priority, applicants must provide this additional information, including separate contact information if the contacts are different for the individual questions. If the contact is the same, please note that is the case.

f. Program Outreach (5 points). Describe procedures and materials or services that will be used to reach potential homebuyers in the proposed housing market area, including persons least likely to apply without special outreach. In addition, describe

alternative formats to be used to reach persons with a variety of disabilities and the language accommodations that will be made for persons with limited English proficiency.

g. Performance and Monitoring (5 points). Describe your plan for overseeing the performance of consortium members and affiliates and provide a schedule for monitoring each consortium member and affiliate for program compliance at least once during the term of the grant. Over 50 percent of the monitoring reviews must be conducted on site. Your plan should address when and how you will shift funds among consortium members and affiliates to ensure timely and effective use of SHOP funds within the schedule submitted for item b. above.

h. Section 3 Procedures (2 points). Under Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, to the greatest extent feasible, opportunities for job training and employment arising in connection with housing rehabilitation, housing construction, or other public construction projects must be given to low- and very low-income persons in the metropolitan area (or non-metropolitan county/parish) in which the project is located. In addition, to the greatest extent feasible, contracts for work to be performed in connection with housing rehabilitation, housing construction, or other public construction projects are given to business concerns that provide economic opportunities for low- and very low-income persons in the metropolitan area (or non-metropolitan county/parish) in which the project is located. The regulations implementing Section 3 are found at 24 CFR part 135. Because SHOP funds may only be used for acquisition and infrastructure improvements, Section 3 requirements apply only to SHOP projects for which the amount of SHOP funds for the infrastructure improvements (together with any other covered Section 3 housing and community development assistance for infrastructure)

meets the threshold amount of \$200,000. Based on the SHOP maximum average investment of \$15,000 per unit, Section 3 would generally only apply to a SHOP project with at least 14 units where the entire SHOP amount (if no other covered Section 3 housing and community development assistance is provided to the grantee or affiliate for infrastructure) is \$200,000 or more.

Regardless of whether the Section 3 threshold is met, all applicants are required to describe procedures they have in place for Section 3 compliance in the event that they meet the Section 3 threshold in carrying out their proposed FY 2008 SHOP activities. You must clearly explain your procedures for complying with these requirements 1) for projects you will undertake directly, and 2) for projects to be undertaken by affiliates. In the case of projects undertaken by affiliates, your procedures must state how you will inform affiliates of their responsibilities under Section 3 and how you will monitor compliance. One point will be awarded for addressing job training and employment opportunities. One point will be awarded for addressing contracting opportunities.

4. Rating Factor 4: Leveraging Resources (10 points)

This factor addresses your ability to secure other resources that can be combined with HUD's program resources to fully fund your proposed program. When combined with the SHOP grant funds, homebuyer sweat equity, and volunteer labor, your leveraged resources must be sufficient to develop the number of units proposed in your application. HUD will consider only those leveraging contributions for which current firm commitments as described in this factor are submitted. A firm commitment means a written agreement under which the applicant, a partner, or an entity agrees to perform services or provide resources for an activity specified in your application. Firm

commitments in the form of cash funding (e.g., grants or loans), in-kind contributions, donated land and construction materials, and donated services will count as leverage. Leveraging does not include the dollar value of sweat equity and volunteer labor for your proposed activities. Leveraging does not include mortgage financing provided to homebuyers. However, financing provided through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Section 502 direct loans to homebuyers for construction of their dwellings counts as leveraging for mutual self-help housing programs. Firm commitments must be substantiated by the documentation described below.

Submission Requirements for Rating Factor 4

Firm Commitments of Resources (10 points). Provide firm commitments (letters, agreements, pledges, etc.) of leveraged resources or services from the source of the commitment. In order to be considered, leveraged resources or services must be committed in writing and include your organization's name, the contributing organization's name (including designation as a federal, state, local, or private source), the proposed type of commitment, and the dollar value of the commitment as it relates to your proposed FY 2008 SHOP-funded activities. Each letter of commitment must be signed by an official of the organization legally able to make the commitment on behalf of the organization. See Other Submission Requirements, of the **General Section** regarding the procedures for submitting third-party documentation. Each letter of commitment must specifically support your FY 2008 SHOP application or specific projects in your FY 2008 application. If your organization depends upon fundraising and donations from unknown sources/providers, you must submit a separate letter committing a specific amount of dollars in fundraising to your proposed FY 2008 SHOP program.

Applicants must ensure that duplicate letters for fundraising amounts are not submitted by both the applicant and its affiliates. Also, if you have received funds from organizations and agencies from previous years that are not committed to another activity and you have the sole discretion to commit these funds to your FY 2008 SHOP program, you must submit a separate letter committing these dollars to your FY 2008 SHOP program. In all instances, the dollar amount must be stated in the letters. Letters of commitment may be contingent upon your receiving a grant award. Letters of commitment must be included as an appendix to your application, and do not count toward the page limitation noted in Section IV.B.1. Unsigned, undated, or outdated letters, letters only expressing support of your organization or its proposal, or those not specifically stating the dollar amount or linking the resources to your FY 2008 SHOP application or specific projects in your FY 2008 application do not count as firm commitments.

To receive full credit for leveraging, an applicant's leveraging resources must be clearly identified for its FY 2008 SHOP application and must total at least 50 percent of the amount shown on forms HUD-424-CB needed to complete all properties, minus the proposed SHOP grant amount, homebuyer sweat equity, and volunteer labor.

5. Rating Factor 5. Achieving Results and Program Evaluation (10 points)

This factor emphasizes HUD's determination to track whether applicants meet commitments made in their applications. HUD requires SHOP applicants to develop an effective, quantifiable, outcome-oriented evaluation plan for measuring performance and determining whether goals have been met using the Master Logic Model for SHOP, which can be found in the download instructions portion at

www.grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp. Applicants must clearly identify the “Outputs” and “Outcomes” to be achieved and measured. Completed newly constructed or rehabilitated self-help housing units are outputs. Outcomes are benefits accruing to the families and/or communities during or after participation in SHOP. Examples of outcomes include increasing the homeownership rate in a neighborhood or among low-income families by a certain percentage, increasing the property tax base by a certain value, or increasing housing stability (e.g., increasing assets of the low-income homebuyer households by creating household equity or reducing total housing costs compared to rents that SHOP participants previously paid) during and beyond the grantee’s period for reporting on property completions. See Reporting in Section VI.C. In addition, applicants must establish interim benchmarks for which outputs lead to the ultimate achievement of outcomes. “Interim benchmarks” are steps or stages in your activities that, if reached or completed successfully, will result in outputs for your program. Examples of interim benchmarks for SHOP include acquisition of land, completion of infrastructure, identification of income-qualified homebuyers, obtaining building permits, or securing construction materials and equipment.

Program evaluation requires that you identify program outcomes, outputs, benchmarks, and performance indicators that will allow you to measure your performance. Performance indicators must be objectively quantifiable and measure actual achievements against anticipated achievements within a specified timeframe. Your evaluation plan must identify what you are going to measure, how you are going to measure it, and the steps you have in place to make adjustments to your work plan if performance targets are not met within established time frames. This factor reflects

HUD's goal to embrace high standards of ethics, management, and accountability.

Successful applicants will be required to report quarterly on their progress in achieving the proposed outcomes identified in the Logic Model. Applicants should refer to the **General Section** for more information on the Master Logic Model.

Submission Requirements for Rating Factor 5

Program Evaluation Plan and Logic Model (10 Points). The FY 2008 application requires submission of a written program evaluation plan and a completed eLogicModel™. The eLogicModel™ allows the applicant to select from drop down menus the elements of their program that are captured in the Logic Model. Instructions for the eLogic Model™ are found in Tab 1 of the form HUD-96011 found in the instructions download to your electronic application. The Master Logic Model listing also identifies the unit of measure that HUD will collect for the output(s) and outcome(s) selected. Applicants must identify a unit of measure and establish a goal for each output and outcome.

HUD has designated mandatory outputs and outcomes that must be addressed by the applicant. For both "Housing Constructed" and "Housing Rehabilitated," applicants must address the following five mandatory Outputs: 1) Sweat Equity (hours); 2) Volunteer Labor (hours); 3) Design incorporates energy efficiency measures and Energy Star Standards (units); 4) Policy Priority--Design incorporates universal design (units); and 5) Policy Priority--Design incorporates visitability standards (units).

For both "New construction" and "Rehabilitated units," applicants must address the following four mandatory Outcomes: 1) one of the three sets of "average reduced sales price" from 1-10 % (dollars and units) or from 11-30% (dollars and units) or greater

than 30% (dollars and units)—each set counts as two outcomes; 2) Increased housing stability--average decreased housing costs (dollars); and 3) Increased housing stability--average increased assets in savings (dollars).

If an applicant's program consists of new construction or rehabilitation, but not both, the five mandatory outputs and four outcomes applicable to the program must be selected. If an applicant's program includes both new construction and rehabilitation, applicant must address all mandatory outputs/outcomes. However, applicants are expected to select additional outputs and outcomes identified in their work plan. Further, interim benchmarks, program indicators, outputs, and outcomes must be quantifiable.

You must summarize your program evaluation plan that measures your own program performance. Your plan must measure the performance of individual consortium members and affiliates, including the standards and measurement methods, and the steps you have in place or how you plan to make adjustments if you begin to fall short of established benchmarks and time frames. Applicants that include both mandatory and optional outputs and outcomes and interim benchmarks, and prepare a written evaluation plan that meets the specified content requirements will receive a higher score. HUD will rate the eLogicModel™ submission based upon the matrix contained in Attachment 1 to the **General Section**.

B. Review and Selection Process

1. Factors for Award Used to Evaluate Applications

HUD will evaluate all SHOP applications that successfully complete technical processing and meet threshold and submission requirements for Factors 1 through 5. The maximum

number of points awarded for the rating factors is 100 plus the possibility of an additional 2 bonus points for RC/EZ/EC-II.

2. RC/EZ/EC-II Bonus Points. Applicants may receive up to 2 bonus points for eligible activities that the applicant proposes to locate in federally designated Empowerment Zones (EZs), renewal communities (RCs), or enterprise communities (ECs) designated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Round II (EC-IIs) that are intended to serve the residents of these areas and that are certified to be consistent with the area’s strategic plan or RC Tax Incentive Utilization Plan for an urban or rural renewal community designated by HUD (RC) on the strategic plan for an enterprise community designed in round II by USDA (EC-II) . For ease of reference in this notice, all of the federally designated areas are collectively referred to as “RC/EZ/EC-IIs” and the residents of these federally designated areas as “RC/EZ/EC-II residents.” The RC/EZ/EC-II certification, a valid HUD-2990 form, must be completed for an applicant to be considered for RC/EZ/EC-II bonus points. A list of RC/EZ/EC-IIs can be obtained from HUD’s grants website at www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/fundsavail.cfm. Applicants can determine if their program or project activities are located in one of these designated areas by using the locator on HUD’s website at <http://egis.hud.gov/egis/>. Copies of the certification can be found in the electronic application. The certification must be completed and signed by the appropriate official in the RC/EZ/EC-II for an applicant to be considered for RC/EZ/EC-II bonus points. In addition to the RC/EZ/EC-II certification, applicants must provide the location of the EC/EZ/EC-II (name of town, city, state, or other locale) if not

otherwise identified on the certification, and the number of units to be developed within the RC/EZ/EC-II in order to receive credit.

RC/EZ/EC-II bonus points will be awarded as follows: 2 points to an applicant with over 25 percent of its proposed units in RC/EZ/EC-II; 1 point for 10 to 25 percent of units in RC/EZ/EC-IIs; and 0 points below 10 percent of units in RC/EZ/EC-II zones.

3. Rating.

Applications that meet all threshold requirements listed in Section III.C will be rated against the criteria in Factors 1 through 5 and assigned a score. Applications that do not meet all threshold factors will be rejected and not rated.

4. Ranking and Selection Procedures

Applications that receive at least 20 of 30 points for Factor 1 will be fully reviewed. Applications that receive a total of 75 points or more (without the addition of RC/EZ/EC-II bonus points) will be eligible for selection. After adding any bonus points for RC/EZ/EC-IIs HUD will place applications in ranked order. HUD will consider ranked order, funds availability, and past performance in the selection and funding of applications.

5. Technical Deficiencies. After the application deadline date and consistent with regulations in 24 CFR part 4, subpart B, HUD will not consider any unsolicited information you may want to provide. However, HUD may contact you to clarify an item in your application or to correct technical deficiencies. In order not to unreasonably exclude applications from being rated and ranked, HUD may contact applicants to ensure proper completion of the application and will do so on a uniform basis for all applicants.

However, HUD may not seek clarification of items or responses that improve the substantive quality of your response to any rating factor.

Examples of curable (correctible) technical deficiencies include inconsistencies in the funding request or a failure to submit certifications. In each case, HUD will notify you in writing by describing the clarification or technical deficiency. See the General Section for additional information.

6. HUD’s Strategic Goals to Implement HUD’s Strategic Frameworks and

Demonstrate Results. See the **General Section** for HUD’s Strategic Goals.

7. Policy Priorities. Refer to the **General Section** for information regarding application criteria addressing HUD’s policy priorities.

NOTE: From all applications that receive SHOP funds, HUD intends to add relevant data obtained from the “Removal of Regulatory Barriers” policy priority factor to the database on state and local regulatory reform actions maintained at the Regulatory Barrier Clearinghouse website at <http://www.huduser.org/rbc/> used by states, localities, and housing providers to identify regulatory barriers and learn of exemplary local efforts at regulatory reform.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

1. HUD reserves the right to:
 - a. fund less than the amount requested by any applicant based on the application’s rank, the applicant’s past performance, and the amount of funds requested relative to the total amount of available funds; and/or

b. fund less than the full amount requested by any applicant to ensure a fair distribution of the funds and the development of housing on a national, geographically diverse basis as required by the statute.

HUD will not fund any portion of an application that is ineligible for funding under program threshold requirements in Section III.C or which does not meet other threshold and pre-award requirements in Section III.C. The minimum grant award shall be the amount necessary to fund eligible SHOP activities for at least 30 units at an average investment of not more than \$15,000 per unit or a lesser amount if lower costs for SHOP activities are reflected in the application. If any funds remain after all selections have been made, these funds may be available for subsequent competitions.

2. Debriefing. For a period of at least 120 days, beginning 30 days after the awards for assistance are publicly announced, HUD will provide to a requesting applicant a debriefing related to its application. A debriefing request must be made in writing or by email by its authorized official whose signature appears on the SF-424, or his or her successor in the office and submitted to Ms. Lou Thompson, Office of Affordable Housing Programs, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW, Room 7164, Washington, DC 20410-7000. Information provided during a debriefing will include, at a minimum, the final score you received for each rating factor, final evaluation comments for each rating factor, and the final assessment indicating the basis upon which assistance was provided or denied.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements.

1. Grantees are required to comply with the following administrative and financial requirements: A-122 Cost Principles for Non-Profit Organizations; A-133 (Audits of

States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations); and the regulations at 24 CFR part 84 (Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and other Non-Profit Organizations).

2. Copies of the OMB Circulars may be obtained from EOP Publications, New Executive Office Building, Room 2200, Washington, DC 20503, telephone (202) 395-3080 (this is not a toll-free number) or (800) 877-8339 (toll-free TTY Federal Information Relay Service) or from the website at www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/index.html.

3. Refer to all award administration information requirements described in Section VI (“Award Administration Information”) of the **General Section**.

C. Reporting. Grantees are required to submit quarterly and annual (consortium members/affiliates) reports providing data on the construction status, unit characteristics, and income and racial and ethnic composition of homeowners in SHOP-funded properties. Following issuance of a grant agreement and establishment of a line of credit for the grantee, as part of the required quarterly reporting to HUD, grant recipients must include a completed Logic Model (form HUD-96010), which updates the output and outcome achievements identified in your application with which HUD can evaluate the effectiveness of the SHOP funding. Applicants are also required to report annually their response to the management questions contained in the eLogic Model TM for the SHOP program.

VII. Agency Contact

Further Information and Technical Assistance. Before the application deadline date, HUD staff may provide general guidance and technical assistance about this NOFA.

However, staff is not permitted to assist in preparing your application. Also, following selection of applicants, but before awards are announced, staff may assist in clarifying or confirming information that is a prerequisite to the offer of an award. You may contact Ms. Lou Thompson, SHOP Program Manager, Office of Affordable Housing Programs, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW, Room 7164, Washington, DC 20410-7000, telephone (202) 708-2684 (this is not a toll-free number). This number can be accessed via TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Information Relay Service Operator at (800) 877-8339. For technical support for downloading an application or electronically submitting an application, please call Grants.gov help desk at 800-518-GRANTS (this is a toll-free number) or send an email to support@grants.gov.

VIII. Other Information

A. Review Sections VIII.A., B., E., F., and G. (“Other Information”) of the **General Section**, and note that these subsections are incorporated by reference into this NOFA.

B. Paperwork Reduction Act. The information collection requirements contained in this document were approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520) and assigned OMB control number 2506-0157. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, HUD may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection displays a currently valid OMB control number. Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 60 hours per annum per respondent for the application and grant administration. This includes the time for collecting, reviewing, and reporting the data for the application, quarterly and annual reports, and final report. The information will be used for grantee selection and

monitoring the administration of funds. Response to this request for information is required in order to receive the benefits to be derived.