

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

[Docket Number: 950124024-5024-01]

RIN 0660-AA04

National Telecommunications and Information Administration**Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program (TIAP)**

CFDA: 11.552.

AGENCY: National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of availability of funds.

SUMMARY: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announces the availability of funds to promote the widespread use of advanced telecommunications and information technologies in the public and non-profit sectors. By providing targeted, matching demonstration and planning grants, this program will help to develop a nationwide, interactive, multimedia information infrastructure that is accessible to all citizens, in rural as well as urban areas.

DATES: In order to facilitate planning for and scheduling of the review process, all applicants are required to send NTIA a non-binding letter of intent to submit an application. All letters of intent should be received by 5 p.m. est on March 23, 1995. Any exceptions to this policy will be determined on a case-by-case basis for good cause shown.

The 1995 TIAP grant cycle will include three primary application categories. Program deadlines vary, depending on the category in which a proposal is being submitted.

For Category One applications requesting less than \$1 million, and for all other categories, complete applications must be mailed or hand carried to the address indicated below and received by NTIA by 5 p.m. edt on April 20, 1995. NTIA anticipates that it will take between 4 and 6 months to process each application and make final funding determinations.

For Category One applications requesting \$1 million or more from the TIAP, applicants are required to submit abbreviated preliminary proposals. Preliminary proposals must be received by NTIA by 5 p.m. edt on April 6, 1995. The purpose of requiring preliminary proposals is to reduce the burden on the applicant by providing the applicant with feedback on the proposed project without requiring the applicant to submit a complete application.

Each preliminary proposal will be reviewed based on the criteria in this Notice by an expert panel, which will advise the TIAP staff about whether or not to recommend that the applicant submit a full proposal. Note that the TIAP's recommendation on submission of a full proposal is not binding; applicants whose preliminary proposals are not recommended may choose to submit full applications at their discretion. Furthermore, the review of a preliminary proposal will not prejudice the review of the subsequent full proposal. Full proposals for Category One applicants requesting \$1 million or more from the TIAP must be received at NTIA by 5 p.m. edt on June 22, 1995. No full proposals for Category One projects requesting \$1 million or more will be accepted by the TIAP unless a corresponding preliminary proposal was submitted by the April 6 deadline.

February-March-Regional workshops for prospective applicants (contact TIAP for additional information about dates and locations)

March 23-Deadline for receipt of letters of intent (by 5 p.m. est)

April 6-Deadline for receipt of preliminary proposals in Category One (applies only to proposals requesting \$1 million or more) (by 5 p.m. edt)

April 20-Deadline for receipt of proposals in Category One (proposals requesting less than \$1 million), Category Two, and Category Three (by 5 p.m. edt)

June 22-Deadline for receipt of final proposals in Category One (proposals requesting \$1 million or more) (by 5 p.m. edt)

ADDRESSES: Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, United States Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW., Room 6043 HCHB, Washington, D.C. 20230. Fax: 202/501-5136. Internet: tiap@ntia.doc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Laura Breeden, Director of the Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program, Telephone: 202/482-2048; fax: 202/501-5136; e-mail: tiap@ntia.doc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Program Description**

NTIA announces the second annual round of a competitive matching grant program, the TIAP, created to promote the development and widespread availability of advanced telecommunications and information technologies to serve the public interest.

The TIAP will provide matching grants to state and local governments, non-profit health care and public health providers, school districts, libraries, universities, public safety providers, community-based organizations, and other non-profit entities. Grants will be awarded after a competitive merit review process and will be used to fund projects that improve the quality of, and the public's access to, education and lifelong learning; reduce the cost, improve the quality, and/or increase the accessibility of health care and other social services; promote the accessibility and responsiveness of state and local governments to their citizens and encourage citizen participation in government; improve the efficiency and efficacy of government services; enhance public safety; and promote economic development in rural and urban areas.

NTIA expects that the level of competition will be extremely strong, as it was in fiscal year 1994, when NTIA received 1,088 applications, collectively requesting more than \$550 million in grant funds. On October 12, 1994, the Department of Commerce announced 92 TIAP awards amounting to a total of \$24.4 million in Federal funds.

Eligibility Criteria*Eligible Organizations*

The fiscal year 1995 TIAP grant cycle is divided into three categories. State and local governments and non-profit entities are eligible to apply in all categories. Individuals and for-profit organizations are not eligible.

Interactive Services

All services and networks proposed under the TIAP must be interactive; the program does not support the construction or augmentation of one-way networks.

Matching Funds Requirements

Grant recipients under this program will be required to provide matching funds toward the total project cost. A project will not be considered eligible for funding unless the applicant can document the capacity to supply matching funds. Matching funds may be in the form of cash or in-kind contributions (see OMB Circular A-110). Grant funds under this program will be released in direct proportion to local matching funds raised and/or documented. Except as noted below in the case of demonstration projects for which the request is \$1 million or more in NTIA funding, NTIA will supply up to 50% of the total project cost, unless extraordinary circumstances warrant a