

grant to up to 75%. Federal funds generally may not be used as matching monies. However, when authorized by Federal statute, other Federal funds may be used for cost sharing or matching. Please contact the TIIAP for more information, if you have questions about matching funds requirements.

For demonstration projects for which the request is \$1 million or more, the following conditions apply. NTIA will supply up to 25% of the "total NTIA-supported project cost" (the total NTIA-supported project cost refers to the NTIA grant funds plus matching funds). However, if a proposed NTIA-supported project is a component of a more comprehensive initiative, for which the applicant has obtained or is seeking funding from another Federal agency or agencies, then NTIA will consider supplying up to one-third of the total NTIA-supported project cost. The proposal must clearly describe the scope of work supported by NTIA and be supported by a budget and a budget narrative indicating the expenditure of both NTIA and matching funds. The success of a proposal and the level of funding from NTIA may depend on the applicant's ability to have components funded through other Federal sources.

Past Performance

Unsatisfactory performance under prior Federal financial assistance awards may result in an application not being considered for funding.

Delinquent Federal Debts

No award of Federal funds shall be made to an applicant who has an outstanding delinquent Federal debt until either:

1. The delinquent account is paid in full;
2. A negotiated repayment schedule is established and at least one payment is received; or
3. Other arrangements satisfactory to the Department of Commerce are made.

No Funding for Sectarian Purposes

The Department of Commerce has a long standing policy of not funding projects for purposes the essential thrust of which is sectarian. Consistent with this policy, TIIAP will not fund projects the essential thrust of which is sectarian. Sectarian organizations, however, are eligible applicants and may request funds for non-sectarian purposes. [Cf. NTIA Public Telecommunications Facilities Program (PTFP) regulations at 15 C.F.R. §§ 2301.1 and 2301.22(d); *Fordham University v. Brown*, No. 93-2120 (CRR) (D.D.C. June 29, 1994), appeal docketed, No. 94-5229 (D.C. Cir. Aug. 22, 1994)]

Program Categories

Introduction

The 1995 TIIAP grant cycle is divided into three separate categories. Category One is comprised of Demonstration projects. Category Two is comprised of Access projects. Category Three is comprised of Planning projects.

Categories One and Three are further divided into two sub-categories each.

NTIA will award approximately 60% of the funds in this program to support demonstration projects (Category One), with approximately 25% of the funds to support access projects (Category Two) and approximately 15% to support planning projects (Category Three), unless the quality and/or submissions in any category does not, in NTIA's judgment, merit the proposed allocation of funds.

All TIIAP proposals will be evaluated using the same criteria, as explained below, but the relative weights of the criteria vary from category to category. Please keep this in mind as you read the following section.

Note that while there is no upper limit on the amount of funds that any organization may request in Category One or in Category Three, the overall level of funding will place obvious limits on the amount of funding available for individual grants. The largest award made in fiscal year 1994 was \$733,424.

Category One (Demonstration Projects)

Category One is for exemplary projects that involve the deployment, use, and attendant evaluation of the national information infrastructure to solve a particular problem or set of problems, and that have high potential to serve as models for other communities to follow. Category One is divided into two subcategories based on the amount of NTIA funds requested by the applicant. Proposals requesting \$1 million or more from NTIA are subject to a different application process and to different matching funds requirements than proposals requesting less than \$1 million. Applicants who choose to apply in Category One should read carefully the sections on Dates, Matching Funds Requirements, Application Forms, and Selection Process.

NTIA's priority in Category One is to leverage the Federal Government's investments by supporting demonstration projects that can serve as national models. Demonstration projects must involve the delivery of useful, practical services in real-world environments within the grant award period. Therefore, while some software

development may be required to integrate existing systems or components, it may not be a major emphasis of any demonstration project. Similarly, the TIIAP will not support projects whose primary focus is the development of information content rather than the practical application of information infrastructure.

Projects proposed under this category must address important problems and must demonstrate high-impact, useful applications of information infrastructure. These projects should hold significant potential for replication in other communities. Applicants in this category must explain how their project will add to what is already known about the problems that the project addresses. Applicants must keep in mind that it is the application of the technology to specific needs or problems that is to be demonstrated, not the technology itself. Furthermore, the emphasis in this category is not on showing that an approach is technically feasible, but that the approach is cost effective and appropriate. Demonstration projects should be innovative to the extent that they represent promising approaches whose benefits and costs may not be fully understood.

By supporting demonstration projects, NTIA intends to stimulate the effective and efficient use of the NII. However, without a rigorous evaluation and active dissemination of results, the potential of any project to play such a catalyzing role is severely limited. Therefore, the TIIAP will use high standards in reviewing the evaluation and dissemination plans presented by proposals in this category.

Category Two (Access Projects)

In this category the TIIAP will support projects whose principal aim is to provide greater access to a national information infrastructure for underserved communities, populations, and/or geographic areas. The emphasis is on basic connectivity, rather than uniqueness or innovation. An access project may build on or emulate a successful model project, either one previously supported by the TIIAP or a model that has gained widespread acceptance in the field.

The primary goals of Category Two projects will be: (1) To reduce disparities in access to and use of the national information infrastructure; (2) to promote high levels of support from diverse members of the community; and (3) to support projects that are guided by the needs of end users. Applicants are strongly urged to provide the TIIAP with a thorough breakdown of the