

### § 303.3

States in which they are located, prior to EDA approval.

(f) If EDA identifies any deficiencies, it will notify the organization in writing and provide the organization a reasonable opportunity to remedy such deficiencies.

(g) If any part of a district is in the Appalachian region (as defined in section 403 of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (40 U.S.C. App.)) the district shall ensure that a copy of the district's CEDS is provided to the Appalachian Regional Commission.

[64 FR 5356, Feb. 3, 1999, as amended at 64 FR 69874, Dec. 14, 1999; 65 FR 71024, Nov. 28, 2000]

### § 303.3 Requirements for a strategy.

A strategy must be the result of a continuing economic development planning process, developed with broad-based and diverse community participation, and contain the following:

(a) An analysis of economic and community development problems and opportunities including incorporation of any relevant material or suggestions from other government sponsored or supported plans;

(b) Background and history of the economic development situation of the area covered, with a discussion of the economy, including as appropriate, geography, population, labor force, resources, infrastructure, transportation systems, and the environment;

(c) A discussion of community participation in the planning efforts;

(d) A section setting forth goals and objectives for taking advantage of the opportunities of and solving the economic development problems of the area serviced;

(e) A plan of action, including suggested projects to implement objectives and goals set forth in the strategy; and

(f) Performance measures that will be used to evaluate whether and to what extent goals and objectives have been or are being met.

[64 FR 5356, Feb. 3, 1999, as amended at 64 FR 69874, Dec. 14, 1999]

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## PART 304—GENERAL SELECTION PROCESS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

Sec.

304.1 Project proposal, application, selection and evaluation for programs under PWEDA.

304.2 How EDA evaluates proposals and applications for projects funded under PWEDA.

AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 3211; Department of Commerce Organization Order 10-4.

SOURCE: 64 FR 5357, Feb. 3, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

### § 304.1 Project proposal, application, selection and evaluation for programs under PWEDA.

(a) *Local projects.* If you are or represent a party eligible to be an applicant, and are interested in a public works, economic adjustment, planning, local technical assistance or university center project grant, you should contact the appropriate Economic Development Representative (EDR) (or EDA Regional or headquarters office), identified in the NOFA. The EDR or other EDA official is available to provide program information, including the current published NOFA; provide a proposal form approved by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and provide assistance as needed in filling out the proposal form.

(1) After submission of the proposal to the appropriate EDR or Regional Office of EDA, the appropriate Regional Office Project Review Committee (PRC), consisting of at least three EDA officials, will review the proposal. The EDR or other appropriate EDA official will evaluate the proposal under § 304.2, program specific sections of this rule, and the NOFA, if applicable, before submitting it to the EDA Regional Office for its review.

(2) After review by the PRC, EDA will send a letter in a timely manner to each submitter advising either that:

(i) EDA invites the submitter to prepare and present a formal application on a standard application form, with attachments for the type of grant being requested; or

(ii) EDA returns the proposal because of specified deficiencies and suggests

resubmission when the deficiencies are cured; or

(iii) EDA denies the proposal for specifically stated reasons.

(b) *National technical assistance, training, research, or evaluation projects.* If you are or represent a party eligible to be an applicant, and are interested in a national technical assistance, training, research, or evaluation project under PWEDA, you should make initial contact with EDA in Washington, D.C., at locations identified in the NOFA, for information and assistance concerning proposals and to obtain program information, including a copy of the current NOFA, and OMB approved proposal form. After submission of the proposal to the appropriate EDA Washington, D.C. office, generally, three or more technically knowledgeable EDA officials will review the proposal for relevance and quality.

(1) If EDA determines that the proposal is acceptable under §304.2, program specific sections of this chapter, and the NOFA, if applicable, EDA may by letter invite the submitter to provide an application with a more detailed and comprehensive project narrative.

(2) If EDA determines that the proposal is not acceptable because of specified deficiencies, EDA will so notify the submitter in writing in a timely manner.

(c) Additional criteria, or priority consideration factors for assistance, may be set forth in a NOFA.

(d) EDA expects that applications will generally be submitted within 30 days after receipt of an invitation letter. EDA's invitation to submit an application does not assure EDA funding.

[64 FR 5357, Feb. 3, 1999, as amended at 64 FR 69874, Dec. 14, 1999]

#### **§304.2 How EDA evaluates proposals and applications for projects funded under PWEDA.**

(a) General proposal and application evaluation criteria for projects funded under PWEDA are as follows: EDA will screen all proposals/applications for conformance to statutory and regulatory requirements, the reasonableness of the budget presented, and the following criteria:

(1) The relative severity of the economic problem of the area,

(2) The quality of the scope of work proposed to address the problem,

(3) The merits of the activity(ies) for which funding is requested, and

(4) The ability of the prospective applicant to carry out the proposed activity(ies) successfully.

(b) EDA will also review applications for conformance with any additional program specific evaluation criteria as stated in applicable sections of these rules or the NOFA.

(c) The NOFA may identify special areas of interest or priority consideration for the period of such NOFA.

[64 FR 5357, Feb. 3, 1999, as amended at 64 FR 69875, Dec. 14, 1999]

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AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 3211; Department of Commerce Organization Order 10-4.