

(c) An applicant may request a preliminary determination of whether a proposed project fits within at least one of the above listed categories any time prior to the closing date.

(d) All applications will be reviewed after the closing date. If an application does not fall within one of the listed categories, it may be rejected and returned without further consideration.

[61 FR 57974, Nov. 8, 1996; 61 FR 64948, Dec. 9, 1996]

§ 2301.5 Special consideration.

In accordance with section 392(f) of the Act, the Agency will give special consideration to applications that foster ownership of, operation of, and participation in public telecommunications entities by minorities and women. Ownership and operation of includes the holding of management and other positions in the entity, especially those concerned with programming decisions and day-to-day operation and management. Participation may be shown by the entity's involvement of women and minorities in public telecommunications through its programming strategies as meeting the needs and interests of those groups. Minorities include American Indians or Alaska natives; Asian or Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, and Blacks, not of Hispanic Origin. The special consideration element is provided as one of several evaluation criteria contained in the regulations at 15 CFR 2301.17(b)(6).

§ 2301.6 Amount of Federal funding.

(a) *Planning grants.* The Agency may provide up to one hundred (100) percent of the funds necessary for the planning of a public telecommunications construction project.

(1) Seventy-five (75) percent Federal funding will be the general presumption for projects to plan for a public telecommunications construction project.

(2) A showing of extraordinary need (e.g., small community group proposing to initiate new public telecommunication service) will be taken into consideration as justification for grants of up to 100% of the total project cost.

(b) *Construction grants.* (1) A Federal grant for the construction of a public

telecommunications facility may not exceed seventy-five (75) percent of the amount determined by the Agency to be the reasonable and necessary cost of such project.

(i) Seventy-five (75) percent Federal funding will be the general presumption for projects to activate stations or to extend service.

(ii) Fifty (50) percent Federal funding will be the general presumption for the replacement, improvement or augmentation of equipment. A showing of extraordinary need (*i.e.* small community-licensee stations or a station that is licensed to a large institution [e.g., a college or university] documenting that it does not receive direct or in-kind support from the larger institution), or an emergency situation will be taken into consideration as justification for grants of up to 75% of the total project cost for such proposals.

(2) Since the purpose of the PTFP is to provide financial assistance for the acquisition of public telecommunications facilities, total project costs do not normally include the value of eligible apparatus owned or acquired by the applicant prior to the closing date. Inclusion of equipment purchased prior to the closing date will be considered on a case-by-case basis only when clear and compelling justifications are provided to PTFP. Obligating funds—either in whole or in part—for equipment before the closing date is considered ownership or acquisition of equipment. In like manner, accepting title to donated equipment prior to the closing date is considered ownership or acquisition of equipment.

(c) No part of the grantee's matching share of the eligible project costs may be met with funds:

(1) Paid by the Federal government, except where the use of such funds to meet a Federal matching requirement is specifically and expressly authorized by the relevant Federal statute; or

(2) Supplied to an applicant by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, except upon a clear and compelling showing of need.

(d) No funds from the Federal share of the total project cost may be obligated until the award period start date. If an applicant or recipient obligates anticipated Federal Award funds before