

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT

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Chapter DOD 17

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE PROGRAM**

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**DOD 17.01 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to establish a procedure for the administration of the business development initiative program as provided in ss. 234.965 and 560.20, Stats., and funded under s. 20.143 (1) (en), Stats.

**History:** Cr. Register, November, 1990, No. 419, eff. 12-1-90.

**DOD 17.02 Definitions.** In this chapter:

(1) "Community development finance company" has the meaning given in s. 234.94 (3), Stats.

(2) "Department" means the department of development.

(2n) "Division" means the division of vocational rehabilitation in the department of health and social services.

(3) "Equity investment" has the meaning given in s. 560.20 (1) (b), Stats.

(4) "For profit business" has the meaning given in s. 560.20 (1) (c), Stats.

(5) "Liquid assets" means uncommitted cash or other personal assets that, in accordance with standard accounting practices, may be easily converted to cash.

(6) "Managerial services" means the provision of assistance to establish or improve management systems in such areas as personnel, training, inventory control, production, strategic planning, purchasing, distribution, facilities design and information systems related to a business start-up or expansion.

(7) "Minority group member" has the meaning given in s. 560.036 (1) (f), Stats.

(8) "Nonprofit organization" has the meaning given in s. 560.20 (1) (d), Stats.

(9) "Person with severe disabilities" has the meaning given in s. 560.20 (1) (e), Stats.

(10) "Small business" has the meaning given in s. 560.20 (1) (f), Stats.

(11) "Technical assistance" includes each of the items listed in s. 560.20 (1) (g) 1. to 4., Stats.

**History:** Cr. Register, November, 1990, No. 419, eff. 12-1-90; cr. (2n), Register, July, 1993, No. 451, eff. 8-1-93.

**DOD 17.03 Distribution of funds.** From the appropriation under s. 20.143 (1) (en), Stats., the department shall expend annually up to 30% on equity investment grants. The department shall expend the remainder on technical assistance and technical assistance grants, \$25,000 of which may be expended for technical assistance grants made under s. DOD 17.045.

History: Cr. Register, November, 1990, No. 419, eff. 12-1-90; am. Register, July, 1993, No. 451, eff. 8-1-93; r. and recr. Register, January, 1994, No. 457, eff. 2-1-94.

**DOD 17.04 Technical assistance and technical assistance grants.** (1) The department shall hold an annual competition for technical assistance and technical assistance grants and make an application manual available to all eligible applicants.

(2) The department shall provide technical assistance or technical assistance grants to individuals, small businesses or non-profit organizations in accordance with the provisions of this chapter for the purpose of developing and planning the start-up or expansion of a for-profit business that is or will be located in this state.

(3) Applications for technical assistance or technical assistance grants shall be submitted by the deadline and according to the procedures contained in the manual and, shall contain all of the following information:

(a) The ownership and ownership structure of the for-profit business that will be the beneficiary of the technical assistance or grant including identification of any person with severe disabilities involved in the ownership or management.

(b) The location of the proposed business venture.

(c) The product or service provided by the business.

(d) The market for the product or service, competition within the market and any competitive advantages of the business.

(e) An estimate of the gross revenue and profit that will be generated by the business over a period specified by the department.

(f) The process for manufacturing the product or providing the service.

(g) An estimate of the number of jobs expected to be created for persons with severe disabilities and the total number of jobs expected to be created.

(h) The agencies the applicant will utilize for referrals of persons with severe disabilities and minority group members with severe disabilities.

(i) The experience of the applicant or the small business on behalf of which application is being made, which is related to the proposed business venture.

(j) An estimate of the capital required to complete the proposed business venture.

(k) Potential sources of financing for the proposed business venture.

(l) If the applicant is a small business, the number of full-time employees of the applicant.

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(m) If the applicant is a nonprofit organization, evidence of incorporation under ch. 181, Stats., or of tax exempt status under section 501 (a) of the internal revenue code.

(n) Any other information the department may require to make a determination in accordance with s. 560.20, Stats., and this chapter.

(4) In deciding whether to provide technical assistance or make a technical assistance grant, the department shall compare the applications received during each annual competition on each of the following:

(a) The likelihood that the for-profit businesses will actually be profitable.

(b) The extent to which the expansion or creation of the for-profit businesses will increase employment in the state.

(c) The extent to which the expansion or creation of the for-profit business is expected to create employment opportunities for persons with severe disabilities and persons with severe disabilities who are minority group members.

(d) The type of technical assistance needed.

(e) The extent to which the expansion or creation of the for-profit business is expected to create business ownership or management opportunities for persons with severe disabilities and persons with severe disabilities who are minority group members.

(5) The maximum grant awarded under this section is \$15,000. A match equal to at least 25 % of the grant amount is required. Up to 75 % of the required match may be in the form of in-kind services. No more than 25 % of the in-kind match may be provided directly by the applicant or the small business on behalf of which application is made. To be treated as in-kind match the services must be related to the success of the business start-up or expansion.

History: Cr. Register, November, 1990, No. 419, eff. 12-1-90; am. (3) (a), cr. (4) (e), Register, July, 1991, No. 427, eff. 8-1-91.

**DOD 17.045 Technical assistance and technical assistance grants to promote self-employment of persons with severe disabilities.** (1) The department shall hold a continuous competition for technical assistance and technical assistance grants for division clients who are severely disabled, who have selected self-employment as a rehabilitation goal and who have been referred to the department by a division counselor. The department shall make an application manual available to all eligible applicants.

(2) The department shall provide technical assistance or technical assistance grants to individuals or small businesses in accordance with the provisions of this chapter for the purpose of developing and planning the start-up or expansion of a for-profit business that is or will be located in this state and that will provide for the self-employment of a person who has severe disabilities and who has been referred to the department by a division counselor.

(3) Applications made under this section shall be submitted on behalf of the applicant by a division counselor and shall be reviewed by the department upon receipt. Applications shall be prepared according to

the procedures contained in the manual and, shall contain the following information:

(a) Each of the items listed in s. DOD 17.04 (3) (a) to (g), (i) to (k) and (n).

(b) An estimate of the potential of the self-employment venture to provide for the financial self-sufficiency of the owner.

(4) In deciding whether to provide technical assistance or a technical assistance grant, the department shall compare each application to those applications previously received during the same fiscal year on each of the following:

(a) Each of the items listed in s. DOD 17.04 (4) (a) to (d).

(b) The likelihood that the self-employment venture will generate earnings to enable the owner to become financially self-sufficient.

(5) The maximum grant awarded under this section is \$3,500. Any grant made under this section requires a cash match from the division in the percentage provided in the memorandum of agreement between the department and the division that is in effect on the date the grant is awarded.

History: Cr. Register, July, 1993, No. 451, eff. 8-1-93.

**DOD 17.05 Equity investments.** (1) The department may make a grant or grants to the community development finance company from the appropriation under s. 20.143 (1) (en), Stats., for use by the community development finance company to make equity investments in for-profit businesses.

(2) Grant funds received by the community development finance company may only be used to make equity investments in a for-profit business if all of the requirements in s. 560.20 (3) (b) 1. to 4., Stats., have been met and if the community development finance company determines that all of the conditions specified in s. 234.965 (2) (a) to (f), Stats., are satisfied.

(3) Proceeds from any equity investments made by the community development finance company shall be used to make additional equity investments in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and ss. 234.965 and 560.20 (3), Stats., and for reasonable administrative expenses.

(4) The community development finance company may not make an equity investment of more than \$25,000 in any single for-profit business.

(5) The community development finance company may apply to the department for a grant at any time. The application shall be in such form as the department may require and shall include the information necessary to insure that the community development finance company complies with the provisions of this chapter and ss. 560.20 (3) and 234.965 (2) (a) to (f), Stats.

History: Cr. Register, November, 1990, No. 419, eff. 12-1-90.

**DOD 17.06 Contracts.** (1) Successful applicants for technical assistance or technical assistance grants shall be required to enter into a contract with the department. The contracts shall be signed by the secretary of Register, July, 1993, No. 451

the department and the chief executive officer of the successful applicant, or by their authorized representatives. The department may void a contract and seek a return of any funds released under the contract for failure by the applicant to perform its obligations under the contract. Amendments to these contracts may be adopted by the written consent of both parties.

(2) The community development finance company and the department shall enter into such contracts as are necessary to implement the equity investment grants. The contracts shall be signed by the secretary and the executive director of the community development finance company or by their authorized representatives. The community development finance company shall also contract with each for-profit business in which it makes an equity investment after receiving written approval of the terms of the contract from the department.

History: Cr. Register, November, 1990, No. 419, eff. 12-1-90.

**DOD 17.07 Reporting.** (1) Each successful applicant for technical assistance grants shall provide to the department periodic financial and program reports. The financial and program reports shall be submitted to the department by a date specified in the contract. The financial and program reports become the property of the department and are open to public inspection.

(2) The community development finance company shall provide to the department an annual financial and program report as specified in the contracts between the community development finance authority and the department.

History: Cr. Register, November, 1990, No. 419, eff. 12-1-90.

**DOD 17.08 Administration.** The department shall solicit applications, review applications, make technical assistance and grant determinations, authorize payments and otherwise implement contractual obligations entailed in grants made under the terms of this chapter, monitor project activities, receive and review the financial reports and program reports submitted under s. DOD 17.07.

History: Cr. Register, November, 1990, No. 419, eff. 12-1-90.

**DOD 17.09 Application manual.** The department shall prepare an application manual for technical assistance and technical assistance grants which it may update as needed. The manual shall contain the application procedures, requirements and instructions for funding under this chapter.

Note: Written instructions for technical assistance and technical assistance grant applications may be obtained at no charge from the Department of Development, Bureau of Minority Business, P. O. Box 7970, Madison, WI 53707.

History: Cr. Register, November, 1990, No. 419, eff. 12-1-90.