



DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL CO-CHAIRMAN

February 03, 2004

Dear Pre-Applicant:

It is with a great sense of excitement that we, at the Delta Regional Authority (DRA), are pleased to present you the "DRA 2004 Federal Grant Program" pre-application package.

While this, the third DRA program will have the same goals and outcomes as our 2003 grant program, you will notice that several things have changed, and we think for the better. And please note, as each point addresses a specific need which came to light during the first-year program, we want you to know that we listened to you.

Accordingly, we can now ensure a higher level of continuity that will not only help facilitate a quicker period of awarding and administration of grants, but also bring the Delta Regional Authority's program more in line with similar agencies both in the federal government and in member states as well.

So, for the DRA 2004 Federal Grant Program, the Authority will execute throughout the Region:

- Uniform and aggressive access to information on the DRA 2004 Federal Grant Program through its website, www.dra.gov from which you can review and download the entire "DRA Uniform Pre-Application Package," plus each state's "State Plan" and the DRA's "Comprehensive Action Plan,"
- Uniform pre-applications and uniform full applications,
- Uniform definitions of eligible activities and categories - also, greater clarification of the program's eligibility requirements,
- Uniform timelines and process-compliance,

- Stronger roles for the Local Development Districts (LDDs) to better publicize the program within their areas and to better educate their clients to the 2004 processes, both through public forums and other appropriate outreach, while assisting their clients in the preparations of their pre-applications,

Please note: these services (publicity, education and technical assistance for pre-application preparation) to be provided by the Region's LDDs will be provided at no cost to the public as the Delta Regional Authority has allocated the funds to, and has an agreement with, each LDD specifically for these purposes, and

- Greater and earlier collaboration with the "Administering Agencies," who will serve as the project - administrators for most projects. In fact, it has become clear, the DRA will be able to produce better results and provide additional enhancements to the 2004 program from this closer relationship with these Administering Agencies.

However, for all of these process and communication improvements notwithstanding, total overall funding for the DRA Federal Grant Program has gone from slightly over \$34.5 million for the 2001/2002 and 2003 program years to \$3.5 million for the 2004 program.

Again, we are pleased to present this package and look forward to working with pre-applicants throughout the Region in the coming months. Please do not hesitate to contact the DRA staff for any additional information through our website, www.dra.gov, by calling at 1-888- GO TO DRA, ext-18, or you can e-mail us at dra04fgp@dra.gov.

Sincerely,



Pete Johnson
Federal Co-Chairman



Governor Mike Huckabee
State Co-Chairman