

CALENDAR OF REPORTING DATES FOR NEW YORK SPECIAL ELECTION FOR COMMITTEES INVOLVED IN THE SPECIAL
GENERAL (02/03/98)

| Report | Close of books ¹ | Registered/ Certified mailing date ² | Filing date |
|--|-----------------------------|--|-------------|
| Pre-General ³ (1997 Activity) | 12/31/97 | ⁴ 01/20/98 | 01/22/98 |
| Pre-General (1998 Activity) | 01/14/98 | ⁴ 01/20/98 | 01/22/98 |
| Post-General | 02/23/98 | 03/05/98 | 03/05/98 |

¹ The period begins with the close of books of the last report filed by the committee. If the committee has filed no previous reports, the period begins with the date of the committee's first activity.

² Reports sent by registered or certified mail must be postmarked by the mailing date; otherwise, they must be received by the filing date.

³ Because reports should not include activity for more than one calendar year, committees should file the Pre-General Report on two forms. One form should cover 7/1/97–12/31/97 and be labeled "Year-End Report." The other form should cover 1/1/98–1/14/98 and be labeled "Pre-General Report." The filing of two forms satisfies both Pre-General and Year-End filing requirements.

⁴ The mailing date has been adjusted because the computed mail date would have fallen on a federal holiday.

Dated: January 9, 1998.

Joan D. Aikens,

Chairman, Federal Election Commission.

[FR Doc. 98–915 Filed 1–13–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6715–01–M

FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE

Labor-Management Cooperation Program Application Solicitation for Labor-Management Committees FY1998

A. Introduction

The following is the final solicitation for the Fiscal Year (FY) 1998 cycle of the Labor-Management Cooperation Program as it pertains to the support of labor-management committees. These guidelines represent the continuing efforts of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to implement the provisions of the Labor-Management Cooperation Act of 1978 which was initially implemented in FY81. The Act generally authorizes FMCS to provide assistance in the establishment and operation of company/plant, area, public sector, and industry-wide labor-management committees which:

(A) Have been organized jointly by employers and labor organizations representing employees in that company/plant, area, government agency, or industry; and

(B) Are established for the purpose of improving labor-management relationships, job security, and organizational effectiveness; enhancing economic development; or involving workers in decisions affecting their jobs, including improving communication with respect to subjects of mutual interest and concern.

The Program Description and other sections that follow, as well as a separately published FMCS Financial and Administrative Grants Manual,

make up the basic guidelines, criteria, and program elements a potential applicant for assistance under this program must know in order to develop an application for funding consideration for either a company/plant, area-wide, industry, or public sector labor-management committee. Directions for obtaining an application kit and an optional video tape may be found in Section H. A copy of the Labor-Management Cooperation Act of 1978, included in the application kit, should be reviewed in conjunction with this solicitation.

B. Program Description

Objectives

The Labor-Management Cooperation Act of 1978 identifies the following seven general areas for which financial assistance would be appropriate:

- (1) To improve communication between representatives of labor and management;
- (2) To provide workers and employers with opportunities to study and explore new and innovative joint approaches to achieving organizational effectiveness;
- (3) To assist workers and employers in solving problems of mutual concern not susceptible to resolution within the collective bargaining process;
- (4) To study and explore ways of eliminating potential problems which reduce the competitiveness and inhibit the economic development of the company/plant, area, or industry;
- (5) To enhance the involvement of workers in making decisions that affect their working lives;
- (6) To expand and improve working relationships between workers and managers; and
- (7) To encourage free collective bargaining by establishing continuing mechanisms for communication between employers and their employees through Federal assistance in the

formation and operation of labor-management committees.

The primary objective of this program is to encourage and support the establishment and operation of joint labor-management committees to carry out specific objectives that meet the forementioned general criteria. The term "labor" refers to employees represented by a labor organization and covered by a formal collective bargaining agreement. These committees may be found at either the plant (company), area, industry, or public sector levels. A plant or company committee is generally characterized as restricted to one or more organizational or productive units operated by a single employer. An area committee is generally composed of multiple employers of diverse industries as well as multiple labor unions operating within and focusing upon city, county, contiguous multicounty, or statewide jurisdictions. An industry committee generally consists of a collection of agencies or enterprises and related labor union(s) producing a common product or service in the private sector on a local, state, regional, or nationwide level. A public sector committee consists either of government employees and managers in one or more units of a local or state government, managers and employees of public institutions of higher education, or of employees and managers of public elementary and secondary schools. Those employees must be covered by a formal collective bargaining agreement or other enforceable labor-management agreement. In deciding whether an application is for an area or industry committee, consideration should be given to the above definitions as well as to the focus of the committee.

In FY 1998, competition will be open to company/plant, area, private industry, and public sector committees. Public Sector committees will be

divided into two sub-categories for scoring purposes. One sub-category will consist of committees representing state/local units of government and public institutions of higher education. The second sub-category will consist of public elementary and secondary schools.

Special consideration will be given to committee applications involving innovative or unique efforts. All application budget requests should focus directly on supporting the committee. Applicants should avoid seeking funds for activities that are clearly available under other Federal programs (e.g., job training, mediation of contract disputes, etc.).

Required Program Elements

1. Problem Statement

The application, which should have numbered pages, must discuss in detail what specific problem(s) face the company/plant, area, government, or industry and its workforce that will be addressed by the committee. Applicants must document the problem(s) using as much relevant data as possible and discuss the full range of impacts these problem(s) could have or are having on the company/plant, government, area, or industry. An industrial or economic profile of the area and workforce might prove useful in explaining the problem(s). This section basically discusses why the effort is needed.

2. Results or Benefits Expected

By using specific goals and objectives, the application must discuss in detail what the labor-management committee as a demonstration effort will accomplish during the life of the grant. Applications that promise to provide objectives after a grant is awarded will receive little or no credit in this area. While a goal of "improving communication between employers and employees" may suffice as one over-all goal of a project, the objectives must, whenever possible, be expressed in specific and measurable terms. Applicants should focus on the outcome, impacts or changes that the committee's efforts will have. Existing committees should focus on expansion efforts/results expected from FMCS funding. The goals, objectives, and projected impacts will become the foundation for future monitoring and evaluation efforts of the grantee, as well as the FMCS grants program.

3. Approach

This section of the application specifies how the goals and objectives will be accomplished. At a minimum,

the following elements must be included in all grant applications:

(a) A discussion of the strategy the committee will employ to accomplish its goals and objectives;

(b) A listing, by name and title, of all existing or proposed members of the labor-management committee. The application should also offer a rationale for the selection of the committee members (e.g., members represent 70% of the area or company/plant workforce).

(c) A discussion of the number, type, and role of all committee staff persons. Include proposed position descriptions for all staff that will have to be hired as well as resumes for staff already on board;

(d) In addressing the proposed approach, applicants must also present their justification as to why Federal funds are needed to implement the proposed approach;

(e) A statement of how often the committee will meet (we require meetings at least every other month) as well as any plans to form subordinate committees for particular purposes; and

(f) For applications from existing committees (i.e., in existence at least 12 months prior to the submission deadline), a discussion of past efforts and accomplishments and how they would integrate with the proposed expanded effort.

4. Major Milestones

This section must include an implementation plan that indicates what major steps, operating activities, and objectives will be accomplished as well as a timetable for when they will be finished. A milestone chart must be included that indicates what specific accomplishments (process and impact) will be completed by month over the life of the grant using September 15, 1998, as the start date. The accomplishment of these tasks and objectives, as well as problems and delays therein, will serve as the basis for quarterly progress reports to FMCS.

5. Evaluation

Applicants must provide for either an external evaluation or an internal assessment of the project's success in meeting its goals and objectives. An evaluation plan must be developed which briefly discusses what basic questions or issues the assessment will examine and what baseline data the committee staff already has or will gather for the assessment. This section should be written with the application's own goals and objectives clearly in mind and the impacts or changes that the effort is expected to cause.

6. Letters of Commitment

Applications must include current letters of commitment from all proposed or existing committee participants and chairpersons. These letters should indicate that the participants support the application and will attend scheduled committee meetings. A blanket letter signed by a committee chairperson or other official on behalf of all members is not acceptable. We encourage the use of individual letters submitted on company or union letterhead represented by the individual. The letters should match the names provided under Section 3(b).

7. Other Requirements

Applicants are also responsible for the following:

(a) The submission of data indicating approximately how many employees will be covered or represented through the labor-management committee;

(b) From existing committees, a copy of the existing staffing levels, a copy of the by-laws, a breakout of annual operating costs and identification of all sources and levels of current financial support;

(c) A detailed budget narrative based on policies and procedures contained in the FMCS Financial and Administrative Grants Manual;

(d) An assurance that the labor-management committee will not interfere with any collective bargaining agreements; and

(e) An assurance that committee meetings will be held at least every other month and that written minutes of all committee meetings will be prepared and made available to FMCS.

Selection Criteria

The following criteria will be used in the scoring and selection of applications for award:

(1) The extent to which the application has clearly identified the problems and justified the needs that the proposed project will address.

(2) The degree to which appropriate and measurable goals and objectives have been developed to address the problems/needs of the applicant.

(3) The feasibility of the approach proposed to attain the goals and objectives of the project and the perceived likelihood of accomplishing the intended project results. This section will also address the degree of innovativeness or uniqueness of the proposed effort.

(4) The appropriateness of committee membership and the degree of commitment of these individuals to the goals of the application as indicated in the letters of support.

(5) The feasibility and thoroughness of the implementation plan in specifying major milestones and target dates.

(6) The cost effectiveness and fiscal soundness of the application's budget request, as well as the application's feasibility vis-a-vis its goals and approach.

(7) The overall feasibility of the proposed project in light of all of the information presented for consideration; and

(8) The value to the government of the application in light of the overall objectives of the Labor-Management Cooperation Act of 1978. This includes such factors as innovativeness, site location, cost, and other qualities that impact upon an applicant's value in encouraging the labor-management committee concept.

C. Eligibility

Eligible grantees include state and local units of government, labor-management committees (or a labor union, management association, or company on behalf of a committee that will be created through the grant), and certain third-party private non-profit entities on behalf of one or more committees to be created through the grant. Federal government agencies and their employees are not eligible.

Third-party private, non-profit entities which can document that a major purpose or function of their organization has been the improvement of labor relations are eligible to apply. However, all funding must be directed to the functioning of the labor-management committee, and all requirements under Part B must be followed. Applications from third-party entities must document particularly strong support and participation from all labor and management parties with whom the applicant will be working. Applications from third-parties which do not directly support the operation of a new or expanded committee will not be deemed eligible, nor will applications signed by entities such as law firms or other-third parties failing to meet the above criteria.

Applicants who received funding under this program in the past for committee operations are generally not eligible to apply. The only exceptions apply to third-party grantees who seek funds on behalf of an entirely different committee.

D. Allocations

The total FY 1998 appropriation for this program is \$1.5 million, of which at least \$750,000 will be available competitively for new applicants.

Specific funding levels will not be established for each type of committee. Instead, the review process will be conducted in such a manner that at least two awards will be made in each category (company/plant, industry, public sector, and area), providing that FMCS determines that at least two outstanding applications exist in each category. After these applications are selected for award, the remaining applications will be considered according to merit without regard to category. A maximum of \$400,000 of the \$1.5 million appropriation has been reserved for the limited continuation of FY96-funded grantees.

In addition to the competitive process identified in the preceding paragraph, FMCS will set aside a sum not to exceed thirty percent of its non-reserved appropriation to be awarded on a non-competitive basis. These funds will be used only to support industry-specific national-scope initiatives and/or regional industry models with high potential for widespread replication that have been solicited by the Director of the Service.

FMCS reserves the right to retain up to an additional five percent of the FY98 appropriation to contract for program support purposes (such as evaluation) other than administration.

E. Dollar Range and Length of Grants and Continuation Policy

Awards to continue and expand existing labor-management committees (i.e., in existence 12 months prior to the submission deadline) will be for a period of 12 months. If successful progress is made during this initial budget period and if sufficient appropriations for expansion and continuation projects are available, these grants may be extended or continued for a limited time at a 40 percent cash match ratio. Initial awards to establish new labor-management committees (i.e., not yet established or in existence less than 12 months prior to the submission deadline), will be for a period of 18 months. If successful progress is made during this initial budget period and if sufficient appropriations for expansion and continuation projects are available, these grants may be extended or continued for a limited time at a 40 percent cash match ratio. The dollar range of awards is as follows:

- Up to \$35,000 in FMCS funds per annum for existing company/plant or single department public sector applicants;
- Up to \$50,000 over 18 months for new company/plant committee or single department public sector applicants;

- Up to \$75,000 in FMCS funds per annum for existing area, industry and multi-departmental public sector committee applicants;
- Up to \$100,000 per 18-month period for new area, industry, and multi-departmental public sector committee applicants.

Applicants are reminded that these figures represent maximum Federal funds only. If total costs to accomplish the objectives of the application exceed the maximum allowable Federal funding level and its required grantee match, applicants may supplement these funds through voluntary contributions from other sources. Applicants are also strongly encouraged to consult with their local or regional FMCS field office to determine what kinds of training may be available at no cost before budgeting for such training in their applications. A list of our field leadership team and their phone numbers is included in the application kit.

F. Cash Match Requirements and Cost Allowability

Applicants for new labor-management committees must provide at least 10 percent of the total allowable project costs. Applicants for existing committees must provide at least 25 percent of the total allowable project costs. All matching funds may come from state or local government sources or private sector contributions, but may generally not include other Federal funds. Funds generated by grant-supported efforts are considered "project income," and may not be used for matching purposes.

It will be the policy of this program to reject all requests for indirect or overhead costs as well as "in-kind" match contributions. In addition, grant funds must not be used to supplant private or local/state government funds currently spent for these purposes. Funding requests from existing committees should focus entirely on the costs associated with the expansion efforts. Also, under no circumstances may business or labor officials participating on a labor-management committee be compensated out of grant funds for time spent at committee meetings or time spent in training sessions. Applicants generally will not be allowed to claim all or a portion of existing full-time staff as an expense or match contribution. For a more complete discussion of cost allowability, applicants are encouraged to consult the FY98 FMCS Financial and Administrative Grants Manual which will be included in the application kit.

G. Application Submission and Review Process

Applications should be signed by both a labor and management representative and be postmarked no later than May 2, 1998. No applications or supplementary materials can be accepted after the deadline. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the application is correctly postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or other carrier. An original application containing numbered pages, plus three copies, should be addressed to the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, Labor-Management Grants Program, 2100 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20427. FMCS will not consider videotaped submissions or video attachments to submissions.

After the deadline has passed, all eligible applications will be reviewed and scored initially by one or more Customer Grant Review Boards. The Board(s) will recommend selected applications for further funding consideration. The Director, Labor-Management Grants Program, will finalize the scoring and selection process. The individual listed as contact person in Item 6 on the application form will generally be the only person with whom FMCS will communicate during the application review process.

All FY98 grant applicants will be notified of results and all grant awards will be made before September 15, 1998. Applications submitted after the May 2 deadline date or that fail to adhere to eligibility or other major requirements will be administratively rejected by the Director, Labor-Management Grants Program.

H. Contact

Individuals wishing to apply for funding under this program should contact the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service as soon as possible to obtain an application kit. These kits and additional information or clarification can be obtained free of charge by contacting the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, Labor-Management Grants Program, 2100 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20427; or by calling 202-606-8181.

John Calhoun Wells,

Director, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

[FR Doc. 98-913 Filed 1-13-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6732-01-M

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841 *et seq.*) (BHC Act), Regulation Y (12 CFR Part 225), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The application also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)). If the proposal also involves the acquisition of a nonbanking company, the review also includes whether the acquisition of the nonbanking company complies with the standards in section 4 of the BHC Act. Unless otherwise noted, nonbanking activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than February 6, 1998.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis
(Randall C. Sumner, Vice President) 411 Locust Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2034:

1. *First Commercial Corporation*, Little Rock, Arkansas; to acquire KW Bancshares, Inc., Little Rock, Arkansas, and thereby indirectly acquire Federal Savings Bank, Rogers, Arkansas and thereby engage in operating a savings institution, pursuant to § 225.28(b)(4)(ii) of the Board's Regulation Y. Following consummation of the acquisition, Federal Savings Bank will convert to a nationally chartered commercial bank that will operate as First Commercial Bank, N.A. of West Memphis, West Memphis, Arkansas.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, January 8, 1998.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 98-820 Filed 1-13-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-F

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[30DAY-06-98]

Agency Forms Undergoing Paperwork Reduction Act Review

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publishes a list of information collection requests under review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). To request a copy of these requests, call the CDC Reports Clearance Office on (404) 639-7090. Send written comments to CDC, Desk Officer; Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235; Washington, DC 20503. Written comments should be received on or before February 13, 1998.

Proposed Projects

1. The National Home and Hospice Care Survey (NHHCS)—(0920-0298)—Revision—The National Home and Hospice Care Survey (NHHCS) was conducted in 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996, and 1997. It is part of the Long-Term Care component of the National Health Care Survey. Section 306 of the Public Health Service Act states that the National Center for Health Statistics "shall collect statistics on health resources * * * [and] utilization of health care, including utilization of * * * services of hospitals, extended care facilities, home health agencies, and other institutions." NHHCS data are used to examine this most rapidly expanding sector of the health care industry. Data from the NHHCS are used widely by the health care industry and policy makers for such diverse analyses as the need for various medical supplies; minority access to health care; and planning for the health care needs of the elderly. The NHHCS also reveals detailed information on utilization patterns, as needed to make accurate assessments of the need for and costs associated with such care. Data from earlier NHHCS collections have been used by the Congressional Budget Office, the Bureau of Health Professionals, the Maryland Health Resources Planning Commission, the National Association for Home Care, and by several newspapers and journals. Additional uses are expected to be similar to the uses of the National Nursing Home Survey. NHHCS data cover: baseline data on the characteristics of hospices and home health agencies in relation to their