

## FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

### Notice of Proposals to Engage in Permissible Nonbanking Activities or to Acquire Companies that are Engaged in Permissible Nonbanking Activities

The companies listed in this notice have given notice under section 4 of the Bank Holding Company Act (12 U.S.C. 1843) (BHC Act) and Regulation Y (12 CFR part 225) to engage *de novo*, or to acquire or control voting securities or assets of a company, including the companies listed below, that engages either directly or through a subsidiary or other company, in a nonbanking activity that is listed in § 225.28 of Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.28) or that the Board has determined by Order to be closely related to banking and permissible for bank holding companies. Unless otherwise noted, these activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Each notice is available for inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The notice also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the question whether the proposal complies with the standards of section 4 of the BHC Act. Additional information on all bank holding companies may be obtained from the National Information Center Web site at <http://www.ffiec.gov/nic/>.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding the applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than January 30, 2006.

**A. Federal Reserve Bank of New York** (Jay Bernstein, Bank Supervision Officer) 33 Liberty Street, New York, New York 10045-0001:

1. *Rabobank International Holding B.V.*, Utrecht, The Netherlands, Utrecht-America Holdings, Inc., New York, New York, and VIB Corp El, Centro, California; to engage in making and acquiring loans and extensions of credit, pursuant to section 225.28(b)(1) of Regulation Y.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, January 10, 2006.

**Robert deV. Frierson,**

*Deputy Secretary of the Board.*

[FR Doc. E6-342 Filed 1-13-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-S

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### HHS Managing Partner Grants.gov E-Government Initiative; Governmentwide Notice of Opportunity to Register Early for Electronic Submission of Grant Applications for Federal Funding Opportunities; Early Registration With Grants.gov

**AGENCY:** Grants.gov Program Management Office; HHS Managing Agency; Office of Assistant Secretary for Budget, Technology and Finance for the Grants Executive Board, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Federal grant applicants must complete a three-step registration process before applying for a federal grant opportunity through Grants.gov. Grants.gov is the federal government's free, single, and secure site for finding and submitting applications electronically for federal grant funding. It is part of the ongoing implementation of Electronic Government (E-Government) and a key component of the President's Management Agenda. Expanding electronic government makes it simpler for the public to receive high-quality services from the federal government in addition to improving the federal government's efficiency in the delivery of its services. To protect the applicant and the applicant's information, and to assure federal agencies that they are interacting with officials authorized to submit applications for funding on behalf of applicant entities, an applicant must register with Grants.gov.

In fiscal year 2005, 20 out of 26 federal grant making departments and agencies achieved their goals, set through OMB guidance, of making 25 percent of their discretionary funding opportunities available for the electronic submission of applications on Grants.gov and over 15,000 applications were received. Per OMB milestones, in fiscal year 2006 the percentage of discretionary funding opportunities available for electronic submission will increase to 75 percent and then to 100 percent in fiscal year 2007. This planned increase in utilization of the Grants.gov system is indicative of a governmentwide transition to electronic grant processes.

The twenty-six federal grant making departments and agencies participating in Grants.gov are: The Departments of Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, Education, Agriculture, Justice, Labor, Homeland Security, Defense, Commerce, Veterans Affairs,

State, Treasury, Interior, and Energy, and the National Science Foundation, Environmental Protection Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Endowment of the Arts, National Endowment of Humanities, Corporation for National & Community Service, U.S. Agency for International Development, National Archives and Records Administration, Small Business Administration, Institute of Museum and Library Services, and Social Security Administration.

Each of the federal grant-making departments and agencies listed above are posting funding opportunities and grant application materials on Grants.gov. To facilitate the federal grant application process, this notice encourages prospective applicants to register early. Registering in advance of agencies posting their grant opportunities will eliminate many of the issues that applicants have faced by not meeting registration requirements in time to meet application deadlines. Registering early will allow the Federal agencies and Grants.gov sufficient time to address questions applicants may have in completing the registration process.

### I. The Need To Register With Grants.gov

Before applying for a grant opportunity on Grants.gov, an applicant must complete the registration process. Registration protects both the applicant and the federal agencies against fraudulent activities. Registration confirms that the applicant has designated a certain individual or entity to submit an application on behalf of the applicant and assures the federal agency that it is interacting with the designated representative of the applicant.

### II. What Is Involved in Registration?

Before applying for a grant opportunity on Grants.gov, an applicant must complete the registration process. Registration protects both the applicant and the federal agencies against fraudulent activities. Registration confirms that the applicant has designated a certain individual or entity to submit an application on behalf of the applicant and assures the federal agency that it is interacting with the designated representative of the applicant.

Registration is a three-step process:

1. Register your organization.
2. Register yourself as an Authorized Organization Representative.
3. Become authorized by your organization to submit applications.
  1. Register Your Organization. Before you can apply for a grant via Grants.gov