

Respectfully Submitted this 6th day of April, 1995.

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## Immigration and Naturalization Service

[INS No. 1741-95]

### Immigration and Naturalization Service P-1 Nonimmigrant Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Immigration and Naturalization Service, Justice.

**ACTION:** Notice of establishment of P-1 Nonimmigrant Advisory Committee.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C., Appendix II (1972), the Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), with the approval of the Attorney General, is establishing a P-1 Nonimmigrant Advisory Committee for the purpose of examining the question of whether United States-based entertainment groups seeking to employ alien entertainers may file P1 nonimmigrant petitions. In addition, the Advisory Committee will provide input regarding the appropriate use of the P-1 nonimmigrant classification as it relates to the employment of non-United States-based circus personnel. The object of the Committee is to provide an organized public forum for discussion of the above issues which have arisen between officials of the Service and members of the public in general, and management and labor groups in the entertainment industry in particular.

The INS also intends to use the Advisory Committee in the future in order to discuss additional issues relating to the P-1 classification as well as other issues that may arise with respect to the entertainment industry.

It is anticipated that the members of the Committee will assist the Service in being more responsive to the needs and concerns of the entities affected by the P-1 nonimmigrant classification.

**MEMBERSHIP:** The Committee will be composed of approximately 10-15 representatives from the entertainment industry, immigration practitioners, and labor organizations. The INS has been contacted by a number of representatives from these groups who

have expressed interest in joining the Committee and volunteered their services. In addition, the INS invites other individuals interested in becoming members of this committee on contact, by interested in becoming members of this committee to contact, by letter or fax, the INS officer designated as the contact person listed below within 60 days of publication of this notice with a statement of their qualifications for membership and reasons why they believe they should participate. The INS will then publish a second notice after it has selected all the committee members.

The Committee will function solely as an advisory body in compliance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Its charter will be filed in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John W. Brown, Adjudications Officer, Immigration and Naturalization Service, 425 I Street NW., room 3214, Washington, DC 20536, Telephone (202) 514-3240, Fax (202) 514-0198).

Dated: February 16, 1996.

Doris Meissner,

*Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Office of the Secretary

#### The National Skill Standards Board (NSSB); Notice of Availability of Funds and Solicitation for Grant Applications

**AGENCY:** Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Labor.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of funds and solicitation for grant application can be obtained by writing to: Lisa Harvey, U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Procurement, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room N 5416, Washington, DC 20210. The National Skill Standards Board (NSSB) is soliciting proposals to be funded through Public Law 103-227. It is anticipated that five to 15 cooperative agreements will be awarded for a total not to exceed \$1.5 million. Awards will range from \$100,000 to \$300,000. Eligibility to respond is limited, as described herein.

**ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:** Applicants must be one of or a combination of two or more of the original 22 pilot projects funded as part of the national skill standards demonstration projects

coordinated jointly by the U.S. Departments of Labor and Education.

**CLOSING DATE:** The closing date for receipt of proposals will be March 25, 1996, at 2:00 p.m. at the following address: Office of Procurement, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room N5416, Washington, DC 20210.

It is anticipated that awards will be announced on or prior to May 1, 1996.

**PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** The period of performance will cover 12 months from the date of execution of the cooperative agreement.

### Legislative Authority

In 1994 the Goals 200: Educate America legislation was signed, establishing in Title V the National Skill Standards Board. The Board is charged with stimulating the development and adoption of a voluntary, national system of skill standards and of assessment and certification of skill attainment.

Specifically the Board will Develop occupational clusters to provide the framework for standard setting efforts; be the catalyst for industry-led groups to set the standards; and endorse the qualifying standards presented to it for approval. The NSSB also serves as a clearinghouse of information relating to the development of skill standards and skills formation systems. The work of the Board is intended to "serve as a cornerstone of the national strategy to enhance workforce skills". Within the workforce development policy framework, national skill standards will link school-to-work initiatives, emerging reemployment strategies for displaced workers and state workforce development efforts to a common understanding. This shared understanding of skills needed for success will be imperative if the U.S. is to build a system that improves the skills, training and preparedness of the workforce, a system needed to insure economic competitiveness.

The Board is comprised of leaders from business, organized labor, education, training, state and federal government as well as other key stakeholder groups. The NSSB is mandated by the authorizing legislation to conduct workforce research relating to skill standards in support of its system development activities. The Board is interested in continuing the cooperative relationship with select pilot projects (or combinations thereof) drawing from the group of 22 funded previously through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Departments of Labor and Education. The NSSB would like to build on what was required in the