

Rule No.: 941 - 8501 - 02040

Agency: Mississippi Department of Transportation

Agency Effective Date: May 15, 2005

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Secretary of State Authority Date: May 15, 2005

Supercedes Rule:

Division: Planning Division

Rule Title: Urban Youth Corps Program Administration

The person to be contacted regarding the proposed rule is: Facility and Records Management Director

Name of person originating the proposed rule: Ginger Donovan

Name of supervisor or person who approved the proposed rule: Robby Burt

Purpose:

To establish the Department's policy and procedures for the administration of Federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) - Transportation Enhancement (TE) Funds for an Urban Youth Corps Project to cities meeting the population requirement of 10,000 or above as enumerated by the official United States Census and successfully completing the application process for the Program.

Summary:

The Mississippi Transportation Commission invites any city government with a population of 10,000 or greater as enumerated by the official United State Census to apply for funding approval of an Urban Youth Corps Program Project. This rule will set forth the procedures that cities must follow to complete the application process for TE funds through the Urban Youth Corps Program.

The full text of the proposed rule is:

All cites herein refer to the most current version of the cited document.

It will be the policy of the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT), upon Mississippi Transportation Commission (MTC) approval, to solicit for Urban Youth Corps Program project applications within the Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program established by the section 1108 (g) of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21)(<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tea21/h240suba.htm#1108>) and subsequent acts. The MDOT implements the Urban Youth Corps Program under the provision of the National and Community Service Act of 1993, Section 106(d) which establishes the Urban Youth Corps Program with the U.S. Department of Transportation. TEA-21 requires the U.S. DOT to encourage the use of youth conservation or service corps in the implementation of TE activities where appropriate.

Applications for the Urban Youth Corps Program will be mailed annually to the mayors of all eligible cities prior to the submission deadline set by the MDOT. All applications submitted to the MDOT by the deadline will be reviewed by a committee selected by the Executive Director of MDOT. This committee will recommend projects for funding to the MTC. The MTC will make the final awards. Each successful applicant must provide local matching funds or payment-in-kind of at least 20%. The Urban Youth Corps Program utilizes federal funds that contribute up to 80% of the total project cost.

An Urban Youth Corps project is a youth employment and training service program, established to: (1) offer meaningful full-time or productive summer work for individuals between the ages of 16 and 25, inclusive, in urban public works or transportation settings; (2) give the participants a mix of work experience and on-the-job training that includes a minimum of 10% of the participants' time for basic life skills, education, training, safety, etc.; and (3) provide the youths

with an opportunity to develop citizenship values and skills through service to their communities and the State of Mississippi.

The TEA-21 specifies activities that are eligible for the Transportation Enhancement Program. Potential Urban Youth Corps Program projects should meet the criteria of a further restricted transportation enhancement activity, specific to the needs of the Urban Youth Corps Program. The further restricted activities include:

- providing facilities for pedestrians and bicycles;
- landscaping and scenic beautification within highway rights-of-way or in proximity to transportation facilities;
- preservation or rehabilitation of historic markers, buildings, structures, or facilities having significance to transportation; and
- preservation of abandoned railway corridors.

A municipality may also establish a summer/part-time work program wherein the youths work for the municipality, such as in the Public Works Department, on non-specific projects.

Each city awarded funding through the Urban Youth Corps Program will submit only a final invoice for payment, upon completion of the project, along with all necessary documentation to establish proper payment by the MDOT. From this final payment, the MDOT will deduct the city's share of not less than 20% of the funds originally granted to the city. For payment-in-kind which the city wishes to apply to their share, all necessary documentation must be included with the final invoice.