I. REFERENCE(S):

Displaced Homemakers Act (Title 8, Article 15.5, C.R.S.)

II. PURPOSE:

To provide information and guidelines for Local Workforce Investment Boards and Workforce Regions to apply for PY 2001 Colorado Displaced Homemaker Program funds.

III. BACKGROUND:

The Colorado Displaced Homemaker Program was created by the Colorado Legislature in 1980. Through fees from divorce filings, this program assists displaced homemakers to enter or reenter the workforce with the goal of becoming economically self-sufficient. The statute specifies that services are to be provided through multi-purpose service centers located throughout the State, thereby, addressing the needs of both urban and rural communities. The Colorado Statute authorizes the legislature to appropriate up to $145,000 for the program; CDLE in turn issued $5,000 per workforce region during PY00. For the past several years, funds have not been fully expended and were returned to the legislature. In the interest of better serving this population the State is issuing this competitive RFP for Displaced Homemaker Services.
IV: POLICY/ACTION:

A. GOALS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE COLORADO DISPLACED HOMEMAKER FUNDS

- The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment has determined the priority for PY2002 Displaced Homemaker funding will be to assist local areas to implement new and innovative Displaced Homemaker Programs.

B. CRITERIA

- Grants will be evaluated on the strength and viability of the conceptual framework and the extent and substantive coordination with other programs and service providers. Based on measurable outcomes, and the clarity and supportability of the budget, proposals will be awarded according to their ratings on the factors below. The Department encourages but does not require collaborative proposals among multiple workforce areas. Grant awards will be awarded according to their innovation.

Proposals should be tailored to the special needs of the Displaced Homemaker, putting the goal of economic self-sufficiency paramount. Elements to be included are as follows:

* Outreach
* Intake/Orientation
* Case Management
* Assessment and Testing
* Career/Educational Counseling
* Life Skill Development
* Skills Training
* Pre-Employment Preparation
* Supportive Services
* Referrals
* Job Development/Placement
* Follow up
* Outcomes/Measures

C. ELIGIBILITY/SERVICES

Eligibility: For the purposes of the Colorado Displaced Homemaker Program, a “displaced homemaker” is defined by statute as someone who:

- Worked in the home providing unpaid services for family members for a substantial number of years;
- Is not gainfully employed (i.e. unemployed at the time of application and has not worked in such a long period of time that s/he does not have any current usable skills);
- Has had, or would have, difficulty finding employment; and,
- Depended on the income of a family member and has lost that income; or depended on government assistance as the parent of dependent children, but is no longer eligible for such assistance, or is supported,
as the parent of minor children, by government assistance, but whose children are within two years of their 18th birthday.

It is important to note that the statute does not limit eligibility by gender, marital status, or reason for the loss of familial support. In other words, the program can serve both women and men; can serve individuals who have lost familial support for any reason, including divorce, death, or disability; and can serve individuals who are either still married, or who have never married. The presence of dependent children within the home is not a condition of eligibility.

The statute requires the following services:
- Job counseling services, which are specifically designed for displaced homemakers and provide counseling with respect to appropriate job opportunities.
- Job training and placement services;
- Assistance in gaining admission to existing public and private programs and opportunities;
- Assistance in identifying community needs and creating new jobs;
- Referrals to health, education and counseling services for issues such as family care matters;
- Financial management services which provide information and assistance with respect to insurance, taxes, estate and probate problems, mortgages, loans, and other related financial management matters;
- Educational services including outreach and information about courses offering credit through secondary or post secondary education programs, including bilingual programming where appropriate;
- Legal counseling and referral services;
- Outreach and information services with respect to employment, education, health, public assistance, and unemployment.

D. USE OF FUNDS

- In general, State Displaced Homemaker funds are to provide services for displaced homemakers. Services can be provided directly (e.g. core services, self-help, resource libraries), by referral to another agency, through contracting with another agency, or any combination thereof.

Funds can be used to cover tuition, books and supplies; purchase services from other agencies; program marketing; provide resources relevant to displaced homemakers in the resource library, etc. WIA allows the use of dislocated worker funds to serve displaced homemakers. The state program can be used to “fill in the gaps” by addressing needs which cannot be met by the federal program.

- Relationship with other One-Stop programs:

Under WIA displaced homemakers who meet the definition at WIA section 101(10), are eligible dislocated workers without any additional determination. The definition in WIA includes only those individuals who were dependent on a family member’s income. Those individuals
who have been dependent on public assistance may also be served in the adult program. Someone who qualifies under both, but cannot be served at the time of application because of limited dislocated worker or adult funding, could be served under the State Displaced Homemaker program until such time that WIA funds become available.

Wagner-Peyser: Wagner-Peyser funds should be used to provide labor exchange services required to assist the individual in obtaining suitable employment, such as labor market information, work registration job referrals, work search workshops, resume assistance, etc..

E. MIS

The Vax and JobLink systems will be used to track Displaced Homemaker activity, including displaced homemakers clients who only receive core services or Wagner-Peyser funded labor exchange services (activities are all tracked on JobLink; expenditures are traced on the Vax).

F. ASSURANCE

The Workforce region is required to include an assurance that an annual report will be submitted by September 30, 2002. This report will include services, activities and outcomes, successes and lessons learned during the project.

G. PROPOSAL FORMAT

Each proposal narrative must address all of the factors listed below in the following format. Proposal evaluation factors:

1. Conceptual Framework 30 points
   * Clear identification of the issue(s) and/or problems and the effect on the local workforce.
   * Demonstration of the appropriateness of the method to be used to address the issue, i.e. research/study, pilot project, employment and training activities.
   * A detailed description of the goals and objectives of the project.
   * A description of the scope of work and tasks involved in accomplishing the project.

2. Innovation 35 points
   * Demonstration of how the project is a unique or new approach to addressing the identified issues and/or problems.
   * Identification of the service providers who will be involved and a description of their involvement throughout the scope of work.

3. Measurable Outcomes 20 points
   * Identification of measurable and quantifiable outcomes of the project.
4. Budget and Narrative  15 points

* A detailed budget with justification for the resources necessary to accomplish the goals and objectives as set forth in the scope of work.

H. ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Please submit eight copies of the proposal by close of business Monday, September 10, 2001:

Thomas E. Ivory, Director
Department of Labor and Employment
1515 Arapahoe St., Tower 2 Suite 400
Denver, CO  80202-2117

Three original signature pages are required (or as many original signature pages as required by your local jurisdiction.)

The period of Performance for the grants will be July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002.

Proposals will be review and selected for funding no later than September 18, 2001.

J. SELECTION PROCESS

An evaluation committee comprised of members from CDLE and other state agency staff will review the proposals and make recommendations for funding. The proposals will be awarded points according to the factors stated above. Grant awards may be for up to $45,000.

V. IMPLEMENTATION DATE:

Immediately.

VI. INQUIRIES:

Please direct all inquiries to the Colorado Displaced Homemaker Program,

Jackie DeLisa, 303 318-8803, e-mail = Jackie.delisa@state.co.us.

_______________________________
Robert D. Hale, Director
Division of Employment & Training