

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4534-N-01]

Notice of Opportunity to Apply to Serve on the U.S.-China Residential Building Council

AGENCY: Office of International Affairs, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In June, 1998, President Clinton announced the formation of the U.S.-China Residential Building Council to support the U.S.-China Housing Initiative. This notice announces the opportunity for individuals to apply to serve on the U.S.-China Residential Building Council and announces the Council's selection and eligibility requirements.

DATES: In order to receive full consideration, requests must be received by HUD no later than September 24, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Please send your requests for consideration to U.S.-China Residential Building Council, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of International Affairs, Room 8118, 451 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20410. You may fax your request to (202) 708-5536 (this is not a toll-free number).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daisy Gordon or John Geraghty, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of International Affairs, Room 8118, 451 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20410, (202) 708-0770 telephone, (202) 708-5536 fax (these are not toll-free numbers). Hearing or speech-impaired persons may access the above telephone number via TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The U.S.-China Housing Initiative was designed to facilitate cooperation between U.S. and Chinese housing practitioners in the privatization and development of the Chinese housing sector. To guide and support the U.S.-China Housing Initiative, President Clinton announced the formation of the U.S.-China Residential Building Council during the U.S. China Presidential Summit in June of last year. Since that announcement, U.S. and Chinese officials have agreed on a structure for the Council and on the mutually beneficial areas of cooperation.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is seeking

individuals who would like to serve on the U.S.-China Residential Building Council. Applicants may represent U.S. companies, associations or non-governmental organizations actively engaged in the housing industry. The Council will be made up of U.S. and Chinese representatives of the housing policy, finance, and construction sectors. The work of the Council will focus on the development of residential housing markets, construction and mortgage industries, and housing finance systems, and on formulating innovative policies and practices in the areas of community development and urban design.

Members will serve on the Council for a two-year term at the discretion of the appointing officials. Members are expected to participate fully in defining the agenda for the Initiative and in implementing its work programs. It is expected that individuals chosen for the Council will attend at least 75 percent of Council meetings, which will be held in the United States and China. Members are fully responsible for travel, accommodation, and personal expenses associated with their participation in the Residential Building Council. The members will serve in a representative capacity presenting the views and interests of the particular business or housing sector in which they operate.

The U.S.-China Residential Building Council encourages the development of a housing industry in China and increased bilateral educational exchange, trade and investment including, but not limited to, the following:

- Implementing housing finance, planning, design, and building technology seminars, technical exchange, and pilot tests to support reform efforts.
- Adopting sectoral or project oriented approaches to support China's residential housing reform efforts.
- Implementing trade/business development and promotion programs including trade missions, technical assistance, conferences, exhibits, seminars, and other events.

Selection and Eligibility Requirements

There are twelve available positions on the U.S. side of the Residential Business Council. This notice is seeking individuals to fill all twelve positions. The number of Council positions may be expanded, should the need arise.

Applicants must:

- Be a U.S. citizen residing in the United States or a permanent United States resident;
- Be a CEO or other senior management employee of a U.S. company,

association, or nonprofit organization involved in the residential housing construction, supply, finance, community development, or urban planning sectors; and

- Not be a registered foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938.

In reviewing eligible applicants, the Department of Housing and Urban Development will consider:

- The applicant's expertise in construction building materials, housing policy, mortgage finance, urban planning or community development;
- Readiness to initiate and be responsible for the activities the Council proposes to take on;
- An ability to contribute in light of overall Council composition; and
- Diversity of company or organization size, type, location, and demographics.

To be considered for membership, please provide the following:

- Name and title of the individual requesting consideration;
- Name and address of the company or association that the individual will represent;
- The company or organization's specific product or service area;
- Size of the company or organization; and
- The company or organization's international expertise and major countries of operation.

Please also provide:

- A brief statement on why each candidate should be considered for membership on the Council;
- The individual's international expertise and major countries of operation;
- The particular segment of the housing industry each candidate would represent;
- A personal resume; and
- A statement that the applicant is not a registered foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

This notice supplements the application process initiated by the **Federal Register** notice of March 5, 1999 (64 FR 10621). Applications from individuals who applied to the Council in response to that notice remain active, and those individuals do not need to re-apply.

Dated: September 9, 1999.

Xavier Briggs,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research, Evaluation, and Monitoring.

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