CSXT has filed an environmental report which addresses the abandonment's effects, if any, on the environment and historic resources. The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by May 1, 1995. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA at (Room 3219, Interstate Commerce Commission, Washington, DC 20423) or by calling Elaine Kaiser at (202) 927-6248. Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Decided: April 19, 1995.

By the Commission, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 95–10209 Filed 4–25–95; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 7035–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Federal Bureau of Investigation

DNA Advisory Board Meeting

Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, notice is hereby given that the DNA Advisory Board (DAB) will meet on May 12, 1995, from 11:00 am until 5:00 pm, at the General Services Administration Regional Office Building, Room 1909, Seventh and D Streets Southwest, Washington, D. C. 20407. Entrance to the meeting is through the 9th and D Street entrance. All attendees will be admitted only after displaying personal identification which bears a photograph of the attendee.

The DAB's objectives and scope are: To develop, and if appropriate, periodically revise, recommended standards for quality assurance to the Director of the FBI, including standards for testing the proficiency of forensic laboratories, and forensic analysts, in conducting analyses of DNA; To recommend standards to the Director of the FBI which specify criteria for quality assurance and proficiency tests to be applied to the various types of DNA analyses used by forensic laboratories; and, To make recommendations to the Director of the FBI for a system for grading proficiency testing performance to determine whether a laboratory is performing acceptably.

The topics discussed at this meeting include a review of Federal ethics and

conflict of interest laws and the role of DAB members as special government employees, the review administrative procedures and to establish by-laws and rules of order for the conduct of DAB meetings, and to review the history of forensic DNA testing and the development of quality assurance standards now in place.

The meeting is open to the public on a first-come, first seated basis. Anyone wishing to address the DAB must notify the Designated Federal Employee (DFE) in writing at least twenty-four hours before the DAB meets. The notification must include the requestor's name, organizational affiliation, a short statement describing the topic to be addressed, and the amount of time requested. Oral statements to the DAB will be limited to five minutes and limited to subject matter directly related to the DAB's agenda, unless otherwise permitted by the Chairman.

Any member of the public may file a written statement for the record concerning the DAB and its work before or after the meeting. Written statements for the record will be furnished to each DAB member for their consideration and will be included in the official minutes of a DAB meeting. Written statements must be type written on 8 xerographic weight paper, one side only, and bound only by a paper clip (not stapled). All pages must be numbered. Statements should include the Name, Organizational Affiliation, Address, and Telephone number of the author(s). Written statements for the record will be included in minutes of the meeting immediately following the receipt of the written statement, unless the statement is received within three weeks of the meeting. Under this circumstance, the written statement will be included with the minutes of the following meeting. Written statements for the record should be submitted to the DFE.

Inquiries may be addressed to the DFE, Mr. Milton E. Ahlerich, Assistant Director, Laboratory Division, Tenth Street Northwest, Washington, DC 20535, (202) 324–4410.

Dated: April 20, 1995.

Milton E. Ahlerich.

Assistant Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

[FR Doc. 95–10240 Filed 4–25–95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-02-P

Immigration and Naturalization Service

[INS No. 1715-95]

RIN 1115-AE12

Naturalization Pilot Project; Availability of Funds; Solicitation for Proposals

AGENCY: Immigration and Naturalization Service. Justice.

ACTION: Notice of availability of funds and solicitation for applications for a cooperative agreement.

SUMMARY: The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announces the availability of up to \$500,000 for a cooperative agreement to conduct a naturalization pilot project pursuant to the funding provisions of the President's Immigration Initiative, Public Law 103–317 enacted August 26, 1994. See H.R. Conf. Rep. 103–708, 103d Cong., 2d Sess. (1994) at 23,26.

The Office of Justice Programs will award a cooperative agreement on behalf of INS to an organization demonstrating a capacity to design and successfully implement a program enhancing public awareness of naturalization in urban and rural areas of Southern California.

The INS will accept proposals from organizations with the experience, expertise and resources to prepare and disseminate information, assist in the preparation of naturalization applications, conduct or coordinate citizenship education programs and fully assist INS in the naturalization process. The INS welcomes proposals from nonprofit organizations (501(c)(3) status), such as national and local voluntary agencies, community-based organizations as well as ethnic, civic, patriotic, educational and other immigrant interest organizations.

APPLICATION DUE DATE: June 5, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: E.B. Duarte, Jr., Director, Examinations Operations Facilitation Program, Immigration and Naturalization Service, 425 I Street, NW.; room 3214, Washington, DC 20536; telephone 202/307–3587.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The INS announces the availability of funds to conduct a naturalization pilot project in urban and rural areas of southern California. A cooperative agreement will be awarded to one organization which may function by itself or as a principal organization responsible for directing and coordinating a consortium of affiliated entities. The organization may conduct the pilot project in any one, two or all of the following INS jurisdictions: The district offices of Los

Angeles and San Diego and the suboffice of Fresno.

Background

Enhancing the naturalization process for all eligible immigrants is an INS priority. The goal is to focus on lawful permanent residents who gained their status in the 1980s through the legalization program and are now becoming eligible to apply for naturalization, as well as those permanent residents who have not yet chosen to become United States citizens. The best public awareness program is the speedy, efficient delivery of a quality product. The INS will implement an enhanced program to process the additional filings resulting from awareness activities and permanent residents motivated recently to seek citizenship. A key element of the program is the naturalization pilot project.

A cooperative agreement will be awarded to a nonprofit, voluntary organization which, depending on the scope of its program, will work closely with either or both district directors at Los Angeles and San Diego and/or the officer-in-charge at Fresno and their appropriate staffs. In cooperation and consultation with the INS field offices, the organization will develop creative approaches to reach out to potential naturalization applicants from a wide range of various ethnic groups individually or en masse to complete and file their naturalization ap<u>p</u>lications.

The organization will also help applicants meet their English language and civics requirements, assist the INS in the naturalization process and provide follow-up educational programs on citizenship responsibilities.

An objective of the cooperative agreement is to ensure the provision of appropriate information and assistance to eligible naturalization applicants.

Purpose

The INS intends to empower local community groups to develop a viable programmatic relationship with INS field offices to provide naturalization applicants from diverse groups with general information, technical assistance and educational opportunities to complete their applications and prepare for their naturalization interviews. To do so, the INS seeks proposals from organizations that have experience in developing creative and innovative approaches (utilizing various multi-media packages and state-of-the-art information system technologies) of screening and assisting eligible applicants in the immigration

application process, and can demonstrate accessible, credible educational programs for required English and civics proficiencies.

Program Description

The pilot project is designed to develop and implement a program enhancing public awareness of naturalization in urban and rural areas of southern California. Organizations shall propose to conduct programmatic activities in the following INS jurisdictions: only the Los Angeles district, only the San Diego district, only the Fresno suboffice, or any combination of two or all three of these jurisdictions. Proposals should specify in which jurisdiction(s) the organizations will conduct the pilot project and the strategies they will pursue, and describe the level of effort they will exert in each jurisdiction. Additionally, proposals should address the following critical elements:

Part I: Targeted Population

Outreach efforts emphasizing naturalization under the cooperative agreement shall be directed to a widerange of ethnic groups or particular classes of immigrants in urban and rural areas of the INS jurisdictions stated above in which the organization will conduct pilot project activities. Classes would include, for example: Those lawful permanent residents who obtained status through the legislation or special agricultural programs during the 1980s and are now becoming eligible to apply for citizenship; lawful permanent residents from particular ethnic groups who have not been fully motivated to apply for naturalization; and elderly applicants from diverse ethnic groups who may require special educational programs tailored to their needs. Proposals should emphasize how the organization can develop effective systems enabling applicants to electronically file their naturalization applications with the INS field office(s), and may include a discussion of how certified educational entities, if approved by the INS, would test naturalization applicants on the English and civics requirements, especially the ability to speak English words and phrases in ordinary usage.

Proposals should define the characteristics of the targeted ethnic groups or particular classes as well as the organization's qualifications to reach large segments in a credible manner through educational and public informational activities.

Part II: Pilot Project Strategies

Proposers are encouraged to develop creative approaches for providing a comprehensive program that will assist the widest possible targeted audiences. Proposals should discuss how the organization, either functioning by itself or directing and coordinating a consortium of entities, will develop strategies to implement the following activities:

A. Make eligible persons from a widerange of ethnic groups aware of the naturalization process through general outreach projects such as the production and distribution of brochures, flyers, posters, public service and other media announcements/productions, public forums, media events, and similar activities.

1. In consultation and cooperation with the INS, the organization shall produce and disseminate the multimedia informational items to the public.

2. Any media or multi-media promotional, educational or instructional materials developed by the organization must be reviewed and approved by the INS for technical accuracy and proper emphasis prior to production.

3. All informational items disseminated shall mention INS as a source for assistance, information and action, and shall include the correct addresses of local INS office(s).

4. Upon request, the organization shall provide the INS with all print mechanicals and master tapes of video/audio media items produced under this agreement in a timely manner.

B. Assist persons individually or in groups to prepare and file complete, fully-documented, naturalization applications with local INS offices.

1. Screen applicants carefully to determine eligibility for naturalization and reduce INS adjudication time,

2. Develop creative ways of assisting applicants in group processing programs and assist INS, when necessary, in making arrangements and performing other tasks related to group processing.

3. Develop innovative ways of filing naturalization applications, making use to the fullest extent possible of state-of-the-art electronic systems, in cooperation with local INS offices.

4. Develop and maintain records of individual naturalization applicants, including those assisted to prepare and file their applications at INS offices.

C. Assure that applicants meet the English, and United States history and government knowledge requirements of the naturalization law.

1. Screen applicants to determine if they can speak, read and write English in ordinary usage, have a general knowledge of United States history and government, or meet the statutory exemptions to these requirements.

2. Conduct English and civics classes for applicants and offer the standardized citizenship test, or refer the applicants to educational or community organizations that offer these services.

3. Encourage universities, colleges, high schools and adult education programs to offer English, United States history and government courses which could be recognized by the INS.

4. Develop and maintain accurate records tracking individual applicant's progress through the educational

programs.

D. Cooperate and coordinate with INS offices in the submission of naturalization applications according to local procedures.

- 1. Assist, as needed, in the coordination of INS sponsored public forums, off-site adjudication of naturalization applications, and other activities related to both judicial and administrative oath ceremonies, including leasing of appropriate facilities to conduct these activities.
- 2. Ensure that arrangements made for oath ceremonies enhance the patriotism and dignity of such ceremonies.
- E. Provide follow-up education to newly naturalized Americans on citizenship responsibilities, such as voter registration, serving on juries, community and school involvement, anticrime efforts, neighborhood improvements, and similar activities.

Proposals shall discuss how the various components of the pilot project strategies will be implemented in the INS jurisdiction(s) based on the organization's experience, expertise and resources. Discussions of campaign strategies and supporting rationale should be clear and concise, reflecting sound evidence and reasoning.

Part III: Conditions

Organizations should be aware of the following conditions affecting the pilot project strategies:

A. Representation

In order to ensure competent assistance for naturalization applicants, the organization, whether functioning alone or as a consortium of affiliated entities assisting naturalization applicants to prepare and file their applications, shall have attorneys or accredited representatives on staff or as *pro bono* volunteers who are responsible for directing, supervising or coordinating the organization's counseling and representation activities in the preparation of such applications

in accordance with title 8, Code of Federal Regulations, § 292.2.

B. Prohibition on Assessing or Requesting Fees or Donations

The organization and its affiliated entities shall not request, accept, or receive any fees or donations for any activities or services described in this solicitation, and provided under the cooperative agreement, such as, but not limited to, assisting applicants to prepare and file naturalization applications, ancillary assistance such as fingerprints and photographs, and rendering educational courses.

C. Progress and Other Reports

- 1. The organization shall submit progress reports to the INS on a quarterly basis. Each report shall be typewritten as a narrative not exceeding ten (10) pages, and shall describe pilot project strategies developed and implemented in the INS jurisdiction(s) noted in the cooperative agreement. The narrative shall summarize the following, highlighting accomplishments, results and innovative approaches:
- a. Specific outreach activities and events.
- b. Statistics detailing the number of persons assisted to prepare and file their naturalization applications, particularly in group sessions; the number of persons who made an initial contact but did not apply; the numbers by category of persons whose applications were approved, denied, rescheduled, withdrawn or are pending; and the number of persons sworn in as new citizens.
- c. The use of innovative application filing procedures, such as electronic systems.
- d. Educational programs assisting applicants to meet the English and civics requirements; various approaches and methodologies used; and statistics by category of the number of applicants currently enrolled in programs, and of those who were previously enrolled and whether they passed, failed, or dropped out.
- e. Special outreach and programmatic activities conducted with INS offices.
- f. Follow-up citizenship education programs.
- 2. Other reasonable work-flow reports as requested.
- D. The organization will provide all staff, materials, supplies, space, and equipment to provide naturalization applicants with general information, technical assistance, and educational services to complete and file their naturalization applications, prepare for their INS interviews, and learn the scope of citizenship responsibilities.

- E. The INS directly and through its official representatives will monitor program activities of the organization and provide technical assistance and INS forms to the organization and its affiliated entities.
- F. The INS recognizes that the organization may be engaged in a wide range of other immigration related activities, such as general immigration counseling, refugee resettlement, social services, etc. The cooperative agreement does not in any way limit the organization's performance of these services for the receipt of fees or donations. No provision of the agreement shall be construed as a prohibition against the performance of such other normal services, or other activities not directly related to the agreement. Nonetheless, the organization shall use any monies disbursed by INS under the agreement exclusively for activities and services designated as part of the naturalization pilot project.

Part IV: Program Management and Coordination

In order to insure effective implementation of the pilot project activities, proposals shall describe how the organization plans to manage and coordinate the pilot project strategies according to the following guidance:

The organization, whether functioning alone or directing and coordinating a consortium of entities, shall be primarily and exclusively responsible for the performance of all pilot project activities, including those implementing by its affiliated entities.

A. Appoint a Project Manager

- 1. Subject to the approval of INS, the organization shall appoint a project manager with the authority and ability to carry out the pilot project activities, and an alternate to act in the manager's absence. The organization shall notify the INS in writing at least ten (10) days in advance of any proposed changes in the persons designated for these positions.
- 2. The project manager shall insure that adequate numbers of trained staff are available to provide information and assist applicants in completing the naturalization process and other related activities without excessive delay.
- 3. The project manager and staff shall communicate regularly with local INS officials to coordinate and facilitate the naturalization process and other project activities.
- 4. The project manager shall respond to inquiries from the INS on matters related to the cooperative agreement

requiring immediate, follow-up or other relevant action in a timely manner.

B. Coordination of Consortium of Affiliated Entities

If functioning as a consortium, the organization, through its project manager, will coordinate and be responsible for all pilot project activities performed by its affiliated entities.

C. Establishment, Operation and Closing of Affiliated Entities

1. For the purpose of program coordination, the project manager shall provide all INS offices in the jurisdictions served with the complete names, addresses, and telephone numbers, of the persons in charge of each affiliated entity participating in the consortium, as well as the tasks to be performed by each entity in the respective jurisdiction(s).

2. The project manager shall also perform the following administrative responsibilities related to the

consortium:

- a. Consult with and provide the INS notification and written justification three weeks prior to the recommended phasing-in or removal of any affiliated entities. Obtain written approval from the INS prior to their inclusion in the consortium. No unilateral phase-ins will be permitted. The relationship of all affiliates will be approved by the INS. Those affiliated entities approved in the application process will have met this requirement.
- b. Develop and submit for INS approval, written agreements with all affiliated entities that incorporate all applicable programmatic and budgetary provisions relating to the pilot project activities.
- c. Monitor the activities of the affiliated entities and provide required assistance to assure continued efficient operation of each entity.

Part V. Financial Reporting and Records Retention

A. Financial Reporting

The organization awarded the cooperative agreement is required to submit a financial status report reflecting financial information related to Federal obligations and outlays. This report is required for each active quarter on a calendar-quarterly basis. The report is due 45 days after the end of each calendar quarter. The final financial status report is due 90 days after the end of the cooperative agreement period or any extension thereof.

B. Records Retention

All financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and all

other records pertinent to the aware shall be retained for at least three years from the closed audit report date for purposes of Federal examination. The retention requirement extends to books of original entry, source documents, supporting accounting transactions, the general ledger, subsidiary ledgers, personnel and payroll records, cancelled checks, and related documents and records.

Part VI. Evaluation of Pilot Project Strategies

The central goal of this program is to determine which pilot program strategies are most effective, and should therefore be included in future INS naturalization outreach efforts. Therefore, it is crucial that the methods of evaluating the strategies are accurately and objectively described. The organization shall submit a full evaluation of the project's effectiveness within 60 days of the conclusion of the program.

Selection Criteria

The final selection for award of the cooperative agreement will be made by the Executive Associate Commissioner, Programs, Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Proposals will be submitted to a review panel. The INS anticipates seeking assistance from sources with specialized knowledge in naturalization and other immigration laws, and evaluating proposals, including the Community Relations Service, Office of Special Counsel for Immigration Related Unfair Employment Practices, Commission on Immigration Reform, Office of Refugee Resettlement, and Commission on Civil Rights. Each panelist will evaluate proposals for effectiveness and efficiency, emphasizing the factors enumerated below. The panel's results are advisory in nature and not binding on the INS. Letters of support, endorsement or recommendation will not be accepted.

Organizations should be aware that the State of California is planning to fund some educational programs focusing on naturalization applicants. Unnecessary duplication of specific efforts under those programs should be avoided.

To determine which organization should be awarded the cooperative agreement, the INS will consider the following (based on a 200 point scale):

A. Program Design (40 points)

Sound program design and cost effective strategies utilized to increase awareness of naturalization are imperative. In developing their

proposals, organizations should demonstrate evidence of in-depth knowledge of the goals and objectives of the project; identify INS jurisdictions in which activities will be performed, and the organization's qualifications to accomplish these goals effectively; discuss a cost effective strategy to enhance public awareness of naturalization, justifying planned programmatic strategies; and outline the evaluation methods that will be used to measure the effectiveness of the pilot project, and describe their precision in indicating to what degree the program is successful.

Consequently, areas that will be closely examined in the program design include the following elements:

- 1. Creative and innovative outreach approaches to make eligible applicants aware of naturalization benefits. (5 points)
- 2. Experience and expertise in the areas necessary to screen and assist eligible persons to prepare and file fully completed naturalization applications, particularly in prompting, organizing and conducting group processing sessions. (10 points)
- 3. Ability to assist diverse groups of naturalization applicants in meeting the English and civics requirements through structured and special educational programs, standardized citizenship testing, or other innovative and measurable programs. (10 points)
- 4. Ability to cooperate with INS field office(s) in the submission of naturalization applications; and on an as needed basis, test the feasibility of filing applications electronically; assist in the coordination of INS sponsored public forums, and off-site processing of naturalization applicants, and implement various activities related to both judicial and administrative oath ceremonies. (10 points)
- 5. Ability to provide follow-up education to recently naturalized citizens on citizenship responsibilities, such as community and school involvement, voter registration, serving on juries, anti-crime efforts and similar civic activities. (5 points)

B. Administrative Capability (20 points)

Proposals will be rated in terms of capability of the organization to implement the programmatic activities and evaluation components.

- 1. Evidence of proven ability to provide high quality results. (10 points)
- 2. Evidence that the organization can implement the campaign, and complete the evaluation component within the time lines provided. (10 points)

C. Staff Capability (20 points)

Proposals will be evaluated in terms of the degree to which:

- 1. The duties outlined for cooperative agreement positions appear appropriate to the work that will be conducted under the award. (10 points)
- 2. The qualifications of the cooperative agreement-funded positions appear to match the requirements of these positions. (10 points)
- D. Previous Experience (20 points)

The proposals will be evaluated on the degree to which the organization demonstrates that it has successfully carried out programs or work similar to the overall pilot project strategies described in this notice.

E. Jurisdictional Involvement (100 points)

During evaluation the panel will closely examine the proposals that guarantee maximum exposure and implementation of the pilot project strategies in the INS jurisdiction(s). Thus, a program designed to reach a very large proportion of potential naturalization applicants in the INS district of Los Angeles would take precedence over a program in only the INS district of San Diego, or only the jurisdiction of the Fresno suboffice. In keeping with the purpose of the pilot project to reach naturalization applicants in urban and rural areas in southern California, points will be awarded to those organizations that best describe overall programmatic strategies and administrative capabilities applicable to the following jurisdictions:

1. Los Angeles INS District which has the largest number of potential applicants from diverse groups. (50

points)

2. Fresno INS Suboffice which has a significantly large rural area and a large population of permanent residents who gained this status through the Special Agricultural Worker (SAW) program during legalization. (30 points)

3. San Diego INS district with significant urban and rural constituencies. (20 points)

Eligible Organizations

This competition is open to nonprofit voluntary organizations (501(c)(3) status) that customarily provide assistance with respect to immigration benefits, including naturalization.

Period and Award Amount

An award of up to \$500,000 will be made to one organization.

Publication of this announcement does not require that an organization should be funded, or that the entire amount of funds available, or any part thereof, be obligated for funding. The period of performance will be from the date of the award until September 30, 1996, unless extended by mutual agreement between the awardee and the INS.

Proposal Deadline

All proposals must be received by 5 p.m. EDT, June 5, 1995, at the Naturalization Special Projects Branch, Adjudications Unit, room 3214, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Washington, DC 20536. Proposals submitted via facsimile machine will not be accepted or considered.

Proposal Requirements

Organizations should submit an original and two (2) copies of their completed proposal by the deadline established above. All submissions must contain the following items in the order listed below:

- 1. A completed and signed Application for Federal Assistance (Standard Form 424) and Budget Information (Standard Form 424A).
- 2. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Form 4061/6 (Certification Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Work place requirements).
- 3. An abstract of the full proposal, not to exceed one page.
- 4. A program narrative of not more than twenty-five (25) double-spaced typed pages which includes the following:
- a. A clear statement describing the approaches and strategies to be utilized to complete the tasks identified in the program description;
- b. A clear statement of the proposed goals and objectives, including a listing of the major events, activities, products and time-tables for completion;
- c. Description of how the project will be evaluated.
- 5. A proposed budget outlining all direct and indirect costs for personnel, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, subcontracts, and a short narrative justification of each budgeted line item cost. If an indirect cost rate is used in the budget, then a copy of a current fully executed agreement between the applicant and the Federal Cognizant Agency must accompany the budget.
- 6. Copies of resumes for the professional staff proposed in the budget.
- 7. Detailed technical materials that support or supplement the description of the proposed effort should be included in an appendix.

In order to facilitate handling, please do not use covers, binders or tabs.

Proposal application forms may be obtained by writing or telephoning: Examinations Operations Facilitation Program, Adjudications Unit, Immigration and Naturalization Service, 425 I Street, NW., room 3214, Washington, DC 20536, telephone 202/307–3587.

Dated: April 12, 1995.

Doris Meissner,

Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service.

[FR Doc. 95-10270 Filed 4-25-95; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 4410-10-M

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

American Folklife Center; Board of Trustees Meeting

AGENCY: Library of Congress. **ACTION:** Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center. This notice also describes the functions of the Center. Notice of this meeting is required in accordance with Public Law 94–463.

DATES: Friday, May 12, 1995; 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: West Dining Room, James Madison Building, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alan Jabbour, Director American Folklife Center, Washington, D.C. 20540–8100.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting will be open to the public. It is suggested that persons planning to attend this meeting as observers contact Doris M. Craig at (202) 707–6590.

The American Folklife Center was created by the U.S. Congress with passage of Public Law 94-201, the American Folklife Preservation Act, in 1976. The Center is directed to 'preserve and present American folklife" through programs of research, documentation, archival preservation, live presentation, exhibition, publications, dissemination, training, and other activities involving the many folk cultural traditions of the United States. The Center is under the general guidance of a Board of Trustees composed of members from Federal agencies and private life widely recognized for their interest in American folk traditions and arts.

The Center is structured with a small core group of versatile professionals who both carry out programs themselves