

Federal Register

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Part V

Department of Education

Fund for the Improvement of
Postsecondary Education—Special Focus
Competition; Notice

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No.: 84.116H]

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education—Special Focus Competition (Invitational Priority: College-School Partnerships To Improve Learning of Essential Academic Subject, Kindergarten through College)

Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year 1992.

Purpose of Program: To provide grants to improve postsecondary education and educational opportunities.

Eligible Applicants: Institutions of postsecondary education, combinations of institutions of postsecondary education, and other public and private educational institutions and agencies.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: March 18, 1992.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: May 18, 1992.

Applications Available: January 15, 1992.

Available Funds: \$300,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$50,000—\$150,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$100,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 3–6.

Budget Period: 12 months.

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 82, 85, and 86, with the exceptions noted in 34 CFR 630.4(b); and (b) The Regulations for this program in 34 CFR Part 630.

Priorities

Absolute Priority

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) and 34 CFR 630.21(c), and 34 CFR 630.12(b)(5), the Secretary gives an absolute preference to applications that meet the following priority. The Secretary funds under this competition only applications that meet this absolute priority.

Projects addressing a particular problem area or improvement approach in postsecondary education.

Invitational Priority

Within the absolute priority specified in this notice, the Secretary is particularly interested in applications that meet the following invitational priority. However under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1) an application that meets this invitational priority does not receive competitive or absolute preference over other applications:

Projects for the improvement of teaching and sequencing of curricula

across grade levels of disciplines identified in AMERICA 2000 and the National Education Goals, including English, history foreign languages, geography, mathematics, and natural science. Such programs will (1) design courses that build upon prior learning, avoid repetition and arbitrary discontinuities; (2) encourage a content-based pedagogy; (3) develop helpful textbooks and auxiliary materials; and (4) prepare school and college teachers, both preservice and inservice, to work with better-articulated curricula.

Selection Criteria

In evaluating applications for grants under this program competition, the Secretary uses the following selection criteria chosen from those listed in 34 CFR 630.32:

(a) *Significance for Postsecondary Education.* The Secretary reviews each proposed project for its significance in improving learning in essential academic subjects by determining the extent to which it would—

(1) Address an important problem or need;

(2) Represent an improvement upon, or important departure from, existing practice;

(3) Involve learner-centered improvements;

(4) Achieve far-reaching impact through improvements that will be useful in a variety of ways and in a variety of settings; and

(5) Increase the cost-effectiveness of services.

(b) *Feasibility.* The Secretary reviews each proposed project for its feasibility by determining the extent to which—

(1) The proposed project represents an appropriate response to the problem or need addressed;

(2) The applicant is capable of carrying out the proposed project, as evidenced by, for example—

(i) The applicant's understanding of the problem or need;

(ii) The quality of the project design, including objectives, approaches, and evaluation plan;

(iii) The adequacy of resources, including money, personnel, facilities, equipment, and supplies;

(iv) The qualifications of key personnel who would conduct the project; and

(v) the applicant's relevant prior experience;

(3) The applicant and any other participating organizations are committed to the success of the proposed project, as evidenced by, for example—

(i) Contribution of resources by the applicant and by participating organizations;

(ii) Their prior work in the area; and

(iii) The potential for continuation of the proposed project beyond the period of funding (unless the project would be self-terminating); and

(4) The proposed project demonstrates potential for dissemination to or adaptation by other organizations, and shows evidence of interest by potential users.

(c) *Appropriateness of funding projects.* The Secretary reviews each application to determine whether support of the proposed project by the Secretary is appropriate in terms of availability of other funding sources for the proposed activities.

The Secretary gives equal weight to each of the applicable selection criteria on significance, feasibility, and appropriateness. Within each of these criteria, the Secretary gives equal weight to each of the subcriteria. In applying the criteria, the Secretary first analyzes an application in terms of each individual criterion. The Secretary then bases the final judgment of an application on an overall assessment of the degree to which the applicant addresses all selection criteria.

Supplementary Information

By supporting improvements in curriculum in the five core subjects, these priorities complement AMERICA 2000, the President's strategy for moving the nation toward achievement of the National Education Goals. This competition results from the legally mandated collaboration between the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) and the Fund for the Improvement and Reform of Schools and Teachers (FIRST), two distinct programs within the U.S. Department of Education. While both are dedicated to educational reform, FIPSE focuses on postsecondary education, and FIRST on elementary and secondary education. The issues being addressed in this competition necessitate cooperation across these educational levels.

Applications that are directed from or that focus primarily on the postsecondary role in the schools should be submitted to FIPSE. Those that are directed from or that focus primarily on the elementary or secondary levels should be submitted to FIRST (which is proposing a competition that shares many features in common with this initiative of FIPSE), mindful of FIRST's Absolute Priority to create linkages with higher education. Applications that

incorporate significant elements of an inclusive K-16 approach could well be submitted to both. Throughout the development of the application, applicants are encouraged to focus on the substantive elements common to both FIPSE and FIRST as described in the competitions priorities and application materials.

This program will provide support to projects in the form of 2- and 3-year grants. Approximately 3-6 awards will be made by FIPSE at an average of \$100,000 per year. In addition, approximately 5-8 grants will be made

by FIRST under its competition at an average of \$100,000 per year. These are estimates and do not bind the Department of Education to a specific number of grants or to the amount of any grant.

For Applications or Information Contact

Sherrin Marshall, FIPSE, U.S. Department of Education, room 3100, ROB-3, 7th and D Sts., SW., Washington, DC, 20202-5175. For applications and information on the FIRST competition contact: Carl Jensen, FIRST, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Ave., NW., room 522,

Washington, DC, 20208-5524. Deaf and hearing impaired individuals may call the Federal Dual Party Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 (in the Washington DC 202 area code, telephone 708-9300) between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m., Eastern time.

Program Authority

20 U.S.C. 1135-1135a-3.

Dated: January 2, 1992.

Carolynn Reid-Wallace,

Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

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