

If a tie remains, after applying the additional point or points, we determine that an institution will receive a grant according to a combined ranking of two-year and four-year institutions. This ranking is established by combining endowment values per FTE student and library expenditures per FTE student. The institutions with the lowest combined library expenditures per FTE student and endowment values per FTE student are ranked higher in numerical order.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Department of Education General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 82, 85, 86, 97, 98, and 99; (b) the regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 607. Amendments to 34 CFR part 607 relating to the American Indian Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities and Alaska Native and Native-Hawaiian-Serving Institutions Programs are published in the final rule portion of the **Federal Register** of December 15, 1999, 64 FR 70146, 70153-70155.

For Applications or Information Contact: Darlene B. Collins, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20006-8513. Telephone (202) 502-7777; E-mail: darlene_collins@ed.gov

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Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1057.

Dated: December 23, 1999.

Claudio R. Prieto,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA NO.: 84.031H]

Notice Inviting Applications for Designation as Eligible Institutions for fiscal year (FY) 2000 for the Strengthening Institutions, American Indian Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions and Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) Programs

Purpose of These Programs: Under the Strengthening Institutions, American Indian Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities, and Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions Programs authorized under Part A of Title III of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), institutions of higher education are eligible to apply for grants if they meet specific statutory and regulatory eligibility requirements. Similarly, Hispanic-Serving Institutions are eligible to apply for grants under the HSI Program, now authorized under Title V of the HEA, if they meet specific statutory and regulatory requirements.

In addition, an institution that is designated as an eligible institution under those programs may also receive a waiver of certain non-Federal share requirements under the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), Federal Work Study (FWS), and Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Programs (UISFLP). These first two programs are student financial assistance programs authorized under Title IV of the HEA; the third program is authorized under Title VI of the HEA. Qualified institutions may receive these waivers even if they are not recipients of grant funds under the Title III Part A or Title V programs.

Special Note: Two of the criteria that each eligible institution must satisfy relate to enrollment of needy students and Education and General (E&G) expenditures. However, we changed the collection processes for determining the

thresholds for these criteria, and as a result, base year data beyond 1996-1997 is currently unavailable.

In order to award FY 2000 grants in a timely manner, we will use 1996-1997 base year data to determine eligibility. Moreover, for FY 2000, we will extend the eligibility status an additional year for all institutions designated as eligible in FY 1999, with one exception—Title III and Title V institutions whose grant expired on September 30, 1999. These institutions must apply for FY 2000 eligibility using 1996-1997 base year data. Of course, institutions that were not designated as eligible institutions in fiscal year 1999 must apply under this notice for that designation for fiscal year 2000.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:

- February 4, 2000 for applicant institutions that wish to apply for fiscal year 2000 grants under the Strengthening Institutions, American Indian Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions, and HSI Programs.

- May 26, 2000 for applicant institutions that wish to apply only for waivers under the FSEOG, FWS, or UISFLP Programs.

Thus, if an applicant institution wishes to apply for a grant and a waiver, the deadline date is February 4, 2000.

Electronic Submission of applications: For FY 2000, we are offering applicant institutions the option of submitting their Designation of Eligibility applications electronically. Moreover, institutions that are unable to meet the needy student enrollment or the E&G expenditure requirement may also submit their waiver requests electronically.

Eligibility Applications Available: January 5, 2000.

Eligibility Information: To qualify as an eligible institution under any of the programs included in this notice, an accredited institution must, among other things, have a high enrollment of needy students, and its education and general (E&G) expenditures per full-time equivalent (FTE) undergraduate student must be low in comparison with the average E&G expenditures per FTE undergraduate student of institutions that offer similar instruction. The complete eligibility requirements for HSI Program institutions are found in the 34 CFR 606.2-606.5, which was published in the **Federal Register** of December 15, 1999, 64 FR 70146-70153. The complete eligibility requirements for the remaining programs are found in 34 CFR 607.2-607.5, a portion of which was also amended in the **Federal**

Register of December 15, 1999, 64 FR 70146, 70153–70155. The regulations may also be accessed by visiting the following Department of Education web site on the World Wide Web: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/OHEP>

Enrollment of Needy Students: Under 34 CFR 606.3(a) and 607.3(a), an institution is considered to have a high enrollment of needy students if—(1) At least 50 percent of its degree students received financial assistance under one or more of the following programs: Federal Pell Grant, FSEOG, FWS, and Federal Perkins Loan Programs; or (2) the percentage of its undergraduate degree students who were enrolled on at least a half-time basis and received Federal Pell Grants exceeded the median percentage of undergraduate degree students who were enrolled on at least a half-time basis and received Federal Pell Grants at comparable institutions that offered similar instruction.

To qualify under this latter criterion, an institution's Federal Pell Grant percentage for base (award) year 1996–1997 must be *more than* the median for its category of comparable institutions provided in the table set forth below in this notice.

Educational and General Expenditures per Full-Time Equivalent Student: An institution should compare

its 1996–1997 average E&G expenditures per FTE student to the average E&G expenditure per FTE student for its category of comparable institutions contained in the table set forth below in this notice. If the institution's E&G expenditure for the 1996–1997 base year are *less than* the average for its category of comparable institutions, it meets this eligibility requirement.

An institution's E&G expenditures are the total amount it expended during the base year for instruction, research, public service, academic support, student services, institutional support, operation and maintenance, scholarships and fellowships, and mandatory transfers.

The following table identifies the relevant median Federal Pell Grant percentages and the relevant average E&G expenditures per FTE student for the base year for the four categories of comparable institutions:

Student	Median Pell Grant percentage	Average E & G FTE
2-year Public Institutions	26.9	\$8,132
2-year Non-Profit Private Institutions	39.1	12,322
4-year Public Institutions	28.7	17,067

Student	Median Pell Grant percentage	Average E & G FTE
4-year Non-Profit Private Institutions	27.1	24,756

Waiver Information: Institutions of higher education that are unable to meet the needy student enrollment requirement or the E&G expenditure requirement may apply to the Secretary for waivers of these requirements, as described in 34 CFR 606.3(b), 606.4(c) and (d), 607.3(b), and 607.4(c) and (d). *Institutions requesting a waiver of the needy student requirement must include the detailed information as set forth in the instructions for completing the application.*

The waiver authority provided in 34 CFR 606.3(b)(2) and (3) and 607.3(b)(2) and (3) refers to "low-income" students and families. The regulations define "low-income" as an amount that does not exceed 150 percent of the amount equal to the poverty level in the 1996–97 base year as established by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, 34 CFR 606.3(c) and 607.3(c). For the purposes of this waiver provision, the following table sets forth the low-income levels for the various sizes of families:

FY 1996–97 ANNUAL LOW-INCOME LEVELS

Size of family unit	Contiguous 48 States, the District of Columbia and outlying jurisdictions	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$11,610	\$14,490	\$13,365
2	15,540	19,410	17,880
3	19,470	24,330	22,395
4	23,400	29,250	26,910
5	27,330	34,170	31,425
6	31,260	39,090	35,940
7	35,190	44,010	40,455
8	39,120	48,930	44,970

For family units with more than eight members, add the following amount for each additional family member: \$3,930 for the contiguous 48 states, the District of Columbia and outlying jurisdictions; \$4,920 for Alaska; and \$4,515 for Hawaii.

The figures shown as low-income levels represent amounts equal to 150 percent of the family income levels established by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for determining poverty status. The Census levels were published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the **Federal Register**

on March 18, 1999 (64 FR 13428–13430).

In reference to the waiver option specified in 606.3(b)(4) and 607.3(b)(4) of the regulations, information about "metropolitan statistical areas" may be obtained by requesting the *Metropolitan Statistical Areas, 1999*, order number PB99–501538, from the National Technical Information Services, Document Sales, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161, telephone number 1–800–553–6847. There is a charge for this publication.

Applicable Regulations: Regulations applicable to the eligibility process

include the Strengthening Institutions Program Regulations in 34 CFR part 607, HSI Program regulations in 34 CFR part 606, and the Education Department General Administrative Regulations in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 82, 85, 86, 97, 98 and 99.

For Applications or Information Contact: Ellen M. Sealey, Margaret A. Wheeler or Anne S. Young, Institutional Development and Undergraduate Education Service, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, N.W., 6th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20006–8513. Telephone (202) 502–7777. Individuals

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Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1057, 1059c and 1065a.

Dated: December 23, 1999.

Claudio R. Prieto,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA Nos. 84.339A; 84.339B]

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education—Learning Anytime Anywhere Partnerships (LAAP) (Preapplications and Applications); Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2000.

Purpose of Program: To provide grants or enter into cooperative agreements to enhance the delivery, quality, and accountability of postsecondary education and career-

oriented lifelong learning through technology and related innovations.

For fiscal year (FY) 2000, the Secretary encourages applicants to design projects that focus on the invitational priorities set forth in the invitational priorities section of this application notice.

Eligible Applicants: Partnerships consisting of two or more independent agencies, organizations, or institutions, including institutions of higher education, community organizations, and other public and private institutions, agencies, and organizations. **Note:** A nonprofit organization must serve as the fiscal agent for a funded partnership.

Applications Available: December 30, 1999.

Deadline for Transmittal of Preapplications: March 3, 2000.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: June 9, 2000.

Note: All applicants must submit a preapplication to be eligible to submit a final application.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: August 8, 2000.

Available Funds: \$4,300,000. **Note:** Federal funds available under this competition may not pay for more than 50 percent of the cost of a project. The non-Federal share of project costs may be in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including services, supplies, or equipment.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$100,000 to \$500,000 per year.

Estimated Size of Awards: \$333,333 per year.

Estimated Number of Awards: 12-13.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: Up to 48 months.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 82, 85, and 86.

Authorized Activities: Funds awarded to an eligible partnership must be used to conduct one or more of the following activities:

(a) Develop and assess model distance learning programs or innovative educational software.

(b) Develop methodologies for the identification and measurement of skill competencies.

(c) Develop and assess innovative student support services.

(d) Support other activities consistent with the statutory purpose of this program.

Invitational Priorities

The Secretary is particularly interested in applications that meet one

or more of the following invitational priorities. However, an application that meets one or more of these invitational priorities does not receive competitive or absolute preference over other applications (34 CFR 75.105(c)(1)).

Invitational Priority 1

Projects to address the need to ensure that significant development costs can be justified by wide-scale applicability and long-term sustainability of technology-mediated distance education, and the need to find new ways to overcome the barriers that may inhibit faculty across institutions from working collectively.

Invitational Priority 2

Projects to develop high quality, interactive courseware that can be implemented to achieve the scale necessary to recoup large investments, but is modular and sufficiently flexible for faculty to shape and modify academic content.

Invitational Priority 3

Projects to package courses and programs to assist students who wish to draw from the offerings of multiple providers and to assist institutions to cooperate and share resources.

Invitational Priority 4

Projects to use skill competencies and learning outcomes in order to measure student progress and achievement in technology-mediated distance learning programs.

Invitational Priority 5

Projects to improve quality and accountability of technology-mediated distance education to ensure that credentials are meaningful, that educational providers are accountable, and that courses meet high standards.

Invitational Priority 6

Projects to create new technology-mediated education opportunities for underserved learners, especially those who have not always been well served by traditional campus-based education or common forms of distance education, including: individuals with disabilities; individuals who have lost their jobs; individuals making the transition from welfare to the workforce; and individuals seeking basic or technical skills or their first postsecondary education experience.

Invitational Priority 7

Projects to improve support services for students seeking technology-mediated distance education to ensure that they have complete and convenient