

competitions will be published in a separate **Federal Register** notice. This notice announces the technical assistance workshops only.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Angela K. Oliphant, Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) Program, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., room 6101, Washington, DC 20006-8513. Telephone: (202) 502-7676.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative for (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed in this section.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The technical assistance workshops will be held as follows:

1. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Monday, December 5, 2005, Hilton Philadelphia, 4200 City Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19107, Telephone: 215-879-4000.

2. St Louis, Missouri: Tuesday, December 6, 2005, Sheraton St. Louis, 400 South 14th Street, St. Louis, MO 63105, Telephone: 314-231-5007.

3. Atlanta, Georgia: Thursday, December 8, 2005, Holiday Inn Select Conference Center, 450 Capitol Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30312, Telephone: 404-591-2000.

4. Los Angeles, California: Thursday, December 8, 2005, The Wilshire Grand Los Angeles, 930 Wilshire Boulevard 90017, Telephone: 213-688-7777.

All Technical Assistance Workshop sessions will be conducted from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Registration is 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. on the day of the session. There is no fee for these workshops. However, space is limited. Attendees are required to make their own reservations directly with the hotel. The Department has reserved a limited number of rooms at each of the hotel sites at a special government room rate. To reserve this rate, be certain to inform the hotel that you are attending the "U.S. Department of Education GEAR UP Program Technical Assistance Workshop." We encourage attendance from those who will be responsible for providing technical support for uploading the application materials onto the Department of Education's portal site for electronic grants.

**Assistance to Individuals With Disabilities Attending the Technical Assistance Workshop**

The technical assistance workshop site is accessible to individuals with

disabilities. If you need an auxiliary aid or service to participate in the workshop (e.g., interpreting service, assistive listening device, or materials in an alternative format), notify the contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Although we will attempt to meet a request, we may not be able to make available the requested auxiliary aid or service because of insufficient time to arrange it.

**Electronic Access to This Document:** You may view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/news/fedregister>

To use PDF, you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have any questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free, at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC area at (202) 512-1530.

**Note:** The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at: [www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html)

**Program Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 1070a-21.

Dated: December 2, 2005.

**Sally L. Stroup,**

*Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.*

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**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**Office of Postsecondary Education; Overview Information Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education—Special Focus Competition: Program for North American Mobility in Higher Education; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2006**

*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:* 84.116N.

*DATES: Applications Available:* December 9, 2005.

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* April 17, 2006.

*Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:* July 14, 2006.

*Eligible Applicants:* Institutions of higher education (IHEs) or combinations of IHEs and other public and private nonprofit institutions and agencies.

*Estimated Available Funds:* The Administration has requested \$300,000 for this program for FY 2006. The actual

level of funding, if any, depends on final congressional action. However, we are inviting applications to allow enough time to complete the grant process if Congress appropriates funds for this program.

*Estimated Range of Awards:* \$25,000–30,000 for the first year only.

*Estimated Average Size of Awards:* \$30,000 for the first year only. \$210,000 for four-year duration of grant.

*Maximum Award:* We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding \$215,000 for a single budget period of 12 months. The Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education may change the maximum amount through a notice published in the **Federal Register**.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 10.

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

*Project Period:* Up to 48 months.

**Full Text of Announcement**

**I. Funding Opportunity Description**

*Purpose of Program:* To provide grants or enter into cooperative agreements to improve postsecondary education opportunities by focusing on problem areas or improvement approaches in postsecondary education.

*Priority:* Under this competition, we are particularly interested in applications that address the following priority.

*Invitational Priority:* For FY 2006 this priority is an invitational priority. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1) we do not give an application that meets this invitational priority a competitive or absolute preference over other applications.

This priority is designed to support the formation of educational consortia of American, Canadian, and Mexican institutions to encourage cooperation in the coordination of curricula, the exchange of students, and the opening of educational opportunities among the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The invitational priority is issued in cooperation with Canada and Mexico. These awards support only the participation of U.S. institutions and students in these consortia of American, Canadian, and Mexican institutions. Canadian and Mexican institutions participating in any consortium proposal responding to the invitational priority may apply, respectively, to Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) or the Mexican Secretariat for Public Education (SEP), for additional funding under separate but parallel Canadian and Mexican competitions.

**Program Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 1138–1138d.

**Applicable Regulations:** The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 82, 84, 85, 86, 97, 98, and 99.

## II. Award Information

**Type of Award:** Discretionary grants.

**Estimated Available Funds:** The Administration has requested \$300,000 for this program for FY 2006. The actual level of funding, if any, depends on final congressional action. However, we are inviting applications to allow enough time to complete the grant process before the end of the current fiscal year, if Congress appropriates funds for this program.

**Estimated Range of Awards:**

\$25,000—30,000 for the first year only.

**Estimated Average Size of Awards:**

\$30,000 for the first year only. \$210,000 for four-year duration of grant.

**Maximum Award:** We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding \$215,000 for a single budget period of 12 months. The Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education may change the maximum amount through a notice published in the **Federal Register**.

**Estimated Number of Awards:** 10.

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

**Project Period:** Up to 48 months.

## III. Eligibility Information

1. **Eligible Applicants:** IHEs or combinations of IHEs and other public and private nonprofit institutions and agencies.

2. **Cost Sharing or Matching:** This program does not involve cost sharing or matching.

## IV. Application and Submission Information

1. **Address to Request Application Package:** Sylvia W. Crowder, Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., 6th floor, Washington, DC 20006–8544. Telephone: (202) 502–7514.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1–800–877–8339.

Individuals with disabilities may contact the Education Publications Center (ED Pubs), P.O. Box 1398, Jessup, MD 20794–1398. Telephone (toll free): 1–877–433–7827. FAX: (301) 470–1244. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call (toll free): 1–877–576–7734.

You may also contact ED Pubs at its Web site: <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html> or you may contact ED Pubs at its e-mail address: [edpubs@inet.ed.gov](mailto:edpubs@inet.ed.gov).

If you request an application from ED Pubs, be sure to identify this competition as follows: CFDA number 84.116N.

2. **Content and Form of Application Submission:** Requirements concerning the content of an application, together with the forms you must submit, are in the application package for this program.

**Page Limit:** The application narrative (Part III of the application) is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. You must limit Part III to the equivalent of no more than 20 pages (double spaced), using the following standards:

- A “page” is 8.5” x 11”, on one side only, with 1” margins at the top, bottom, and both sides.

- Double space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, reference, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.

- Use a font that is either 12 point or larger or no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch).

The page limit does not apply to Part I, the cover sheet; Part II, the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; Part IV, the assurances and certifications; or the one-page abstract, the resumes, the bibliography, or the letters of support. However, you must include all of the application narrative in Part III.

We will reject your application if:

- You apply these standards and exceed the page limit; or
- You apply other standards and exceed the equivalent of the page limit.

3. **Submission Dates and Times:** **Applications Available:** December 9, 2005.

**Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:** April 17, 2006.

Applications for grants under this program must be submitted electronically using the Grants.gov Apply site (Grants.gov). For information (including dates and times) about how to submit your application electronically or by mail or hand delivery if you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, please refer to section IV. 6. **Other Submission Requirements** in this notice.

We do not consider an application that does not comply with the deadline requirements.

**Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:** July 14, 2006.

4. **Intergovernmental Review:** This program is subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. Information about Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs under Executive Order 12372 is in the application package for this program.

5. **Funding Restrictions:** We reference regulations outlining funding restrictions in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice.

6. **Other Submission Requirements:** Applications for grants under this program must be submitted electronically unless you qualify for an exception to this requirement in accordance with the instructions in this section.

a. **Electronic Submission of Applications.** Applications for grants under the Program for North American Mobility in Higher Education—CFDA Number 84.116N must be submitted electronically using the Grants.gov Apply site at: <http://www.grants.gov>. Through this site, you will be able to download a copy of the application package, complete it offline, and then upload and submit your application. You may not e-mail an electronic copy of a grant application to us.

We will reject your application if you submit it in paper format unless, as described elsewhere in this section, you qualify for one of the exceptions to the electronic submission requirement and submit, no later than two weeks before the application deadline date, a written statement to the Department that you qualify for one of these exceptions. Further information regarding calculation of the date that is two weeks before the application deadline date is provided later in this section under *Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement*.

You may access the electronic grant application for the Program for North American Mobility in Higher Education at: <http://www.grants.gov>. You must search for the downloadable application package for this program by the CFDA number. Do not include the CFDA number’s alpha suffix in your search.

Please note the following:

- When you enter the Grants.gov site, you will find information about submitting an application electronically through the site, as well as the hours of operation.
- Applications received by Grants.gov are time and date stamped. Your application must be fully uploaded and

submitted, and must be date/time stamped by the Grants.gov system no later than 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. Except as otherwise noted in this section, we will not consider your application if it is date/time stamped by the Grants.gov system later than 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. When we retrieve your application from Grants.gov, we will notify you if we are rejecting your application because it was date/time stamped by the Grants.gov system after 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date.

- The amount of time it can take to upload an application will vary depending on a variety of factors including the size of the application and the speed of your Internet connection. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you do not wait until the application deadline date to begin the submission process through Grants.gov.

- You should review and follow the Education Submission Procedures for submitting an application through Grants.gov that are included in the application package for this competition to ensure that you submit your application in a timely manner to the Grants.gov system. You can also find the Education Submission Procedures pertaining to Grants.gov at <http://e-Grants.ed.gov/help/GrantsgovSubmissionprocedures.pdf>.

- To submit your application via Grants.gov, you must complete all of the steps in the Grants.gov registration process (see <http://www.Grants.gov/GetStarted>). These steps include (1) registering your organization, (2) registering yourself as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR), and (3) getting authorized as an AOR by your organization. Details on these steps are outlined in the Grants.gov 3-Step Registration Guide (see <http://www.grants.gov/assets/GrantsgovCoBrandBrochure8X11.pdf>). You also must provide on your application the same D-U-N-S Number used with this registration. Please note that the registration process may take five or more business days to complete, and you must have completed all registration steps to allow you to successfully submit an application via Grants.gov.

- You must submit all documents electronically, including all information typically included on the Application for Federal Education Assistance (SF 424), Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs (ED 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications. You must attach any narrative sections

of your application as files in a .DOC (document), .RTF (rich text), or .PDF (Portable Document) format. If you upload a file type other than the three file types specified above or submit a password protected file, we will not review that material.

- Your electronic application must comply with any page limit requirements described in this notice.
- After you electronically submit your application, you will receive an automatic acknowledgement from Grants.gov that contains a Grants.gov tracking number. The Department will retrieve your application from Grants.gov and send you a second confirmation by e-mail that will include a PR/Award number (an ED-specified identifying number unique to your application).

We may request that you provide us original signatures on forms at a later date.

*Application Deadline Date Extension in Case of Technical Issues with the Grants.gov System:* If you are prevented from electronically submitting your application on the application deadline date because of technical problems with the Grants.gov system, we will grant you an extension until 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, the following business day to enable you to transmit your application electronically, or by hand delivery. You also may mail your application by following the mailing instructions as described elsewhere in this notice. If you submit an application after 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the deadline date, please contact the person listed elsewhere in this notice under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, and provide an explanation of the technical problem you experienced with Grants.gov, along with the Grants.gov Support Desk Case Number (if available). We will accept your application if we can confirm that a technical problem occurred with the Grants.gov system and that the problem affected your ability to submit your application by 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. The Department will contact you after a determination is made on whether your application will be accepted.

**Note:** Extensions referred to in this section apply only to the unavailability of or technical problems with the Grants.gov system. We will not grant you an extension if you failed to fully register to submit your application to Grants.gov before the deadline date and time or if the technical problem you experienced is unrelated to the Grants.gov system.

*Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement:* You qualify for an

exception to the electronic submission requirement, and may submit your application in paper format, if you are unable to submit an application through the Grants.gov system because:

- You do not have access to the Internet; or
- You do not have the capacity to upload large documents to the Grants.gov system; *and*
- No later than two weeks before the application deadline date (14 calendar days or, if the fourteenth calendar day before the application deadline date falls on a Federal holiday, the next business day following the Federal holiday), you mail or fax a written statement to the Department, explaining which of the two grounds for an exception prevent you from using the Internet to submit your application. If you mail your written statement to the Department, it must be postmarked no later than two weeks before the application deadline date. If you fax your written statement to the Department, we must receive the faxed statement no later than two weeks before the application deadline date.

Address and mail or fax your statement to: Sylvia W. Crowder, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., room 6154, Washington, DC 20006-8544. FAX: (202) 502-7877.

Your paper application must be submitted in accordance with the mail or hand delivery instructions described in this notice.

b. *Submission of Paper Applications by Mail.* If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you may mail (through the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial carrier), your application to the Department. You must mail the original and two copies of your application, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the applicable following address:

*By mail through the U.S. Postal Service:* U.S. Department of Education, Application Control Center, Attention: (CFDA Number 84.116N), 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20202-4260.

or

*By mail through a commercial carrier:* U.S. Department of Education, Application Control Center—Stop 4260, Attention: (CFDA Number 84.116N), 7100 Old Landover Road, Landover, MD 20785-1506.

Regardless of which address you use, you must show proof of mailing consisting of one of the following:

(1) A legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark,

(2) A legible mail receipt with the date of mailing stamped by the U.S. Postal Service,

(3) A dated shipping label, invoice, or receipt from a commercial carrier, or

(4) Any other proof of mailing acceptable to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

If you mail your application through the U.S. Postal Service, we do not accept either of the following as proof of mailing:

(1) A private metered postmark, or

(2) A mail receipt that is not dated by the U.S. Postal Service.

If your application is postmarked after the application deadline date, we will not consider your application.

**Note:** The U.S. Postal Service does not uniformly provide a dated postmark. Before relying on this method, you should check with your local post office.

*c. Submission of Paper Applications by Hand Delivery.* If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you (or a courier service) may deliver your paper application to the Department by hand. You must deliver the original and two copies of your application by hand, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address: U.S. Department of Education, Application Control Center, Attention: (CFDA Number 84.116N), 550 12th Street, SW., Room 7041, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-4260.

The Application Control Center accepts hand deliveries daily between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, except Saturdays, Sundays and Federal holidays.

*Note for Mail or Hand Delivery of Paper Applications:* If you mail or hand deliver your application to the Department:

(1) You must indicate on the envelope and—if not provided by the Department—in Item 4 of the Application for Federal Education Assistance (SF 424) the CFDA number—and suffix letter, if any—of the competition under which you are submitting your application.

(2) The Application Control Center will mail a grant application receipt acknowledgment to you. If you do not receive the grant application receipt acknowledgment within 15 business days from the application deadline date, you should call the U.S. Department of Education Application Control Center at (202) 245-6288.

## V. Application Review Information

1. *Selection Criteria:* The selection criteria for evaluating applications for this program are from 34 CFR 75.210 of

EDGAR and are listed in the application package.

2. *Review and Selection Process:* Additional factors we consider in selecting an application for an award are applications that demonstrate a tri-lateral, innovative North American approach to training and education.

## VI. Award Administration Information

1. *Award Notices:* If your application is successful, we notify your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators and send you a Grant Award Notification (GAN). We may also notify you informally.

If your application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we notify you.

2. *Administrative and National Policy Requirements:* We identify administrative and national policy requirements in the application package and reference these and other requirements in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice.

We reference the regulations outlining the terms and conditions of an award in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice and include these and other specific conditions in the GAN. The GAN also incorporates your approved application as part of your binding commitments under the grant.

3. *Reporting:* At the end of your project period, you must submit a final performance report, including financial information, as directed by the Secretary. If you receive a multi-year award, you must submit an annual performance report that provides the most current performance and financial expenditure information as specified by the Secretary in 34 CFR 75.118.

4. *Performance Measures:* The success of this program depends upon—(1) The extent to which funded projects are being replicated (i.e., adopted or adapted by others); and (2) The manner in which projects are being institutionalized and continued after funding. These two performance measures constitute the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education's (FIPSE's) indicators of the success of the program. If funded, you will be asked to collect and report data from your project on steps taken toward achieving these goals. Consequently, applicants are advised to include these two outcomes in conceptualizing the design, implementation, and evaluation of their proposed projects. Institutionalization and replication are important outcomes that ensure the ultimate success of international consortia funded through this program.

## VII. Agency Contact

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sylvia W. Crowder, Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, Program for North American Mobility in Higher Education, 1990 K Street, NW., 6th floor, Washington, DC 20006-8544. Telephone: (202) 502-7514.

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## VIII. Other Information

*Electronic Access to This Document:* You may view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/news/fedregister>.

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Dated: December 2, 2005.

**Sally Stroup,**

*Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.*

[FR Doc. E5-7009 Filed 12-6-05; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**Office of Postsecondary Education; Overview Information; Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education—Special Focus Competition: US-Brazil Higher Education Consortia Program; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2006**

*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:* 84.116M.

*Dates: Applications Available:* December 9, 2005.

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* April 17, 2006.