

The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: August 6, 2003.

**Angela C. Arrington,**

*Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

### Institute of Education Sciences

*Type of Review:* New.

*Title:* What Works Clearinghouse Database Forms and Customer Survey.

*Abstract:* The What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) public submission databases will allow members of the public to submit nominations for studies, interventions, and topics that they would like the WWC to review. The evaluation database will enable the WWC to provide the public with a directory of available outcome evaluations. Data from the customer survey will be used to create indicators of how successfully the WWC is meeting the needs of various groups of its users.

*Additional Information:* The Department is requesting emergency processing for this information collection with an OMB approval date of September 11. The time required for the normal clearance process may cause a delay in the collection that could potentially result in public harm. The What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) was conceptualized to help education decision makers—primarily practitioners and policymakers—respond to the emphasis in No Child Left Behind to use scientifically based research to select effective education interventions. The WWC will provide educators, policymakers, and the public with a central, independent, and trusted source scientific evidence of what works in education. The work of the WWC and thus, the products cannot proceed without some input from the public.

*Frequency:* Semi-Annually.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; Businesses or other for-profit; not-for-profit institutions; Federal Government; State, local or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

*Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:*

Responses: 5,550. Burden Hours: 978.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 2209. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651 or to the e-mail address [vivan.reese@ed.gov](mailto:vivan.reese@ed.gov). Requests may also be electronically mailed to the Internet address [OCIO\\_RIMG@ed.gov](mailto:OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov) or faxed to 202-708-9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Kathy Axt at her e-mail address [Kathy.Axt@ed.gov](mailto:Kathy.Axt@ed.gov). Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

[FR Doc. 03-20437 Filed 8-8-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.021A]

### Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program

**AGENCY:** Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2004.

*Purpose of Program:* The Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad (GPA) Program supports overseas projects in training, research, and curriculum development in modern foreign languages and area studies for groups of teachers, students, and faculty engaged in a common endeavor. Projects may include short-term seminars, curriculum development, or group research or study. This competition will not support advanced overseas intensive language projects.

*Eligible Applicants:* (1) Institutions of higher education, (2) State departments of education, (3) nonprofit private educational organizations, and (4) consortia of these entities.

*Applications Available:* August 18, 2003.

*Deadline for Transmittal of applications:* October 14, 2003.

*Estimated Available Funds:* The Administration has requested \$2,715,000 for GPA Program new awards for FY 2004. 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:* \$50,000—\$80,000.

*Estimated Average Size of Awards:* \$68,000.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 40.

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

*Project Period:* Up to 12 months.

*Page Limit:* The application narrative is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. You must limit the narrative to the equivalent of no more than 35 pages, 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, references, and captions. However, you may single space 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). However you may use a 10-point font in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.

The page limit does not apply to the cover sheet; the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; the assurances and certifications; the one-page abstract or the appendices. However, you must include your complete response to the selection criteria in the application narrative.

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.

*Applicable Regulations:* (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, 85, 86, 97, 98, and 99; and (b) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 664.

**Note:** The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to institutions of higher education only.

### Priorities

*Absolute Priority:* This competition focuses on projects designed to meet the

priority in the regulations for this program (34 CFR 664.32(a)(2)).

Specific geographic regions of the world: A group project funded under this priority must focus on one or more of the following geographic regions of the world: Africa, East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific, the Western Hemisphere (Central and South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean), East Central Europe and Eurasia, and the Near East.

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) we consider only applications that meet the priority.

**Competitive Priority:** Within the absolute priority specified in this application notice we will focus on projects that meet the following competitive priority.

Short-term seminars that develop and improve foreign language and area studies at elementary and secondary schools.

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i), 664.30(b), and 664.31(g) we award up to five (5) points to an application, depending upon how well the application meets the priority.

**Invitational Priority:** Within the absolute priority specified in this application notice, we are particularly interested in applications that meet the following invitational priority.

Group study projects that provide opportunities for nationally recruited undergraduate students to study in a foreign country for either a semester or a full academic year.

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1) we do not give an application that meets the invitational priority a competitive or absolute preference over other applications.

### Application Procedures

The Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA) of 1998, (Pub. L. 105-277) and the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (Pub. L. 106-107) encourage us to undertake initiatives to improve our grant processes. Enhancing the ability of individuals and entities to conduct business with us electronically is a major part of our response to these Acts. Therefore, we are taking steps to adopt the Internet as our chief means of conducting transactions in order to improve services to our customers and to simplify and expedite our business processes.

**Note:** Some of the procedures in these instructions for transmitting applications differ from those in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) (34 CFR 75.102). Under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553) the Department generally offers

interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed regulations. However, these amendments make procedural changes only and do not establish new substantive policy. Therefore, under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(A), the Secretary has determined that proposed rulemaking is not required.

We are requiring that applications for grants for FY 2004 under the GPA Program be submitted electronically using e-Application available through the Department's e-GRANTS system. The e-GRANTS system is accessible through its portal page at: <http://e-grants.ed.gov>.

An applicant who is unable to submit an application through the e-GRANTS system may submit a written request for a waiver of the electronic submission requirement. In the request, the applicant should explain the reason or reasons that prevent the applicant from using the Internet to submit the application. The request should be addressed to: Dr. Lungching Chiao, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., Suite 6066, Washington, DC 20006-8521. Please submit your request no later than two weeks before the application deadline date.

If, within two weeks of the application deadline date, an applicant is unable to submit an application electronically, the applicant must submit a paper application by the application deadline date in accordance with the transmittal instructions in the application package. The paper application must include a written request for a waiver documenting the reasons that prevented the applicant from using the Internet to submit the application.

### Pilot Project for Electronic Submission of Applications

In FY 2004, the Department is continuing to expand its pilot project of electronic submission of applications to include additional formula grant programs and additional discretionary grant competitions. The GPA Program—CFDA 84.021A is one of the programs included in the pilot project. If you are an applicant under the GPA Program, you must submit your application to us in electronic format or receive a waiver.

The pilot project involves the use of the Electronic Grant Application System (e-Application). Users of e-Application will be entering data on-line while completing their applications. You may not e-mail a soft copy of a grant application to us. The data you enter on-line will be saved into a database. We request your participation in e-Application. We shall continue to evaluate the success of e-Application

and solicit suggestions for its improvement.

If you participate in e-Application, please note the following:

- When you enter the e-Application system, you will find information about its hours of operation. We strongly recommend that you do not wait until the application deadline date to initiate an e-Application package.

- You will not receive additional point value because you submit a grant application in electronic format, nor will we penalize you if you submit an application in paper format.

- You must submit all documents electronically, including the Application for Federal Education Assistance (ED 424), Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs (ED 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications.

- Your e-Application must comply with any page limit requirements described in this notice.

- After you electronically submit your application, you will receive an automatic acknowledgement, which will include a PR/Award number (an identifying number unique to your application).

- Within three working days after submitting your electronic application, fax a signed copy of the Application for Federal Education Assistance (ED 424) to the Application Control Center after following these steps:

1. Print ED 424 from e-Application.
2. The institution's Authorizing Representative must sign this form.
3. Place the PR/Award number in the upper right hand corner of the hard copy signature page of the ED 424.
4. Fax the signed ED 424 to the Application Control Center at (202) 260-1349.

- We may request that you give us original signatures on other forms at a later date.

#### Application Deadline Date Extension in Case of System Unavailability:

If you are prevented from submitting your application on the application deadline date because the e-Application system is unavailable, we will grant you an extension of one business day in order to transmit your application electronically, by mail, or by hand delivery. For us to grant this extension—

1. You must be a registered user of e-Application, and have initiated an e-Application for this competition; and

2. (a) The e-Application system must be unavailable for 60 minutes or more between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Washington, DC, time, on the application deadline date; or

- (b) The e-Application system must be unavailable for any period of time

during the last hour of operation (that is, for any period of time between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC, time) on the application deadline date.

The Department must acknowledge and confirm these periods of unavailability before granting you an extension. To request this extension or to confirm the Department's acknowledgement of any system availability, you must contact either (1) The person listed elsewhere in this notice under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** or (2) the e-GRANTS help desk at 1-888-336-8930.

You may access the electronic grant application for the GPA Program at: <http://e-grants.ed.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lungching Chiao, U.S. Department of Education, International Education and Graduate Programs Service, 1990 K Street, NW., Suite 6066, Washington, DC 20006-8521. Telephone: (202) 502-7624 or via Internet: [lungching.chiao@ed.gov](mailto:lungching.chiao@ed.gov).

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

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, or computer diskette) on request to the program contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain a copy of the application package in an alternative format by contacting that person. However, the Department is not able to reproduce in an alternative format the standard forms included in the application package.

#### Electronic Access to This Document

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

To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have 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.

You may also view this document in PDF at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/HEP/iegps/>.

**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: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html>.

**Program Authority:** 22 U.S.C. 2452.

Dated: August 6, 2003.

**Sally L. Stroup,**

*Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education.*

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**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

**AGENCY:** Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of a new system of records.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (Privacy Act), the Department of Education (Department) publishes this notice of a new system of records for tracking telephone calls and correspondence from State personnel and parents about disability issues related to children with disabilities.

**DATES:** The Department seeks comments on the new system of records described in this notice, in accordance with the requirements of the Privacy Act. We must receive your comments on or before September 10, 2003.

The Department filed a report describing the system of records covered by this notice with the Chair of the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, the Chair of the House Committee on Government Reform, and the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on August 6, 2003. This system of records will become effective at the later date of—(1) The expiration of the 40-day period for OMB review on September 15, 2003 or (2) September 10, 2003, unless the system of records needs to be changed as a result of public comment or OMB review.

**ADDRESSES:** Address all comments about this system of records to Larry Wexler, Deputy, Monitoring & State Improvement Planning Division, Office of Special Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 3630, Mary E. Switzer Building, Washington, DC 20202. If you prefer to send your comments through the Internet, use the following address: [comments@ed.gov](mailto:comments@ed.gov). You must include the term "OSEP

TRACKING SYSTEM" in the subject line of the electronic comment.

During and after the comment period, you may inspect all comments about this notice in room 3630, Mary E. Switzer Building, 330 C Street, SW., Washington, DC, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday of each week except Federal holidays.

### Assistance to Individuals With Disabilities in Reviewing the Rulemaking Record

On request, we will supply an appropriate aid, such as a reader or print magnifier, to an individual with a disability who needs assistance to review the comments or other documents in the public rulemaking record for this notice. If you want to schedule an appointment for this type of aid, please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Larry Wexler. Telephone: (202)-205-5390. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed in the preceding paragraph.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Introduction

The Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(4)) requires the Department to publish in the **Federal Register** this notice of a new system of records maintained by the Department. The Department's regulations implementing the Privacy Act are contained in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) in 34 CFR part 5b.

The Privacy Act applies to a record about an individual that contains individually identifiable information that is retrieved by a unique identifier associated with each individual, such as a name or social security number. The information about each individual is called a "record," and the system, whether manual or computer-based, is called a "system of records." The Privacy Act requires each agency to publish notices of systems of records in the **Federal Register** and to prepare reports to OMB whenever the agency publishes a new or altered system of records. Each agency is also required to send copies of the report to the chair of the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs and the chair of the House Committee on Governmental Reform.