

(3) Implement strategies in recruiting and retaining students that are likely to prove effective;

(4) Provide instruction that is aligned with the secondary school curricula of the schools in which the students to be served by the grant are entering or enrolled, and supports the efforts of the State or LEA to improve the academic achievement of these students; and

(5) Provide high-quality, sustained, and intensive professional development for personnel who provide instruction to students.

(c) *Quality of the Management Plan (15 points):*

In evaluating the quality of the management plan, we consider the extent to which the proposed project:

(1) Outlines specific, measurable goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the proposed project;

(2) Assigns responsibility for the accomplishment of project tasks to specific project personnel, and provides timelines for the accomplishment of project tasks;

(3) Requires appropriate and adequate time commitments of the project director and other key personnel to achieve the objectives of the proposed project; and

(4) Includes key project personnel, including the project director, teachers, counselors, and administrators, with appropriate qualifications and relevant training and experience.

(d) *Adequacy of Resources (20 points):*

In determining the adequacy of resources for the proposed project, we consider the following factors:

(1) The adequacy of support, including facilities, equipment, supplies, and other resources, from the applicant;

(2) The extent to which a preponderance of project resources will be used for activities designed to improve the academic performance of low-achieving students in reading or language arts, and/or mathematics;

(3) The extent to which the budget is adequate and costs are reasonable in relation to the objectives and design of the proposed project; and

(4) The potential for continued support of the project after Federal funding ends, including, as appropriate, the demonstrated commitment of appropriate entities to such support.

(e) *Quality of the Evaluation (20 points):*

In determining the quality of the evaluation, we consider the extent to which the proposed project:

(1) Includes a plan that utilizes evaluation methods that are feasible and appropriate to the goals and outcomes of the project;

(2) Will regularly examine the progress and outcomes of participating students on a range of appropriate performance measures, including their performance on State or local standardized academic assessments;

(3) Will use an independent, external evaluator with the necessary background and technical expertise to assess the performance of the project; and

(4) Effectively demonstrates that the applicant has adopted a rigorous evaluation design.

**Program Requirements**

*Project Period:* 12 months.

*Range of Awards:* \$300,000–\$500,000. Applicants who request more than \$500,000 will be ineligible for funding.

*Matching Requirement:* Pursuant to Section 5512(c) of ESEA, as amended by NCLB, Federal funds may not pay for more than 50 percent of total project costs. In order to apply for and receive a grant award under this competition, each applicant must furnish from nonfederal sources at least 50 percent of its total project costs. Applicants may satisfy this requirement in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including services.

*Reporting Requirements:* In accordance with Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) cited elsewhere in this notice, grantees are required to submit to the Secretary a final performance report that:

(1) Summarizes project progress with respect to the specific, measurable goals, objectives, and outcomes proposed in the management plan;

(2) Summarizes project impact with respect to the achievement of participants, as measured by standardized State or local assessments;

(3) Identifies barriers to progress as well as solutions; and

(4) Provides information about the project's success in identifying funding to sustain its operations after the cessation of the grant.

**Intergovernmental Review**

This program is subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. One of the objectives of the Executive Order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened Federalism. The Executive order relies on processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

*Applicable Program Regulations:* 34 CFR parts 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, 86, 97, 98 and 99.

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CFDA No. 84.341 Community Technology Centers Program

**Program Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 7263–7263b.

Dated: May 29, 2003.

**Carol D'Amico,**

*Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education.*

[FR Doc. 03–13834 Filed 6–2–03; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**[CFDA No. 84.341]**

**Community Technology Centers Program**

**AGENCY:** Office of Vocational and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2003.

*Purpose of Program:* As authorized by Title V, Part D, Subpart 11, Section 5511–13 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001, the purpose of the Community Technology Centers (CTC) program is to assist eligible applicants to create or expand community technology centers that will provide disadvantaged residents of economically distressed urban and rural communities with access to information technology and related training. Eligible applicants are community-based organizations (including faith-based organizations), State and local educational agencies, institutions of higher education, and other entities such as foundations, libraries, museums, public and private nonprofit organizations, and for-profit businesses, or consortia thereof. To be eligible, an

applicant must also have the capacity to expand significantly access to computers and related services for disadvantaged residents of economically distressed urban and rural communities who would otherwise be denied such access.

The focus of the CTC program competition has changed to give absolute priority to those applicants who will focus on improving the academic achievement of low-achieving high school students while continuing to provide a community technology center for all members of their community. Thus, grant recipients must meet this priority as they use grant funds to create or expand community technology centers that expand access to information technology and related training for disadvantaged residents of distressed urban or rural communities and evaluate the effectiveness of this project.

**Eligible Applicants:** Eligible applicants shall be an institution of higher education, a State Education Agency, a Local Educational Agency, an entity (such as a foundation, museum, library, for-profit business, public or private nonprofit organization, or community based organization, including faith based organizations), or a consortium thereof. In addition, eligible applicants shall have the capacity to significantly expand access to computers and related services for disadvantaged residents of economically distressed urban and rural communities who would otherwise be denied such access.

**Applications Available:** May 30, 2003.

#### 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, the Department is 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 processes.

The Department is requiring that applications for the FY 2003 Community Technology Centers Program competition for new awards be submitted electronically using e-APPLICATION through the U.S. Department of Education's e-GRANTS system. The e-GRANTS system is

accessible through its portal page at <http://e-grants.ed.gov>.

Applicants who are unable to submit an application through the e-GRANTS systems may apply for a waiver to the electronic submission requirement. To apply for a waiver, applicants must explain the reason(s) that prevent(s) them from using the Internet to submit their applications. The reason(s) must be outlined in a letter addressed to: Gisela Harkin, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, 330 "C" Street, SW., Washington, DC 20202-7100. Please mark your envelope "CTC competition waiver request." The letter requesting the waiver is to be submitted no later than two (2) weeks before the deadline for transmittal of applications; last minute requests will not be considered.

Any application that receives a waiver to the electronic submission requirement will be given the same consideration in the review process as an electronic application.

#### Pilot Project for Electronic Submission of Applications

In FY 2003, the U.S. Department of Education is continuing to expand its pilot project of electronic submission of applications to include additional formula programs and additional discretionary grant competitions. The Community Technology Centers (CTC) program (CFDA 84.341) is one of the programs included in the pilot project. If you are an applicant under the CTC 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, formerly e-GAPS) portion of the Grant Administration and Payment System (GAPS). We shall continue to evaluate its success and solicit suggestions for improvement.

Please note the following:

- Do not wait until the deadline date for the transmittal of applications to submit your application electronically. If you wait until the deadline date to submit your application electronically and you are unable to access the e-APPLICATION system, you must contact the Help Desk by 4:30 p.m. EST on the deadline date.
- Keep in mind that e-APPLICATIONS is not operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Click on "Hours of Web Site Operation" for specific hours of access during the week.
- You will have access to the e-APPLICATION Help Desk for technical support: 1 (888) 336-8930 (TTY: 1-[866] 697-2696, local [202]

401-8363). The Help Desk hours of operation are limited to 8 a.m.-6 p.m. EST Monday through Friday.

You must submit all documents electronically, including the Application for Federal Education Assistance (ED424), Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs (ED524), and assurances, certifications, and appendices, as appropriate.

- After you electronically submit your application, you will receive an acknowledgement, which will include a PR/Award number (an identifying number unique to your application).
- Within three (3) working days after submitting your electronic application, fax a signed copy of the Application for Federal Education Assistance (ED424) to the Application Control Center after following these steps: (1) Print the ED424 from the e-Application system. (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 ED424. (4) Fax the signed ED424 to the Application Control Center at (202) 260-1349.
- The Department may request that you give us original signatures on all other forms at a later date.

#### Closing Date Extension in Case of System Unavailability

If you are prevented from submitting an application on the closing date because the e-APPLICATION system is unavailable, we will grant you an extension of one (1) 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. EST, on the deadline date; or
- (b) The e-APPLICATION system must be unavailable for any period of time during the last hours of operation (that is, for any period of time between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m. EST) on the deadline date. The Department must acknowledge and confirm these periods of unavailability before granting you an extension. To request this extension, you must contact the e-Grants Help Desk at 1 (888) 336-8930.

You may access the electronic grant application for CFDA No. 84.341 at <http://e-grants.ed.gov>.

*Page Limit:* The application narrative (Part VI of the application) is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. You must limit Part VI to the equivalent of no more than 25 pages, using the following standards:

- A "page" is 8.5" x 11" on one side only, with 1" margins on 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, 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).

In addition, you must limit Part VII (budget narrative) to four (4) pages and Part X (Appendices) to 15 pages, using the aforementioned standards. We will reject your application if you:

- You apply these standards and exceed the page limit; or

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

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* June 30, 2003.

*Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:* August 29, 2003.

*Estimated Available Funds:* \$24,318,750. Note: Under 34 CFR 75.225(c)(1), the Department will conduct a separate competition for an estimated \$8,106,250 in additional available funds. Only a "novice applicant," as that term is defined in 34 CFR 75.225(a-b), may apply for funds in that competition.

*Range of Awards:* \$300,000-\$500,000.

In previous grant competitions, applicants have routinely requested more money than the above award ranges dictate. As a result, plans submitted to the Department have included any number of activities that could only be made possible if an

applicant received a funding amount much higher than intended in the award range. Based on this experience, the Department will fund only those applications that correctly request funds within the award range specified in this notice. Therefore, applicants who request more than \$500,000 will be declared ineligible and will not receive funding.

**Note:** The size of awards will be based on a number of factors. These factors will include the scope, quality, and comprehensiveness of the proposed program, and the recommended range of awards indicated above.

*Matching Requirement:* Pursuant to section 5512(c) of ESEA, as amended by NCLB, Federal funds may not pay for more than 50 percent of total project costs. In order to apply for and receive a grant award under this competition, each applicant must furnish from nonfederal sources at last 50 percent of its total project costs. Applicants may satisfy this requirement in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including services.

**Note:** The U.S. Department of Education is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

*Project Period:* 12 months.

*Applicable Regulations:* (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, 86, 97, 98 and 99 and (b) the regulations in the notice of final priorities, application requirements, and selection criteria for FY 2003 as published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**.

*Priorities:* This competition gives absolute and competitive priorities to applicants that meet the conditions outlined in the Notice of Final Priorities for this program, which is published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** If you need further assistance and need to speak with someone in the CTC program, you may contact Gisela Harkin by phone at (202) 205-4238, by mail at 330 C Street, SW., Room 4324, Washington, DC 20202, or via e-mail at [commtech.center@ed.gov](mailto:commtech.center@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. Individuals with disabilities may obtain this notice in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to one of the contact persons listed in the preceding paragraph.

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**Program Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 7263-7263b.

Dated: May 29, 2003.

**Carol D'Amico,**

*Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education.*

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