

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 84.382A), 550 12th Street, SW., Room 7041, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-4260.

The Application Control Center accepts hand deliveries daily between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30:00 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 11 of the SF 424 the CFDA number, including suffix letter, if any, of the competition under which you are submitting your application; and

(2) The Application Control Center will mail to you a notification of receipt of your grant application. If you do not receive this notification 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 this program are from 34 CFR 75.209(a) and 75.210, and are as follows—

- Need for the project (20 points);
- Quality of the project design (15 points);
- Quality of project services (15 points);
- Quality of project personnel (10 points);
- Adequacy of resources (5 points);
- Quality of the management plan (20 points);
- Quality of project evaluation (15 points).

Additional information regarding these criteria is in the application package for this competition.

2. *Review and Selection Process:* Applicants must provide, as an attachment to the application, the documentation the institution relied upon to determine that at least 40 percent of the institution's undergraduate enrollment are Black American students.

Note: The 40 percent requirement applies only to *undergraduate* Black American students and is calculated based upon unduplicated undergraduate enrollment. Instructions for formatting and submitting the verification documentation to e-Application are in the application package for this competition.

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 notify you informally, also.

If your application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we will 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 in 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 directed by the Secretary under 34 CFR 75.118.

Grantees are required to use the 524B Grant Performance Report to complete both annual and the final report. The Secretary may also require more frequent performance reports under 34 CFR 75.720(c). For specific requirements on reporting please go to: <http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html>.

4. *Performance Measures:* The Secretary has established the following key performance measures for assessing the effectiveness of the PBI Program:

- (1) The number of full-time degree-seeking undergraduates enrolling at PBIs.
- (2) The increase in the persistence rate for students enrolled at PBIs.

VII. Agency Contact

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Blanca Rodriguez, Teacher and Student Development Programs Service, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., room 6162, Washington, DC

20006-8515. Telephone: (202) 502-7728, or by e-mail: blanca.rodriguez@ed.gov or sara.starke, Teacher and Student Development Programs Service, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., room 6019, Washington, DC 20006-8515. Telephone: (202) 502-7688, or by e-mail: sara.starke@ed.gov.

If you use a TDD, call the FRS, toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

VIII. Other Information

Accessible Format: Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document and a copy of the application package in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to either of the program contact persons listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** in section VII of this notice.

Electronic Access to This Document: You can 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 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: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html>.

Delegation of Authority: The Secretary of Education has delegated authority to Daniel T. Madzellan, Director, Forecasting and Policy Analysis for the Office of Postsecondary Education, to perform the function of the Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

Dated: April 24, 2009.

Daniel T. Madzellan,

Director, Forecasting and Policy Analysis.

[FR Doc. E9-9876 Filed 4-28-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**Office of Postsecondary Education;
Title IV, Part I, Section 499 of the
Higher Education Act of 1965, as
Amended—Competitive Loan Auction
Pilot Program**

AGENCY: Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of cancellation of the auction under the Competitive Loan Auction Pilot Program for the right to originate PLUS loans to new parent borrowers under the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program.

SUMMARY: Through this notice, the Secretary of Education (the Secretary) announces the cancellation of the auction (Auction) that was scheduled to occur on April 15, 2009 under the Competitive Loan Auction Pilot Program (Auction Program) for the rights to originate PLUS loans to parent borrowers under the FFEL Program.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information about the Auction Program go to <http://www.ed.gov/ope/plus-auction> or contact: Donald Conner, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., room 8030, Washington, DC 20006. Telephone (202) 502-7818, or by fax to (202) 502-7873. You may also e-mail your questions about the Auction Program to: donald.conner@ed.gov.

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

Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) by contacting the program contact person listed in this section.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the **Federal Register** of March 3, 2009, the Secretary announced his intention to conduct, and invited eligible FFEL lenders to participate in, an Auction for the rights to originate PLUS loans to new parent borrowers under the FFEL Program (74 FR 9232). Through the Auction, the Secretary would award the rights to originate PLUS loans to new parent borrowers under the Federal PLUS Program authorized by section 428B of Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), for loan periods beginning on or after July 1, 2009 and ending on or before June 30, 2011.

The period for the submission by lenders of pre-qualification requests for the Auction closed on April 1, 2009. In order for the Auction to have been considered successful for any State, at least two lenders must have submitted pre-qualification requests for that State. However, the Department failed to receive two requests for pre-qualification for any State, and for the vast majority of States the Department received no requests. For this reason, the Secretary has determined that the purpose of the Competitive Loan Auction Pilot Program has been frustrated, and he is cancelling the

Auction that was scheduled to occur on April 15, 2009. During the 2009-10 and 2010-11 award years, Parent PLUS loans under the FFEL Program may be made by any eligible lender selected by the parent borrower.

Electronic Access to This Document: You can 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 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: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html>.

Delegation of Authority: The Secretary of Education has delegated authority to Daniel T. Madzellan, Director, Forecasting and Policy Analysis for the Office of Postsecondary Education, to perform the functions of the Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

Dated: April 24, 2009.

Daniel T. Madzellan,

Director, Forecasting and Policy Analysis.

[FR Doc. E9-9884 Filed 4-28-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Postsecondary Education; Overview Information; Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, FIPSE—Special Focus Competition: The U.S.-Russia Program: Improving Research and Educational Activities in Higher Education; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

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

DATES:

Applications Available: April 30, 2009.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: June 29, 2009.

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose of Program: The U.S.-Russia Program encourages cooperative

education programs between institutions of higher education (IHEs) in the Russian Federation and the United States of America. The objective of this program is to provide grants that demonstrate partnerships between Russian and American IHEs that contribute to the development and promotion of educational opportunities between the two nations. The aim is to use the educational content as the vehicle for learning languages, cultural appreciation, sharing knowledge, and forming long-term relationships between the two countries. In the context of the modern international society and a global economy, an understanding of the cultural context plays a vital role in education and training.

Thus, this program is designed to support the formation of educational consortia of American and Russian IHEs to encourage mutual socio-cultural-linguistic cooperation; the joint development of curricula, educational materials, and other types of educational and methodological activities; and related educational student and staff mobility (exchanges).

Russian institutions will apply to The Russian Ministry of Education and Science for funding.

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

Invitational Priority: For FY 2009, 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.

Applicants must select one academic discipline as the subject area for their grant proposal in this U.S.-Russia competition. For the year 2009, the Department and the Russian Ministry have jointly decided to make up to three awards, as follows:

(A) Environmental Science Studies—No more than one award.

(B) Biotechnology—No more than one award.

(C) Any discipline, other than (A) and (B)—No more than one award.

Applications are invited from institutions of higher education with the capacity to contribute to a collaborative project in the areas listed with a Russian institution. The consortium partners, through promoting the study of and communication in foreign languages, are expected to increase awareness and understanding of the two cultures, and to strengthen the professional and scholarly ties between the two countries.