

Subpart C—How Does the Secretary Make a Grant?

§ 643.20 How does the Secretary decide which new grants to make?

(a) The Secretary evaluates an application for a new grant as follows:

(1)(i) The Secretary evaluates the application on the basis of the selection criteria in § 643.21.

(ii) The maximum score for all the criteria in § 643.21 is 100 points. The maximum score for each criterion is indicated in parentheses with the criterion.

(2)(i) For an application for a new grant to continue to serve substantially the same populations or campuses that the applicant is serving under an expiring project, the Secretary evaluates the applicant's prior experience in delivering services under the expiring project on the basis of the criteria in § 643.22.

(ii) The maximum score for all the criteria in § 643.22 is 15 points. The maximum score for each criterion is indicated in parentheses with the criterion.

(3) The Secretary awards additional points equal to 10 percent of the application's score under paragraphs (a)(1) and (2) of this section to an application for a project in Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Palau), or the Northern Mariana Islands if the applicant meets the requirements of subparts A, B, and D of this part.

(b) The Secretary makes new grants in rank order on the basis of the applications' total scores under paragraphs (a)(1) through (3) of this section.

(c) If the total scores of two or more applications are the same and there are insufficient funds for these applications after the approval of higher-ranked applications, the Secretary uses the remaining funds to serve geographic areas and eligible populations that have been underserved by the Talent Search program.

(d) The Secretary may decline to make a grant to an applicant that carried out a project that involved the fraudulent use of funds under section 402A(c)(2)(B) of the HEA.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070a-11, 1070a-12, and 1144a(a))

§ 643.21 What selection criteria does the Secretary use?

The Secretary uses the following criteria to evaluate an application for a new grant:

(a) *Need for the project* (24 points). The Secretary evaluates the need for a Talent Search project in the proposed target area on the basis of the extent to which the application contains clear evidence of the following:

(1) A high number or percentage, or both, of low-income families residing in the target area;

(2) A high number or percentage, or both, of individuals residing in the target area with education completion levels below the baccalaureate level;

(3) A high student dropout rate in the proposed target schools in the preceding three years;

(4) A low rate of enrollment in programs of postsecondary education by graduates of the target schools in the preceding three years;

(5) A high ratio of students to school counselors in the target schools; and

(6) Other indicators of need for a Talent Search project, including the presence of unaddressed academic or socioeconomic problems of students in the target schools or the target area.

(b) *Objectives* (8 points). The Secretary evaluates the quality of the applicant's proposed project objectives on the basis of the extent to which they—

(1) Include both process and outcome objectives relating to each of the purposes of the Talent Search program stated in § 643.1;

(2) Address the needs of the target area;

(3) Are clearly described, specific, and measurable; and

(4) Are ambitious but attainable within each budget period and the project period given the project budget and other resources.

(c) *Plan of operation* (30 points). The Secretary evaluates the quality of the applicant's plan of operation on the basis of the following:

(1) (4 points) The plan to inform the residents, schools, and community organizations in the target area of the goals, objectives, and services of the project and the eligibility requirements for participation in the project;