

reduction (CSR) funds were spent, what issues arose in implementing the program, the impact of the program on class size, and the impact of the program on teaching.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, or should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, D.C. 20202-4651. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the internet address OCIO_IMG_Issues@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 Jacqueline Montague at (202) 708-5359 or via her internet address Jackie_Montague@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. 00-31531 Filed 12-11-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA Nos. 84.116A; 84.116B]

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education—Comprehensive Program (Preapplications and Applications) Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2001

Purpose of Program: To provide grants or enter into cooperative agreements to improve postsecondary education opportunities.

Eligible Applicants: Institutions of higher education or combinations of those institutions and other public and private nonprofit institutions and agencies.

Deadline for Transmittal of Preapplications: January 26, 2001.

Deadline for Transmittal of Final Applications: April 27, 2001.

Note: All applicants must submit a preapplication to be eligible to submit a final application.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: June 26, 2001.

Applications Available: December 12, 2000.

Available Funds: It is anticipated that approximately \$17,000,000 will be available for an estimated 130 new awards under the Comprehensive Program. The actual level of funding, if any, is contingent on final congressional

action and the number and quality of applications.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$50,000 to \$200,000 per year.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$131,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 130.

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

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

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

Priorities

Invitational Priorities

While applicants may propose any project within the scope of 20 U.S.C. 1138(a), under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1) the Secretary is particularly interested in applications that meet one or more of the following invitational priorities. However, an application that meets one or more of these invitational priorities does not receive competitive or absolute preference over other applications:

Invitational Priority 1—Projects to make more productive use of resources to improve teaching and learning; and to increase learning productivity—that is, to transform programs and teaching to promote more student learning relative to institutional resources expended.

Invitational Priority 2—Projects to disseminate innovative postsecondary educational programs which have already been locally developed, implemented, and evaluated.

Invitational Priority 3—Projects to support new ways of ensuring equal access to postsecondary education, and to improve rates of retention and program completion, especially for low-income and underrepresented minority students, whose retention and completion rates continue to lag disturbingly behind those of other groups.

Invitational Priority 4—Projects to improve campus climates for learning by creating an environment that is safe, welcoming, and conducive to academic growth for all students.

Invitational Priority 5—Projects to support innovative reforms of undergraduate, graduate, and professional curricula that improve not only what students learn, but how they learn.

Invitational Priority 6—Projects to support the professional development of full- and part-time faculty by assessing and rewarding effective teaching; promoting new and more effective teaching methods; and improving the preparation of graduate students who will be future faculty members.

Invitational Priority 7—Projects to promote innovative school-college partnerships and to improve the preparation of K-12 teachers, in order to enhance students' preparation for, access to, and success in college.

Methods for Applying Selection Criteria

For preapplications (preliminary applications) and final applications (applications), the Secretary gives equal weight to each of the selection criteria. Within each of these criteria, the Secretary gives equal weight to each of the factors.

Selection Criteria

In evaluating preapplications and final applications for grants under this program competition, the Secretary uses the following selection criteria chosen from those listed in 34 CFR 75.210.

Preapplications. In evaluating preapplications, the Secretary uses the following selection criteria:

(a) *Need for the project.* The Secretary reviews each proposed project for its need, as determined by the following factors:

(1) The magnitude or severity of the problem to be addressed by the proposed project.

(2) The magnitude of the need for the services to be provided or the activities to be carried out by the proposed project.

(b) *Significance.* The Secretary reviews each proposed project for its significance, as determined by the following factors:

(1) The potential contribution of the proposed project to increased knowledge or understanding of educational problems, issues, or effective strategies.

(2) The extent to which the proposed project involves the development or demonstration of promising new strategies that build on, or are alternatives to, existing strategies.

(3) The importance or magnitude of the results or outcomes likely to be attained by the proposed project, especially improvements in teaching and student achievement.

(4) The potential replicability of the proposed project or strategies, including, as appropriate, the potential for implementation in a variety of settings.

(c) *Quality of the project design.* The Secretary reviews each proposed project for the quality of its design, as determined by the extent to which the design of the proposed project is appropriate to, and will successfully address, the needs of the target population or other identified needs.

(d) *Quality of the project evaluation.* The Secretary reviews each proposed

project for the quality of its evaluation, as determined by the extent to which the evaluation will provide guidance about effective strategies suitable for replication or testing in other settings.

Final Applications. In evaluating final applications, the Secretary uses the following selection criteria:

(a) *Need for the project.* The Secretary reviews each proposed project for its need, as determined by the following factors:

(1) The magnitude or severity of the problem to be addressed by the proposed project.

(2) The magnitude of the need for the services to be provided or the activities to be carried out by the proposed project.

(b) *Significance.* The Secretary reviews each proposed project for its significance, as determined by the following factors:

(1) The potential contribution of the proposed project to increased knowledge or understanding of educational problems, issues, or effective strategies.

(2) The extent to which the proposed project involves the development or demonstration of promising new strategies that build on, or are alternatives to, existing strategies.

(3) The importance or magnitude of the results or outcomes likely to be attained by the proposed project, especially improvements in teaching and student achievement.

(4) The potential replicability of the proposed project or strategies, including, as appropriate, the potential for implementation in a variety of settings.

(c) *Quality of the project design.* The Secretary reviews each proposed project for the quality of its design, as determined by the following factors:

(1) The extent to which the design of the proposed project is appropriate to, and will successfully address, the needs of the target population or other identified needs.

(2) The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the proposed project are clearly specified and measurable.

(3) The extent to which the design for implementing and evaluating the proposed project will result in information to guide possible replication of project activities or strategies, including information about the effectiveness of the approach or strategies employed by the project.

(d) *Quality of the project evaluation.* The Secretary reviews each proposed project for the quality of its evaluation, as determined by the following factors:

(1) The extent to which the evaluation will provide guidance about effective strategies suitable for replication or testing in other settings.

(2) The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the proposed project.

(3) The extent to which the methods of evaluation include the use of objective performance measures that are clearly related to the intended outcomes of the project and will produce quantitative and qualitative data to the extent possible.

(e) *The quality of the management plan.* The Secretary reviews each proposed project for the quality of its management plan, as determined by the plan's adequacy to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.

(f) *Quality of project personnel.* The Secretary reviews each proposed project for the quality of project personnel who will carry out the proposed project, as determined by the following factors:

(1) The extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.

(2) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel.

(g) *Adequacy of resources.* The Secretary reviews each proposed project for the adequacy of its resources, as determined by the following factors:

(1) The extent to which the budget is adequate to support the proposed project.

(2) The extent to which the costs are reasonable in relation to the objectives, design, and potential significance of the proposed project.

(3) The relevance and demonstrated commitment of each partner in the proposed project to the implementation and success of the project.

(4) The adequacy of support, including facilities, equipment, supplies, and other resources, from the applicant organization or the lead applicant organization.

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

For Applications Contact: Education Publications Center (ED Pubs), P.O. Box 1398, Jessup, MD 20794-1398. Telephone (toll free): 1-877-433-7827.

FAX: (301) 470-1244. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call (toll free): 1-877-576-7734.

You may also contact ED Pubs via its Web site: <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html> or its e-mail address: edpubs@inet.ed.gov.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006-8544. Telephone: (202) 502-7500. The application text may be obtained from the Internet address <http://www.ed.gov/FIPSE/>.

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 document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, or computer diskette) on request to the contact listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.**

Individuals with disabilities also may obtain a copy of the application package in an alternative format. However, the Department is not able to reproduce in 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 either of the following sites: <http://ocfo.ed.gov/fedreg.htm> <http://www.ed.gov/news.html>.

To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at either of the previous sites. 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.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html>.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1138-1138d.

Dated: December 5, 2000.

A. Lee Fritschler,

Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

[FR Doc. 00-31517 Filed 12-11-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Intent To Establish the Worker Advocacy Advisory Committee

Pursuant to Section 9(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. No. 92-463), and in accordance with title 41 of the Code of Federal Regulations, section 101-6.1015(a), this is notice of intent to establish the Worker Advocacy Advisory Committee. This intent to establish follows consultation with the Committee Management Secretariat of the General Services Administration, pursuant to 41 CFR Subpart 101-6.10.

The purpose of the Committee is to provide the Secretary of Energy and the Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health with advice, information, and recommendations on programs to assist workers who have been diagnosed with work-related illnesses under the Department of Energy's former worker medical surveillance program and ongoing beryllium medical surveillance programs in filing state workers' compensation claims. The Committee will: (1) Provide advice to the Department of Energy on workers' compensation policy issues of concern to the Department; (2) periodically review worker advocacy program initiatives and recommendations; and, (3) provide advice on plans, priorities, and strategies to improve advocacy practices and procedures of the worker advocacy program.

Committee members will be chosen to ensure an appropriately balanced membership to bring into account a diversity of viewpoints, including state and federal workers' compensation specialists, workers, union representatives, occupational physicians, representatives of medical and public health organizations, academic researchers and the public at large who may significantly contribute to the deliberations of the Committee. All meetings of this Committee will be published ahead of time in the **Federal Register**.

Additionally, the establishment of the Worker Advocacy Advisory Committee is essential to the conduct of Department of Energy business, and is in the public interest.

Further information regarding this committee may be obtained from Dr. David Michaels, Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585, phone (202) 586-6151.

Issued in Washington, DC on December 7, 2000.

James N. Solit,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-31598 Filed 12-11-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

National Energy Technology Laboratory; Notice of Availability of a Financial Assistance Solicitation

AGENCY: National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), Morgantown, Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of availability of a Financial Assistance Solicitation.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the intent to issue Financial Assistance Solicitation No. DE-PS26-01NT40951 entitled, "Support of Advanced Coal Research at U.S. Colleges and Universities." Proposals will be subjected to a comparative merit review by a technical panel of DOE subject-matter experts and external peer reviewers. Awards will be made to a limited number of proposers based on: the scientific merit of the proposals, application of relevant program policy factors, and the availability of funds.

DATES: The solicitation will be available on the DOE/ NETL's Homepage at <http://www.netl.doe.gov/business> on or about December 15, 2000. Applications must be received at NETL by February 8, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael P. Nolan, MS I07, U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, P.O. Box 880, Morgantown, WV 26507-0880, E-Mail: mnolan@netl.doe.gov, Telephone: (304) 285-4149, Facsimile: (304) 285-4683.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Through Program Solicitation DE-PS26-01NT40951, the DOE is interested in applications from U.S. colleges and universities, as well as university-affiliated research centers submitting applications through their respective universities. Applications will be selected to complement and enhance research being conducted in related Fossil Energy Programs. Applications may be submitted individually (*i.e.*, by only one college/university or one college subcontracting with one other college/university) or jointly (*i.e.*, by

"teams" made up of (1) three or more colleges/universities, or (2) two or more colleges/universities and at least one industrial partner. Collaboration, in the form of joint proposals, is encouraged but not required.

Eligibility. Applications submitted in response to this solicitation must address coal research in one of the key focus areas of the Core Program or as outlined in the Innovative Concepts Phase-I & Phase-II Programs.

Background. The current landscape of the U.S. energy industry, not unlike that in other parts of the world, is undergoing a transformation driven by changes such as deregulation of power generation, more stringent environmental standards and regulations, climate change concerns, and other market forces. Energy from coal-fired powerplants will continue to play a dominant role as an energy source, and therefore, it is prudent to use this resource wisely and ensure that it remains part of the sustainable energy solution.

Clean, efficient, competitively priced coal-derived products, and low-cost environmental compliance and energy systems remain key to our continuing prosperity and our commitment to tackle environmental challenges, including climate change. Technological advances finding their way into future markets could result in advanced co-production and co-processing facilities around the world, based upon Vision 21 technologies developed through universities, government, and industry partnerships.

This Vision 21 concept, in many ways is the culmination of decades of power and fuels research and development. Within the Vision 21 plants, the full energy potential of fossil fuel feedstocks and "opportunity" feedstocks such as biomass, petroleum coke, and other materials that might otherwise be considered as wastes, can be tapped by integrating advanced technology "modules." To accomplish the program objective, to advance the science of coal R&D directed at resolving our energy and environmental issues, applications will be accepted in three program areas: (1) The Core Program and (2) the Innovative Concepts Phase-I Program, and (3) the Innovative Concepts Phase-II Program.

UCR Core Program

DOE has allotted \$2 million to fund 8 to 10 projects in this program area. The goal of this area is to complement and enhance applied research conducted in related Fossil Energy Programs. Funding is contingent on the length of the project and varies from