

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) 2003

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.

Applications Available: December 26, 2002.

Deadline for Transmittal of Preapplications: February 13, 2003.

Deadline for Transmittal of Final Applications: May 8, 2003.

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

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: July 23, 2003.

Estimated Available Funds: \$9,000,000 for new awards.

The Administration has requested \$31 million for this program for FY 2003. 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—\$275,000 or more per year.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$156,000 per year.

Estimated Number of Awards: 53–56.

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.

Invitational Priorities: While applicants may propose any project within the scope of 20 U.S.C. 1138, 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 improve the quality of K–12 teaching through new models of

teacher preparation and through new kinds of partnerships between schools and colleges and universities that enhance students' preparation for, access to, and success in college.

Invitational Priority 2

Projects to promote innovative reforms in the curriculum and instruction of various subjects at the college preparation, undergraduate, and graduate/professional levels, especially through student-centered or technology-mediated strategies, and including the area of civic education.

Invitational Priority 3

Projects designing more cost-effective ways of improving postsecondary instruction and operations, *i.e.*, to promote more student learning relative to institutional resources expended.

Invitational Priority 4

Projects to support new ways of ensuring equal access to postsecondary education, and to improve rates of retention and program completion, especially for underrepresented students whose retention and completion rates continue to lag behind those of other groups, and especially encouraging wider adoption of proven approaches to this problem.

Methods for Applying Selection Criteria

For preapplications (preliminary applications) and final 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 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.

(a) *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 increase 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 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 increase 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) *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.

Pilot Project for Electronic Submission of Applications

In Fiscal Year 2003, the U.S. Department of Education is continuing to expand its pilot project for electronic submission of applications to include additional formula grant programs and additional discretionary grant competitions. The Comprehensive Program—CFDA No. 84.116A is one of the programs included in the pilot project. If you are an applicant under the Comprehensive Program—CFDA No. 84.116A, you may submit your preapplication to us in either electronic or paper format. Please note that electronic submission is NOT an option for final applications in FY 2003.

The pilot project involves the use of the Electronic Grant Application System (e-Application) portion of the Grant Administration and Payment System (GAPS). Users of e-Application will be entering data online while completing their applications. You may not e-mail a soft copy of a grant application to us. If you participate in this voluntary pilot project by submitting an application electronically, the data you enter online will be saved into a database. We invite your participation in e-Application. We shall continue to evaluate its success and solicit suggestions for improvement.

If you participate in e-Application when submitting your preapplication, please note the following:

- Your participation is voluntary.
- You will not receive any 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. When you enter the e-Application system, you will find information about its hours of operation.

- You may submit all documents electronically, including the

Application for Federal Assistance (ED 424), Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs (ED 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications.

- 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 Assistance (ED 424) to the Application Control Center after following these steps:

(1) Print ED 424 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 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 all other forms at a later date.

- *Closing Date Extension in Case of System Unavailability:* If you elect to participate in the e-Application pilot for the Comprehensive Program preapplication—CFDA No. 84.116A and you are prevented from submitting your application on the closing 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 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 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 the Comprehensive Program preapplication—CFDA No. 84.116A at: <http://e-grants.ed.gov>.

We have included additional information about the e-Application pilot project (see Parity Guidelines between Paper and Electronic

Applications) in the application package.

For Applications Contact: Education Publications Center (ED Pubs), PO Box 1398, Jessup, MD 20794-1398. Telephone (toll free): 1-877-433-7827. FAX: (301) 470-1244. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call (toll free): 1-877-567-7734.

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

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

Note: Application text and forms are available on the FIPSE website (*see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT*).

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 and forms may be obtained from the Internet address: <http://www.ed.gov/FIPSE/>.

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, audiotape, 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 the following site: www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister.

To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free on 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.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html>.

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Dated: December 20, 2002.

Jeffrey R. Andrade,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Innovation.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Act of 2000; Revision to List of Covered Facilities

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of revision of listing of covered facilities.

SUMMARY: On January 17, 2001, and again on June 11, 2001, the Department of Energy ("Department" or "DOE") published a list of facilities covered under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Act of 2000 ("Act"), title 36 of Public Law 106-398. (66 FR 4003; 66 FR 31218). The Act establishes a program to provide compensation to individuals who developed illnesses as a result of their employment in nuclear weapons production-related activities and at certain federally-owned facilities in which radioactive materials were used. This notice revises the previous lists and provides additional information about the covered facilities, atomic weapons employers, and beryllium vendors. The original notice provides detailed background information about this matter.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Office of Worker Advocacy, 1-877-447-9756.

ADDRESSES: The Department welcomes comments on this list. Individuals who wish to suggest additional facilities for inclusion on the list or indicate why one or more facilities should be removed from the list should provide information to the Department. Comments should be addressed to: Office of Worker Advocacy (EH-8), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585. Email: worker_advocacy@eh.doe.gov. Tollfree: 1-877-447-9756.

URL: <http://tis.eh.doe.gov/advocacy/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose

The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Act of 2000 ("Act"), title 36 of Public Law 106-398, establishes a program to provide compensation to individuals who

developed illnesses as a result of their employment in nuclear weapons production-related activities and at certain federally-owned facilities in which radioactive materials were used. On December 7, 2000, the President issued Executive Order 13179 ("Order") directing the Department of Energy ("Department" or "DOE") to list covered facilities in the **Federal Register**, which the Department did on January 17, 2001, and again on June 11, 2001. This notice revises the previous lists and provides additional information about the covered facilities, atomic weapons employers, and beryllium vendors.

Section 2. c. iv of the Order instructs the Department to designate, pursuant to sections 3621(4)(B) and 3622 of the Act, atomic weapons employers and additions to the list of designated beryllium vendors. In addition, section 2. c. vii of the Order instructs the Department to list three types of facilities defined in the Act:

- (1) Atomic weapons employer facilities, as defined in section 3621(4);
- (2) Department of Energy facilities, as defined by section 3621(12); and
- (3) Beryllium vendors, as defined by section 3621(6).

Compensation options and mechanisms are defined differently for each of these facility categories. The atomic weapons employer category includes atomic weapons employer facilities in which the primary work was not related to atomic weapons, and consequently these facilities are not commonly known as atomic weapons facilities. Their inclusion in this list is consistent with the Act, and is not intended as a classification for any other purpose.

The list at the end of this notice represents the Departments best efforts to date to compile a list of facilities under these three categories. This listing includes 350 facilities in 42 jurisdictions. It designates 29 additional beryllium vendor facilities, two additional Atomic Weapons Employer facilities and clarifies the status as Department of Energy facility for 13 facilities. The designation of the 29 additional beryllium vendor facilities represents the Departments best efforts to meet its statutory deadline in Pub. L. 106-398 § 3622 which sets a December 31, 2002, deadline for designating additional beryllium vendors.

To assist the public in understanding changes made in this list, the Department has prepared a description of these changes and made it available at the website noted. A copy may also be obtained by request to the Office of Worker Advocacy. The Department is continuing its research efforts, and