

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

RIN 1810-ZA01

Family and Community Endeavor Schools Grant Program**AGENCY:** Department of Education.**ACTION:** Notice of final definition, maximum award amount, and application evaluation criteria for fiscal year 1995.

SUMMARY: The Secretary announces the final definition, maximum award amount, and application evaluation criteria for the Family and Community Endeavor Schools Grant Program for fiscal year 1995. The Secretary takes this action to comply with the statute, the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, and to ensure appropriate criteria by which to evaluate applications under this Act.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The definition, maximum grant award, and application evaluation criteria take effect on April 5, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charlotte Dalton Gillespie, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue SW., Portals Building, Room 603, Washington, DC 20202-6123. Telephone (202) 260-3954. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the TDD number at (202) 205-5516.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Family and Community Endeavor Schools Grant Program is to prevent crime and violent behavior by providing programs designed to improve the academic and social development of at-risk children and youth in eligible communities during and after school hours, evenings, on weekends, and during holidays and the summer months. This notice contains the definition of an eligible community, the maximum grant award, and final evaluation criteria by which applications for funds will be evaluated in fiscal year 1995.

Congress authorized the Family and Community Endeavor Schools Grant Program under Title III, Subtitle D of Public Law 103-322, the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. This legislation mandates the implementation of two similar programs under Subtitle D: The Community Schools Youth Services and Supervision Grant Program (Community Schools) through the Department of Health and Human Services and the Family and Community Endeavor Schools Grant Program (FACES) through the Department of Education. As the needs

of children, youth, and communities can best be served by integrating the two programs, the Departments of Health and Human Services and Education have jointly developed an announcement of the availability of funds under these two programs.

Note: The definition, maximum grant award, and evaluation criteria outlined in this notice apply only to the FACES program operated through the Department of Education. A notice inviting applications for Community Schools, FACES, or a joint Community Schools/FACES program—all three programs—is published in the Department of Health and Human Services section of this issue of the **Federal Register**.

Authority for the FACES program is contained in 42 U.S.C. 13792 and 13793.

Definition

Eligible Community means—

(1) An identifiable community or neighborhood with boundaries generally recognized by the residents in the community;

(2) A community that is small enough to allow a concentration of resources and the potential for a measurable impact; and

(3) A community that can demonstrate that it has a significant level of poverty, violent crime, and juvenile delinquency.

(Authority: 42 U.S.C. 13792, 13793)

Maximum Grant Award

The maximum award for a FACES grant is \$500,000. (The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 sets a minimum FACES grant award of \$250,000.)

Application Evaluation Criteria

The Secretary uses the following criteria to evaluate applications under this program:

(a) *Objectives and need for assistance* (15 points). The Secretary reviews each application to determine the extent to which the project clearly specifies goals and service objectives; identifies a geographic area to be served; and demonstrates that the area has a significant level of poverty, violent crime, and juvenile delinquency. Applicants must—

(1) Demonstrate a need for assistance and identify existing gaps in services, infrastructure, and opportunities that, if filled, will support the academic and social development of children and youth in the community and reduce crime and violence;

(2) Identify measurable goals and objectives of the proposed project; and

(3) Identify the geographic area to be served, describe the factors that make

the area an identifiable community or neighborhood, and demonstrate that the community is small enough to allow a concentration of resources that will result in an appreciable difference for children, youth, and the community.

(b) *Approach (30 points)*. The Secretary reviews each application to determine the overall quality and appropriateness of its comprehensive plan to improve the academic and social development of at-risk children. The applicant must—

(1) Describe the underlying child and youth development principles that will be employed as a framework for the program and discuss why this framework was chosen and how it will lead to the reduction of crime and violence;

(2) Identify the age groups to be served, explain the reasons for that choice, and indicate the period of time over which children and youth will receive services;

(3) Describe in detail how the applicant will achieve each of the goals and objectives identified in the application and identify any unusual features of the program;

(4) Describe the continuum of services and activities that will be provided and indicate how these services will meet the academic, social, and developmental needs of the participants and reduce crime and violence;

(5) Identify the physical location of the program and demonstrate that the location and services are safe, secure, and accessible to children, youth, and families in terms of days and hours of operation and sensitivity to the population served;

(6) Provide information that demonstrates the extent to which the applicant has attempted to generate local support for the program from community leaders, a school district, local officials, and other organizations that the applicant determines to be appropriate;

(7) Indicate the extent to which a community planning process has occurred and the extent of the planning effort that remains to be accomplished; include information on the process and timing for the phase-in of services and other program components; and information on how the following groups have been or will be included in the planning and implementation of the program—

(i) Children, youth, and family members;

(ii) Local school officials and teachers;

(iii) Business and civic leaders;

(iv) Religious organizations;

(v) Museums, cultural and arts organizations;

(vi) Juvenile justice, law enforcement and community policing representatives;

(vii) Community residents, neighborhood associations and public housing groups;

(viii) Public and private non-profit organizations that provide education, child protective services, or other human services;

(ix) Other appropriate entities such as social service, health and mental health agencies; and a description of barriers to participation and how these barriers will be overcome; and

(8) Identify the applicant's plan for a collaborative structure that trains and coordinates the efforts of administrators, social workers, guidance counselors, parents, teachers, and school volunteers.

(c) *Results or benefits expected* (15 points). The Secretary reviews each application to determine the results and benefits to be derived from the project. The applicant must—

(1) Describe the long- and short-term outcomes of the program and indicate, in measurable terms, appropriate indicators for assessment of program implementation and impact; and

(2) Estimate the number of children and youth that will be served.

(d) *Program evaluation* (15 points). The Secretary considers the quality and thoroughness of the applicant's plan to evaluate the program, including an assessment of the academic and social achievement of children assisted by the program. The applicant must—

(1) Provide assurances that it will cooperate with any data collection, research or evaluation efforts independently funded or sponsored by HHS and/or ED;

(2) Provide an evaluation plan for the project that is thorough, feasible, and appropriate; that includes collection of baseline data and identifies and tracks indicators that will show progress in program implementation and attainment of outcomes, including program planning, collaboration and coordination, and intensity, duration and location of services provided; and that assesses the social and academic achievement of children and youth served; and

(3) Provide information on how the program plans to periodically collect

and maintain data that can be used to report annually to Congress on the number of children participating in the program; the academic and social achievement of such children; the school attendance and graduation rates of such children; and the number of such children being processed by the juvenile justice system.

(e) *Staff background and organizational experience* (20 points). The Secretary reviews each application to determine the skills, experience, and educational background of key personnel the applicant plans to use on the project. The applicant must—

(1) Identify the skills, experience, and educational requirements of key staff and indicate how they are relevant to the objectives of the project; provide résumés of individuals already chosen for positions and identify recruitment strategies that will be used to identify potential staff and volunteers, especially those that will be used to hire staff that reflect or come from the community; and

(2) Demonstrate the staff's ability to effectively manage the project, including the ability to lead community prevention efforts, coordinate activities with schools and other agencies and participate in or develop evaluation activities.

(f) *Budget appropriateness* (10 points). The Secretary reviews each application to determine that the project's costs are reasonable in view of the anticipated results and benefits. The applicant must—

(1) Identify the costs of the proposed project in terms of children, youth, and neighborhoods to be served; include funds in the budget, as appropriate, for training and technical assistance, evaluation, and the cost of up to 3 annual trips to Washington, DC for two people to participate in meetings and conferences;

(2) Describe the fiscal controls and accounting procedures that will ensure prudent use, proper and timely disbursement, and accurate accounting of funds received under this program, including assurance that competitive procedures will be used when purchasing contracting or otherwise providing goods, activities, and services; and

(3) Provide evidence that the applicant can and intends to generate the local financial and in-kind support, service, and commitments required for non-Federal match over the life of the project, including a description of charitable, private and non-profit resources that will be obtained to support the program. (Approved under Office of Management and Budget control number 1810-A158.)

Waiver of Proposed Rulemaking

In accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553), it is the practice of the Department of Education to offer interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed regulations. However, in order to make timely grant awards in fiscal year (FY) 1995, the Assistant Secretary, in accordance with section 437(d)(1) of the General Education Provisions Act, has decided to issue this final notice of eligible community definition, maximum grant award, and selection criteria, which will apply only to the FY 1995 grant competition.

Intergovernmental Review

This program is subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR Part 79. The objective of the Executive order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism by relying on processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

In accordance with the order, this document is intended to provide early notification of the Department's specific plans and actions for this program.

(Authority: 42 U.S.C. 13792, 13793)

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 84.285, Family and Community Endeavor Schools Grant Program)

Dated: February 27, 1995.

Thomas W. Payzant,

Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education.

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