

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.215S]

Fund for the Improvement of Education: Demonstration Programs; (1) Elementary School Counseling Partnerships; (2) Middle School-Workplace-Community Partnerships; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year 1995

Purpose of Program: The purpose of the Fund for the Improvement of Education is to support nationally significant programs to improve the quality of education, assist all students to meet challenging State content standards, and contribute to the achievement of the National Education Goals. The purpose of this competition is to support demonstration projects as a way to address the broader FIE objectives.

Eligible Applicants: State and local educational agencies, institutions of higher education, other public and private agencies, organizations, and institutions may apply for grants under this program.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: April 28, 1995.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: June 27, 1995.

Applications Available: March 14, 1995.

Estimated Available Funds: \$2,000,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$100,000–\$250,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$250,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 8.

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

Maximum Award: The Secretary does not consider an application that proposes a budget exceeding \$250,000 for the first 12-month budget period.

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

Applicable Regulations: The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) 34 CFR Parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, and 86.

Priorities

The notice of final priority for this program is published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**, and is repeated below. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) the Secretary gives an absolute preference to applications that meet one of the following priorities. The Secretary funds under this competition only applications that meet one of the following absolute priorities.

Absolute Priority 1—Elementary School Counseling Partnerships

Applicants must propose activities to develop, implement, and evaluate strategies for supporting elementary school counseling. Projects must include professional development to improve the skills of pupil services personnel and guidance counselors for working with students from diverse populations, and activities promoting school-linked services integration. Projects must involve collaborative efforts among local education agencies, institutions of higher education, businesses, labor organizations, community groups, social service agencies, or other public or private entities to design and carry out the program.

Absolute Priority 2—Middle School-Workplace-Community Partnerships

Applicants must propose activities designed to make school relevant to the workplace and the community for middle school students. Projects must be built upon partnerships developed among middle schools, employers, and the community. Projects must emphasize the integration of high quality academic and vocational learning, stress excellence and high expectations for success in academic subjects, and instill responsibility, decision making, problem solving, interpersonal skills, and other competencies in students.

Selection Criteria: In evaluating applications for grants under this competition, the Secretary uses the selection criteria in 34 CFR 75.210(b). Under 34 CFR 75.210(c), the Secretary is authorized to distribute an additional 15 points among the criteria to bring the total to a maximum of 100 points. For this competition, the Secretary distributes the additional points as follows:

Plan of Operation (34 CFR 75.210(b)(3)). Five additional points are added to this criterion for a possible total of 20 points.

Evaluation Plan (34 CFR 75.210(b)(6)). Ten additional points are added to this criterion for a possible total of 15 points.

Note: Projects requesting funding under this program must be designed so that the effectiveness of the programs, projects and activities that will be conducted is readily ascertainable.

To Request an Application: Voice Mail: 202–219–2053; Facsimile machine: 202–219–1407; Mail: OERI/FIE Application, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20208–5645. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf

(TDD), may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

Information about the Department's funding opportunities, including copies of application notices for discretionary grant competitions, can be viewed on the Department's electronic bulletin board (ED Board), telephone (202) 260–9950; or on the Internet Gopher Server at GOPHER.ED.GOV (under Announcements, Bulletins and Press Releases). However, the official application notice for a discretionary grant competition is the notice published in the **Federal Register**.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 8001.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 84.215S: Fund for the Improvement of Education)

Dated: March 8, 1995.

Sharon P. Robinson,

Assistant Secretary for Research and Improvement.

[FR Doc. 95–6134 Filed 3–10–95; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE)

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of Final Priorities for Fiscal Year (FY) 1995: Demonstration Programs: (1) Elementary School Counseling Partnerships; (2) Middle School-Workplace-Community Partnerships.

SUMMARY: The Secretary announces the final priorities for the FIE Demonstration Programs for Elementary School Counseling Partnerships and Middle School-Workplace-Community Partnerships.

EFFECTIVE DATE: These priorities take effect April 12, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephen O'Brien, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20208–5645. Telephone 202–219–2141. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Fund for the Improvement of Education is to support nationally significant programs to improve the quality of education, assist all students to meet challenging State

content standards, and contribute to the achievement of the National Education Goals. The priorities announced in this notice will support demonstration projects as a way to address the broader FIE objectives.

The Secretary recognizes that successful well-articulated programs that provide for continuous improvement of professional educators and improvement of services to students will require educators to work together across traditionally separated roles and organizations. Therefore, projects must be carried out by partnerships consisting of educational organizations and other public and private sector organizations.

Section 10101(b)(1)(A) of the FIE statute authorizes the Secretary to fund activities that will promote systemic education reform at the State and local levels. The Secretary believes that professional development, not only for teachers, but also for pupil services personnel and guidance counselors, is an essential element of effective systemic reform efforts.

In recent years, school-community-business partnerships have become an effective strategy for school improvement. Many communities have developed effective school and workplace experiences for students at the junior high and high school levels. The Secretary believes that school-workplace-community programs can be equally effective for middle school students, and can help younger students begin to think of the opportunities they will have in the future.

Absolute Priorities

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) the Secretary gives an absolute preference to applications that meet one of the following priorities. The Secretary funds under this competition only

applications that meet one of the following absolute priorities.

Absolute Priority 1—Elementary School Counseling Partnerships

Applicants must propose activities to develop, implement, and evaluate strategies for supporting elementary school counseling. Projects must include professional development to improve the skills of pupil services personnel and guidance counselors for working with students from diverse populations, and activities promoting school-linked services integration. Projects must involve collaborative efforts among local education agencies, institutions of higher education, businesses, labor organizations, community groups, social service agencies, or other public or private entities to design and carry out the program.

Absolute Priority 2—Middle School-Workplace-Community Partnerships

Applicants must propose activities designed to make school relevant to the workplace and the community for middle school students. Projects must be built upon partnerships developed among middle schools, employers, and the community. Projects must emphasize the integration of high quality academic and vocational learning, stress excellence and high expectations for success in academic subjects, instill responsibility, decision making, problem solving, interpersonal skills, and other competencies in students.

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 priorities that are not taken directly from statute. Ordinarily, this practice would have applied to the absolute priority in this notice. However, in order to make timely grant awards in FY 1995, the Assistant Secretary, in accordance with section 437(d)(1) of the General Education Provisions Act, has decided to issue the absolute priority as final requirements that will apply only to the FY 1995 grant competition.

Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs

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.

Note: This action is not an application notice. You may request an application by *Voice mail:* 202-219-2158; *Facsimile machine:* 202-219-1407; *Mail:* OERI/FIE Application, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20208-5644.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 8001. (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 84.215S: Fund for the Improvement of Education)

Dated: March 8, 1995.

Sharon P. Robinson,

Assistant Secretary for Research and Improvement.

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