

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No.: 84.215V]

Fund for the Improvement of Education: Partnerships in Character Education Pilot Project; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year 1995

Purpose of Program: The purpose of the Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE) 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 pilot projects for character education as a way to address the broader FIE objectives.

Eligible Applicants: Only State educational agencies, in partnership with one or more local educational agencies, may apply for grants under this program.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: April 28, 1995.

Applications Available: March 14, 1995.

Estimated Available Funds: \$750,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$200,000–\$250,000.

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

Estimated Number of Awards: 3.

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 48 months.

Supplementary Information: Under the Character Education program, State educational agencies provide technical

and professional assistance to local educational agencies in the development and implementation of curriculum materials, teacher training, and other activities related to character education. Applicants requesting funds under this program must propose projects designed to develop character education programs that incorporate the following elements of character:

- (a) Caring.
- (b) Civic virtue and citizenship.
- (c) Justice and fairness.
- (d) Respect.
- (e) Responsibility.
- (f) Trustworthiness.
- (g) Any other elements deemed

appropriate by the members of the partnership.

Invitational Priority: Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1), the Secretary is particularly interested in projects that will also include additional elements of character identified by the local educational agencies in consultation with the schools and communities that will participate in the project. However, an application that meets this invitational priority does not receive competitive or absolute preference over other applications.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) 34 CFR Parts 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, 85, and 86, and (b) the regulations in 34 CFR Parts 98 and 99.

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. 8003.

Dated: March 8, 1995.

Sharon P. Robinson,

Assistant Secretary for Research and Improvement.

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