

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.168R]

Eisenhower Regional Mathematics and Science Education Consortium; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 1995

Purpose of Program: To award grants to support the establishment and operation of regional mathematics and science consortia.

Eligible Applicants: Private nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, elementary or secondary schools, State or local education agencies, regional educational laboratories in consortium with federally-supported research and development centers established under section 931(c)(1)(B)(i) of the Educational Research, Development, Dissemination, and Improvement Act of 1994 ("Act"), (20 U.S.C. 6031)(c)(1)(B)(i), or any combination of these entities.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: June 16, 1995.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: August 15, 1995.

Applications Available: April 17, 1995.

Available Funds: \$15,000,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$1,000,000–\$1,500,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$1,500,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 10–12.

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

Project Period: Up to 60 months.

Budget Period: 12 months.

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

Supplementary Information: Congress first authorized the establishment of ten regional consortia in 1988 in order to support improvement of mathematics and science education throughout the nation. The purposes of these regional consortia are to coordinate mathematics and science resources within the region, disseminate exemplary mathematics and science educational instructional materials, and provide technical assistance for the implementation of teaching methods and assessment tools for use by elementary and secondary school students, teachers, and administrators. The regional consortia have been reauthorized under the *Improving America's Schools Act of 1994* (20 U.S.C. 8671–8677) to continue this work.

The new legislation stipulates that the regions are the same as those for the

currently-funded regional educational laboratories supported by the Office of Educational Research and Improvement. The statutory list of eligible entities includes: (a) A private nonprofit organization of demonstrated effectiveness; (b) an institution of higher education; (c) an elementary or secondary school; (d) a state or local education agency; (e) a Regional Educational Laboratory in consortium with the Research and Development Center established under Section 931(c)(1)(B)(i) of the Educational Research, Development, Dissemination, and Improvement Act of 1994, or (f) any combination of these entities. All eligible entities shall have demonstrated expertise in mathematics and science education. The project periods for the current research and development centers will expire in early December, 1995. Awards for new research and development centers under Section 931(c)(1)(B)(i) of the Act will not be made when the applicants for the regional consortia submit their proposals for review. Therefore, each Regional Education Laboratory applicant must provide an assurance that it will form a consortium with a research and development center with demonstrated expertise in mathematics or science education if such centers are reestablished under section 931(c)(1)(B)(i).

The Secretary believes that the regional consortia supported through this grant competition should play an important role in coordinating mathematics and science education resources for the States and local education agencies in their regions. In particular, he believes the regional consortia should work cooperatively with other organizations committed to improving mathematics and science education in schools, including those funded by the Department of Education (ED) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). The Secretary believes that cooperative efforts with the Eisenhower National Clearinghouse for Science and Mathematics should be continued and enhanced.

Invitational Priority: Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1), the Secretary is interested in applications that meet the following invitational priority. However, an application that meets this invitational priority does not receive competitive or absolute preference over other applications.

Development and Operation of Regional Consortia to Support Systemic Reform in Mathematics and Science at the Elementary and Secondary Grades

The authorizing statute establishes many activities that the Regional Consortia may undertake. However, the Secretary believes that the consortia should focus their activities to achieve maximum impact. The Secretary therefore urges the applicants to focus on the following activities:

(A) Collaborate with others within the region involved in systemic reform of mathematics and science education.

(B) Develop a plan that establishes priorities for what services will be provided by the consortium to schools and teachers in each state in the region, including criteria the consortium will use to determine who receives direct services from the regional consortium.

(C) Provide training and assistance to classroom teachers, administrators, and other educators to enable them to instruct other teachers, administrators, and educators, particularly those working with at-risk students, in the use of instructional materials, teaching methods and assessment tools for mathematics and science education that will help students achieve challenging State content and student performance standards. This should include assistance in using new forms of technology, including on-line electronic systems, in schools and classrooms.

(D) Promote the increased use of informal education entities (such as science technology centers, museums, libraries, Saturday academies, and 4H programs) to expand student knowledge and understanding of mathematics and science.

(E) Collaborate with the Eisenhower National Clearinghouse for Mathematics and Science Education in identifying instructional resources for inclusion in the Clearinghouse data base and disseminating information about that data base, and by providing feedback to the Clearinghouse on the quality and effectiveness of its products and operations.

(F) Collect data on consortium activities, especially data on outcomes and impact, that will be useful in evaluating the effectiveness of these activities.

Selection Criteria: The Secretary evaluates an application on the basis of selection criteria under 34 CFR 75.210. 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 the purpose of this competition, the Secretary will distribute the additional points as follows:

Plan of Operation. (34 CFR 75.210(b)(3)). Ten (10) additional points will be added for a possible total of 25 points for this criterion.

Evaluation Plan. (34 CFR

75.210(b)(6)). Five (5) additional points will be added for a possible total of 10 points for this criterion.

For Applications or Information

Contact: Liz Barnes at (202) 219-2210 or Jim Clemmens at (202) 219-2068, or fax (202) 219-2106, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW., Room 500, Washington, DC

20208-5572. 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. 8671-8677.

Dated: April 5, 1995.

Sharon P. Robinson,

Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement.

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