

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.287]

21st Century Community Learning Centers; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year 1995

Purpose of Program: To award grants to rural and inner-city public elementary or secondary schools, or consortia of such schools, to enable such schools to plan, implement, or to expand projects that benefit the educational, health, social service, cultural, and recreational needs of a rural or inner-city community.

Eligible Applicants: Rural and inner-city public elementary or secondary schools, or consortia of such schools. In accordance with the absolute priority published elsewhere in this part of this issue of the **Federal Register**, eligible applicants are limited to schools located in an Empowerment Zone or a Supplemental Empowerment Zone.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: July 25, 1995.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: September 23, 1995.

Applications Available: June 12, 1995.

Estimated Available Funds: \$700,000.
Estimated Range of Awards: \$75,000–\$150,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$100,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 7.

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

Budget Period: 12 months.

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

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

Priorities: Eligible applicants are limited for this competition by the Absolute Priority published elsewhere in this part of this issue of the **Federal Register**. Applicants must also address the following absolute priority.

Absolute Priority: Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) and 20 U.S.C. 8244(b), the Secretary gives an absolute preference to applications that meet the following priority. The Secretary funds under this competition only applications that meet the following absolute priority and the priority found elsewhere in this part of this issue of the **Federal Register**.

Absolute Priority: Projects that offer a broad selection of services that address the needs of the community.

Grants awarded may be used to plan, implement, or expand community learning centers which must include not less than four of the following activities:

- (1) Literacy education programs.

- (2) Senior citizen programs.
- (3) Children's day care services.
- (4) Integrated education, health, social service, recreational, or cultural programs.

- (5) Summer and weekend school programs in conjunction with recreation programs.

- (6) Nutrition and health programs.

- (7) Expanded library service hours to serve community needs.

- (8) Telecommunications and technology education programs for individuals of all ages.

- (9) Parenting skills education programs.

- (10) Support and training for child day care providers.

- (11) Employment counseling, training, and placement.

- (12) Services for individuals who leave school before graduating from secondary school, regardless of the age of such individual.

- (13) Services for individuals with disabilities.

Application Requirements

Each application must include—

- (a) A comprehensive local plan that enables the school or consortium to serve as a center for the delivery of education and human resources for members of a community;

- (b) An evaluation of the needs, available resources, and goals and objectives for the proposed project in order to determine which activities will be undertaken to address such needs; and

- (c) A description of the proposed project, including—

- (1) A description of the mechanism that will be used to disseminate information in a manner that is understandable and accessible to the community;

- (2) Identification of Federal, State, and local programs to be merged or coordinated so that public resources may be maximized;

- (3) A description of the collaborative efforts to be undertaken by community-based organizations, related public agencies, businesses, or other appropriate organizations;

- (4) A description of how the school or consortium will serve as a delivery center for existing and new services, especially for interactive telecommunication used for education and professional training; and

- (5) An assurance that the school or consortium will establish a facility utilization policy that specifically states—

- (I) The rules and regulations applicable to building and equipment use; and (II) supervision guidelines.

Definition

20 U.S.C. 8246 defines the term "community learning center" as an entity within a public elementary or secondary school building that—

- (a) Provides educational, recreational, health, and social service programs for residents of all ages within a local community; and

- (b) Is operated by a local educational agency in conjunction with local governmental agencies, businesses, vocational education programs, institutions of higher education, community colleges, and cultural, recreational, and other community and human service entities.

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 competition for a possible total of 15 points.

For Applications or Information

Contact: Seresa Simpson, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW., Room 522, Washington, DC 20208-5524. Telephone (202) 219-1935.

For Users of TDD or FIRS: 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.

For Electronic Access to Information: 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. 8241-8246.

Dated: June 6, 1995.

Sharon P. Robinson,

Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement.

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21st Century Community Learning Centers

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of Final Priority for FY 1995.

SUMMARY: The Secretary announces a priority for Fiscal Year 1995 under the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program. The Secretary takes this action to focus Federal financial assistance in areas of the country identified as areas of pervasive poverty, unemployment and general distress. The priority restricts the funds available under the 21st Century Program to applicants that are located in Empowerment Zones or Supplemental Empowerment Zones.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This priority takes effect July 10, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Seresa Simpson, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Room 522, Washington, DC 20208-5524. Telephone (202) 219-1935.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice contains one final priority under the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program. The purpose of this program is to award grants to rural and inner-city public elementary or secondary schools, or consortia of such schools, to enable them to plan, implement, or to expand projects that benefit the educational, health, social service, cultural, and recreational needs of a rural or inner-city community.

Background on Empowerment Zone Initiative

The Empowerment Zone initiative is a critical element of the Administration's community revitalization strategy. The program is the first step in rebuilding communities in America's poverty-stricken inner cities and rural heartlands. It is designed to empower people and communities by inspiring Americans to work together to create jobs and opportunity.

The Departments of Agriculture and Housing and Urban Development have

designated 6 urban and 3 rural empowerment zones and two supplemental urban empowerment zones. These urban zones are located within the following cities: Atlanta, Georgia; Baltimore, Maryland; Chicago, Illinois; Cleveland, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; Los Angeles, California; New York, New York; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania/Camden, New Jersey. The rural zones are located in the following states and counties: Kentucky (Clinton, Jackson and Wayne Counties); Mississippi (Bolivar, Holmes, Humphreys, and LeFlore Counties); and Texas (Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy Counties).

The Empowerment Zones and Supplemental Empowerment Zones were designated based on locally-developed strategic plans that comprehensively address how the community will link economic development with education and training, as well as how community development, public safety, human services, and environmental initiatives will together support sustainable communities. Designated areas will receive Federal grant funds and substantial tax benefits and will have access to other Federal programs. (For additional information on the Empowerment Zones program contact HUD at 1-800-998-9999.)

The Department of Education is supporting the Empowerment Zone initiative in a variety of ways. It is encouraging zones to use funds they already receive from Department of Education programs (including Chapter 1 of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, the Adult Education Act, and the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act) to support the comprehensive vision of their strategic plans. In addition, the Department of Education is giving preferences to zones in a number of discretionary grant programs that are well suited for inclusion in a comprehensive approach to economic and community development.

The Empowerment Zone initiative and the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program share some common features. Both programs are concerned with helping communities that have areas with high poverty rates address educational, health, social service, cultural, and recreational needs. Communities that have been designated as Empowerment Zones or Supplemental Empowerment Zones have demonstrated a capacity for the type of cooperative planning that is required to implement a 21st Century

Community Learning Center. The Secretary believes that the limited resources available under the 21st Century Program will have the greatest impact if the funds are directed to communities that have the greatest need and have already established comprehensive community development plans. Therefore, the Secretary establishes the following absolute priority to focus Federal funds on 21st Century projects that will address the needs of Empowerment Zones or Supplemental Empowerment Zones.

Absolute Priority: Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), the Secretary gives an absolute preference to applications that meet the following priority. The Secretary funds under this competition only applications that meet the following absolute priority:

Projects that offer a broad selection of services that address the needs of the community. Grants may be used to plan, implement, or expand community learning centers and projects must be carried out by a school or consortia of schools located in an Empowerment Zone or Supplemental Empowerment Zone.

Applicants must ensure that the proposed program relates to the strategic plan and will be an integral part of the Empowerment Zone program.

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 these final priorities 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.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 8241-8246.