

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No.: 84.999G]

**The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Program Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year 1995**

*Purpose of Program:* To conduct scoring, analysis, and reporting for the national and State components of NAEP in 1996 and 1998; to conduct scoring, analysis, and reporting for the national assessment in 1997; and to develop the assessment instruments for the national and State components of the 1998 assessment. It is anticipated that the 1996 NAEP will be conducted at the national level in reading, mathematics, and science in grades 4, 8 and 12 and at the State level in mathematics and science in grades 4 and 8. The 1997 NAEP will be a national assessment of the arts (dance, theater, music, visual arts) conducted in grade 8 only, with a smaller than normal sample of students. (However, increases in the scope of the arts assessment are possible.) It is anticipated that the 1998 NAEP will assess reading, writing, and civics at the national level, and reading and writing at the State level in grades 4, 8, and 12. NAEP supports the National Education Goals by providing measures of progress toward student competency over challenging subject matter.

*Eligible Applicants:* Public, private, for-profit, and non-profit institutions, agencies, and other qualified organizations or consortia of such institutions, agencies, and organizations.

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* July 24, 1995.

*Applications Available:* June 15, 1995.

*Available Funds:* The Department estimates that about \$1,000,000 can be made available in fiscal year 1995 for this project.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 1.

*Project Period:* Up to 60 months.

*Applicable Regulations:* (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) 34 CFR Parts 74, 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, 85, 86; and (b) The regulations in 34 CFR Part 98 (Students Rights in Research, Experimental Activities, and Testing).

*Supplementary Information:* The National Assessment of Educational Progress is authorized by Section 411 of the National Education Statistics Act of 1994, Title IV of the Improving America's Schools Act (20 U.S.C. 9010). Section 412 (20 U.S.C. § 9011) of this law provides for the establishment of the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB). The law requires NAGB, among other responsibilities, to formulate the policy guidelines for the National Assessment and select the subject areas to be assessed. Copies of these guidelines are available from the Department. One cooperative agreement is currently in effect to develop, field test, revise, and prepare for the national and State components of NAEP in 1996. There was a separate announcement for the collection of data from the 1996, 1997, and 1998 assessments. This notice is limited to seeking applications for scoring, analysis and reporting activities in connection with the 1996, 1997, and 1998 NAEP assessments, as well as development activities for the 1998 assessment.

**Priorities**

*Absolute Priority:* Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) and 20 U.S.C. 9010-9011, the Secretary gives an absolute preference to applications that meet the following priority. The Secretary, under 20 U.S.C. 9010-9011, funds under this competition only applications that meet this absolute priority:

*Scoring, analysis and reporting of data for the national and State components of the 1996 and 1998 assessments, scoring, analysis and reporting of the national assessment in 1997, and developing instruments for the 1998 assessment.*

The grantee must perform these activities in accordance with guidelines developed by the NAGB.

*Selection Criteria:* Applications are evaluated according to the selection criteria in 34 CFR 75.210. Under 34 CFR 75.210(c), the Secretary is authorized to distribute an additional 15 points among the selection criteria to bring the total possible points 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)). Fifteen (15) additional points will be added for a possible total of 30 points for this criterion.

*For Applications or Information Contact:* Steven Gorman, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW., Room 402g, Washington, DC 20208-5653. Telephone: (202) 219-1761. 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. 9010, 9011.

Dated: June 9, 1995.

**Sharon P. Robinson,**

*Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement.*

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