

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**[CFDA No. 84.116J]****Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education—Special Focus Competition: Higher Education Collaboration Between the United States and the European Community; Notice Inviting Application for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 1997**

Purpose of Program: To provide grants to enter into cooperative agreements to improve postsecondary education opportunities by focusing on problem areas or improvement approaches in postsecondary education.

Eligible Applicants: Institutions of higher education or combinations of such institutions and other public and private nonprofit educational institutions and agencies.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: May 16, 1997.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: July 15, 1997.

Applications Available: January 30, 1997.

Available Funds: \$1,150,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$100,000–\$175,000 for three years.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$160,000 for three years.

Estimated Number of Awards: 5–10.

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

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR Parts 74, 75 [except as noted in 34 CFR 630.4(a)(2)], 77, 79, 82, 85, and 86; and (b) the regulations for this program in 34 CFR Part 630.

Priority

Invitational Priority

Under 34 CFR 630.11(b)(1), the Secretary is particularly interested in applications that meet the invitational priority in the next paragraph. However, an application that meets this invitational priority does not receive competitive or absolute preference over other applications (34 CFR 75.105(c)(1)).

Invitational Priority: Projects that support consortia of institutions of higher education that promote institutional cooperation and student mobility between the United States and the member states of the European Union.

Selection Criteria

In evaluating applications for grants under this program competition, the Secretary uses the following selection

criteria chosen from those listed in 34 CFR 630.32:

(a) *Significance for Postsecondary Education.* The Secretary reviews each proposed project for its significance in improving postsecondary education by determining the extent to which it would—

(1) Achieve the purposes of the particular program competition as referenced in 34 CFR 630.11(b)(1);

(2) Address the program priorities for the particular program competition;

(A) Encourage cooperation by consortia of American and European universities in the coordination of curricula, the exchange of students, and the opening of educational opportunities on the two continents; and

(B) Encourage cooperation by consortia of American and European universities in instilling in their respective student bodies greater familiarity with the languages and cultures of the other continent;

(3) Address an important problem or need;

(4) Represent an improvement upon, or important departure from, existing practice;

(5) Involve learner-centered improvements;

(6) Achieve far-reaching impact through improvements that will be useful in a variety of ways and in a variety of settings; and

(7) Increase the cost-effectiveness of services.

(b) *Feasibility.* The Secretary reviews each proposed project for its feasibility by determining the extent to which—

(1) The proposed project represents an appropriate response to the problem or need addressed;

(2) The applicant is capable of carrying out the proposed project, as evidenced by, for example—

(i) The applicant's understanding of the problem or need;

(ii) The quality of the project design, including objectives, approaches, and evaluation plan;

(iii) The adequacy of resources, including money personnel, facilities, equipment, and supplies;

(iv) The qualifications of key personnel who would conduct the project; and

(v) The applicant's relevant prior experience;

(3) The applicant and any other participating organizations are committed to the success of the proposed project, as evidenced by, for example—

(i) Contribution of resources by the applicant and by participating organizations;

(ii) Their prior work in the area; and
(iii) The potential for continuation of the proposed project beyond the period of funding (unless the project would be self-terminating); and

(4) The proposed project demonstrates potential for dissemination to or adaptation by other organizations, and shows evidence of interest by potential users.

(c) *Appropriateness of funding projects.* The Secretary reviews each application to determine whether support of the proposed project by the Secretary is appropriate in terms of availability of other funding sources for the proposed activities.

Methods for Applying Selection Criteria

In accordance with 34 CFR 630.32 the Secretary announces the methods that will be used in applying the selection criteria.

The Secretary gives equal weight to the selection criteria on significance, feasibility, and appropriateness. Within each of these criteria, the Secretary gives equal weight to each of the subcriteria listed under the selection criteria section of this notice. In applying the criteria, the Secretary first analyzes an application in terms of each individual criterion and subcriterion. The Secretary then bases the final judgement of an application on an overall assessment of the degree to which the applicant addresses all selection criteria.

FOR APPLICATIONS OR INFORMATION

CONTACT: Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 3100, ROB-3, Washington, D.C. 20202-5175; telephone: (202) 708-5750 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday. Individuals may request applications by submitting the name of the competition, their name, and postal mailing address to the e-mail address (FIPSE@ED.GOV). Individuals may obtain the application text from Internet address (<http://www.ed.gov/prog-info/FIPSE/>). 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; on the Internet Gopher Server (at gopher://gcs.ed.gov); or on the World Wide Web (at <http://gcs.ed.gov>). However, the official application notice

for a discretionary grant competition is the notice published in the Federal Register.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1135-1135a-3.

Dated: January 23, 1997.

David A. Longanecker,
Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

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