

of the poverty level, respectively. Therefore, the Reduced Lunch program has a higher income threshold than the Upward Bound program and would not be useful for targeting the lowest income students. The Secretary believes that limiting supplemental funds to projects that serve target high schools with 50 percent or higher of the students in the Free Lunch program is a good way to measure whether projects serve the lowest income students. The Free Lunch program is limited to students from families with the lowest family income.

Rationale for the Priority

Comments: One commenter questioned the need for the priority. The commenter recommended allocating the funds to all existing Upward Bound projects to support student stipends, work study components, increase staff, and support technology skills.

Discussion: The priority is designed to increase the number of the neediest students participating in the Upward Bound program.

Changes: None.

Cost Per Participant

Comments: One commenter questioned if additional students would be funded at the current per student participant rate, since costs vary among projects.

Discussion: The priority is designed to serve up to 20 additional students at a cost of up to \$85,600. Since the priority is geared to serving the neediest students, costs may be higher than the current per student participant rate. This would be determined by the types of additional services and activities to be provided.

Changes: None.

Participation of Target High Schools

Comments: One commenter questioned whether students enrolled in target high schools, that were included in a grantee's initial application but that are not currently being served, can receive services under this supplemental initiative.

Discussion: Yes, a student enrolled in any target high school included in the grantee's Upward Bound application, that was submitted on or before October 30, 1998 would be eligible to participate.

Changes: None.

Page Limitations

Comments: One commenter questioned the existence of a page limit for the narrative that accompanies the revised budget.

Discussion: The priority provides for supplemental funding to expand the

current projects. Therefore, only a brief narrative is needed to describe the activities to be provided with the additional funding.

Changes: None.

Support for the Priority

Comments: Three commenters expressed support of the priority.

Discussion: No changes were recommended.

Changes: None.

Priority

Absolute Priority

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

A project funded under this priority must serve a target high school in which at least 50 percent of the students were eligible for the Free Lunch program during the 1998–1999 school year.

Invitational Priority

Within the absolute priority specified in this notice, the Secretary is particularly interested in applications that meet the following invitational priority. However, under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1) an application that meets this invitational priority does not receive competitive preference over other applications.

The Secretary strongly encourages projects that receive supplemental funds to enhance their recruitment strategies and services to target high schools to select and serve students who are at greatest risk of not graduating from high school or pursuing postsecondary education.

Intergovernmental Review

This program is subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. One of the objectives of the Executive order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism. The Executive order relies on processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

This document provides early notification of our specific plans and action for the program.

Applicable Program Regulations

34 CFR part 645

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Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070.

Dated: July 17, 2000.

A. Lee Fritschler,

Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education.

[FR Doc. 00–18590 Filed 7–21–00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No: 84.047A]

Office of Postsecondary Education, Upward Bound Program Participant Expansion Initiative Notice Inviting Applications for Supplemental Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2000

Purpose of Program: The Upward Bound Program Participant Expansion Initiative is designed to increase the number of the neediest eligible students in the Upward Bound program.

Eligible Applicants: All currently funded Upward Bound projects. Veteran Upward Bound projects and Upward Bound Math/Science projects are not eligible to participate.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: August 28, 2000.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: September 12, 2000.

Applications Available: July 26, 2000.

Available Funds: \$13,500,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: Up to \$85,600.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$76,270.

Estimated Number of Awards: 157–177.

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

Project Period: Up to 36 months for current 4-year grantees; up to 48 months for current 5-year grantees.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General

Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 82, 85, 86, 97, 98, and 99; and (b) the regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 645.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Only proposals that meet the absolute priority will be funded. If more applications that meet the absolute priority are received than can be funded under the Upward Bound Program Participant Expansion Initiative, the Secretary will fund those applicants that received the highest average peer review scores during the FY 1999 Upward Bound competition. For the purposes of this initiative, the Secretary will not consider prior experience points.

Applicants for supplemental awards must submit an application that contains:

- A certification by the Upward Bound project director that at least one target high school meets the absolute priority;
- The number of additional students, not to exceed 20, that the project plans to serve;
- A revised budget; and
- A brief narrative describing how the supplemental funds will be used.

Priorities

Absolute Priority: Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), the Secretary gives an absolute preference to applications that meet the following priority, which is published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**. The Secretary funds only applications that meet this absolute priority:

A project funded under this priority must serve a target high school in which

at least 50 percent of the students were eligible for the Free Lunch Program during the 1998–99 school year.

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

The Secretary strongly encourages projects that receive supplemental funds to enhance their recruitment strategies and services to target high schools to select and serve students who are at greatest risk of not graduating from high school or pursuing postsecondary education.

FOR APPLICATIONS OR INFORMATION

CONTACT: Peggy Whitehead, Sheryl Wilson, or Gaby Watts, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW, Room 7020, Washington, DC 20006–8510. Telephone (202) 502–7600. The email address for The Office of Federal TRIO Programs is: Trio@ed.gov. The email addresses for Ms. Whitehead, Ms. Wilson and Ms. Watts are: Peggy_Whitehead@ed.gov, Sheryl_Wilson@ed.gov, Gaby_Watts@ed.gov

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A. Lee Fritschler,

Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education.

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