

and reference these and other requirements in the Applicable Regulations section of this notice.

We reference the regulations outlining the terms and conditions of an award in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice and include these and other specific conditions in the GAN. The GAN also incorporates your approved application as part of your binding commitments under the grant.

3. *Reporting*: There are reporting requirements under this program, including under section 5505(a) of the ESEA and 34 CFR 75.590 and 75.720. In accordance with section 5505(a) of the ESEA, grantees under this program are required to submit an annual report that: (1) Describes the activities conducted during the preceding year; and (2) demonstrates that progress has been made toward meeting State standards for physical education. In accordance with 34 CFR 75.590, grantees must submit an annual performance report that evaluates:

a. Progress in achieving the objectives in the approved application;

b. The effectiveness of the project in meeting the purposes of the program; and

c. The effect of the project on participants served by the project.

The annual performance report must address these reporting requirements and progress toward meeting the following performance measures established by the Secretary for this program.

In addition, at the end of the project period, a final performance and financial report must be submitted as specified by the Secretary in 34 CFR 75.720.

4. *Performance Measures*: The Secretary has established the following key performance measures for assessing the effectiveness of the Carol M. White Physical Education Program:

a. The number and percentage of students served by the grant actively participating in physical education activities will increase; and

b. The number and percentage of students served by the grant who make progress toward meeting State standards for physical education will increase.

These two measures constitute the Department's indicators of success for this program. Consequently, applicants for a grant under this program are advised to give careful consideration to these two outcomes in conceptualizing the design, implementation, and evaluation of their proposed project. If funded, applicants will be asked to collect and report data in their annual performance reports about progress toward these goals. The Secretary will

also use this information to respond to reporting requirements concerning this program established in Section 5421(f) of the ESEA.

VII. Agency Contacts

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ann Weinheimer or Pat Rattler, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 3E-330, Washington, DC 20202-6450. Telephone: (202) 260-5939 or by e-mail: Ann.Weinheimer@ed.gov or Pat.Rattler@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the program contact persons listed in this section.

VIII. Other Information

Electronic Access to This Document: You may view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/news/fedregister>.

To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free, at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC, area at (202) 512-1530.

Note: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html>.

Dated: January 30, 2004.

William Modzeleski,

Associate Deputy Under Secretary, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools.

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BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement, and Academic Achievement for Limited English Proficient Students: Overview Information; National Professional Development Program; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.195N.

DATES: *Applications Available:* February 4, 2004.

Deadline for Notice of Intent to Apply: February 19, 2004.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: March 5, 2004.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: May 4, 2004.

Eligible Applicants: Institutions of higher education in consortia with State educational agencies or local educational agencies.

Estimated Available Funds: 3,100,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$100,000-\$150,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$125,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 25.

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

Project Period: Up to 60 months.

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose of Program: The purpose of the National Professional Development Program is to provide for professional development activities that will improve classroom instruction for limited English proficient (LEP) children and assist educational personnel working with such children to meet high professional standards, including standards for certification and licensure as teachers who work in language instruction education programs or serve LEP children.

Priorities: Under this competition we are particularly interested in applications that address the following priorities.

Invitational Priorities: For FY 2004 these priorities are invitational priorities. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1) we do not give an application that meets these invitational priorities a competitive or absolute preference over other applications.

These priorities are:

Invitational Priority 1. Applications that propose to prepare teachers to involve parents and community groups in school improvement.

Invitational Priority 2. Applications that propose professional development that is designed to prepare regular classroom teachers in curricula, instructional strategies, and assessment of LEP students and that is aligned with State academic content standards, academic achievement standards, and English language proficiency standards.

Invitational Priority 3. Applications that propose professional development that is designed to prepare non-instructional staff, such as counselors

and administrators to meet the needs of LEP students.

Invitational Priority 4. Applications that propose to prepare participants with proficiency in a language other than English and high academic achievement to teach in dual language programs, including providing professional development to ensure that participants meet the Highly Qualified Teacher requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) and that they are prepared to provide challenging content in languages of instruction.

Invitational Priority 5. Applications that propose to develop or improve teacher preparation curricula and materials for all teachers to better reflect the needs of LEP students, and which may include professional development to improve the knowledge and skills of higher education faculty.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 6861.

Applicable Regulations: The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, 97, and 99.

Note: The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to institutions of higher education only.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Discretionary grants.

Estimated Available Funds: 3,100,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$100,000–\$150,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$125,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 25.

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

Project Period: Up to 60 months.

III. Eligibility Information

1. **Eligible Applicants:** Institutions of higher education in consortia with State educational agencies or local educational agencies.

2. **Cost Sharing or Matching:** This program does not involve cost sharing or matching.

IV. Application and Submission Information

1. **Address to Request Application Package:** Patrice Swann, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave, SW., room 5626, Washington, DC 20202–6510. Telephone: (202) 205–8966, or by e-mail: patrice.swann@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain a copy of the application package in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) by contacting the program contact person listed in this section.

2. **Content and Form of Application Submission:** Requirements concerning the content of an application, together with the forms you must submit, are in the application package for this program.

Notice of Intent to Apply: If you intend to apply for a grant under this competition, contact Robert Trifiletti: Telephone: (202) 205–5712 or by e-mail: robert.trifiletti@ed.gov.

Page Limit: The application narrative (Part III of the application) is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. You must limit Part III to the equivalent of no more than 35 pages using the following standards.

- A “page” is 8.5” × 11”, on one side only, with 1” margins at the top, bottom, and both sides.

- Double space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.

- Use a font that is either 12 point or larger or no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch).

The page limit does not apply to Part I, the cover sheet; Part II, the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; Part IV, the assurances and certifications; or the one page abstract. However, you must include all of the application narrative in Part III.

We will reject your application if—

- You apply these standards and exceed the page limit; or
- You apply other standards and exceed the equivalent of the page limit.

3. **Submission Dates and Times:**

Applications Available: February 4, 2004.

Deadline for Notice of Intent to Apply: February 19, 2004.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: March 5, 2004.

The dates and times for the transmittal of applications by mail or by hand (including a courier service or commercial carrier) are in the application package for this program. The application package also specifies the hours of operation of the e-Application Web site.

We do not consider an application that does not comply with the deadline requirements. However, we will consider an application, submitted by the deadline date for submission of

applications, even if the applicant did not provide us notice of its intent to apply by the deadline date specified above.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: May 4, 2004.

4. **Intergovernmental Review:** This program is subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. Information about Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs under Executive Order 12372 is in the application package for this program.

5. **Funding Restrictions:** We reference regulations outlining funding restrictions in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice.

6. **Other Submission Requirements:** Instructions and requirements for the transmittal of applications by mail or by hand (including a courier service or commercial carrier) are in the application package for this program.

Application Procedures:

Note: Some of the procedures in these instructions for transmitting applications differ from those in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) (34 CFR 75.102). Under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553) the Department generally offers interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed regulations. However, these amendments make procedural changes only and do not establish new substantive policy. Therefore, under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(A), the Secretary has determined that proposed rulemaking is not required.

Pilot Project for Electronic Submittal of Applications: We are continuing to expand our pilot project for electronic submission of applications to include additional formula grant programs and additional discretionary grant competitions. The National Professional Development Program—CFDA Number 84.195N is one of the programs included in the pilot project. If you are an applicant under the National Professional Development Program, you may submit your application to us in either electronic or paper format.

The pilot project involves the use of the Electronic Grant Applications System (e-Application). If you use e-Application, you will be entering data online while completing your application. You may not e-mail an electronic copy of a grant application to us. If you participate in this voluntary pilot project by submitting an application electronically, the data you enter online will be saved into a database. We request your participation in e-Application. We shall continue to evaluate its success and solicit suggestions for its improvement.

If you participate in e-Application, please note the following:

- Your participation is voluntary.
- When you enter the e-Application system, you will find information about its hours of operation. We strongly recommend that you do not wait until the application deadline date to initiate an e-Application package.

- You will not receive additional point value because you submit a grant application in electronic format, nor will we penalize you if you submit an application in paper format.

- You may submit all documents electronically, including the Application for Federal Education Assistance (ED 424), Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs (ED 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications.

- Your e-Application must comply with any page limit requirements described in this notice.

- After you electronically submit your application you will receive an automatic acknowledgement, which will include a PR/Award number (an identifying number unique to your application).

- Within three working days after submitting your electronic application, fax a signed copy of the Application for Federal Education Assistance (ED 424) to the Application Control Center after following these steps:

1. Print ED 424 from e-Application.
2. The institution's Authorizing Representative must sign this form.
3. Place the PR/Award number in the upper right hand corner of the hard copy signature page of the ED 424.
4. Fax the signed ED 424 to the Application Control Center at (202) 260-1349.

- We may request that you give us original signatures on other forms at a later date.

Application Deadline Date Extension in Case of System Unavailability: If you elect to participate in the e-Application pilot for the National Professional Development Program and you are prevented from submitting your application on the application deadline date because the e-Application system is unavailable, we will grant you an extension of one business day in order to transmit your application electronically, by mail, or by hand delivery. We will grant this extension if—

1. You are a registered user of e-Application, and you have initiated an e-Application for this competition; and
2. (a) The e-Application system is unavailable for 60 minutes between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date; or

(b) The e-Application system is unavailable for any period of time during the last hour of operation (that is, for any period of time between 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time) on the application deadline date.

We must acknowledge and confirm these periods of unavailability before granting you an extension. To request this extension or to confirm our acknowledgement of any system unavailability, you may contact either (1) the person listed elsewhere in this notice under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** (see VII. Agency Contact) or (2) the e-GRANTS help desk at 1-888-336-8930.

You may access the electronic grant application for the National Professional Development Program at: <http://e-grants.ed.gov>.

V. Application Review Information

Selection Criteria: The selection criteria for this program are as follows:

(a) *Need for project.* (10 points)

The Secretary considers the need for the proposed project. In determining the need for the proposed project, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:

(1) The magnitude of the need for the services to be provided or the activities to be carried out by the proposed project.

(2) The extent to which the proposed project will prepare personnel for fields in which shortages have been demonstrated.

(b) *Quality of the project design.* (30 points)

The Secretary considers the quality of the design of the proposed project. In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:

(1) The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the proposed project are clearly specified and measurable.

(2) The extent to which the design of the proposed project is appropriate to, and will successfully address, the needs of the target population or other identified needs.

(3) The extent to which the proposed project is designed to build capacity and yield results that will extend beyond the period of Federal financial assistance.

(4) The extent to which the proposed project is part of a comprehensive effort to improve teaching and learning and support rigorous academic standards for students.

(c) *Quality of project services.* (20 points)

The Secretary considers the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project. In determining the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project, the Secretary considers the quality and sufficiency of strategies for ensuring equal access and treatment for eligible project participants who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability. In addition, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:

(1) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project reflect up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice.

(2) The extent to which the training or professional development services to be provided by the proposed project are of sufficient quality, intensity, and duration to lead to improvements in practice among the recipients of those services.

(3) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project involve the collaboration of appropriate partners for maximizing the effectiveness of project services.

(d) *Quality of project personnel.* (10 points)

The Secretary considers the quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project. In determining the quality of project personnel, the Secretary considers the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability. In addition, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:

(1) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of the project director or principal investigator.

(2) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel.

(e) *Quality of the management plan.* (10 points)

The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project. In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:

(1) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.

(2) The extent to which the time commitments of the project director and principal investigator and other key project personnel are appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives of the proposed project.

(3) How the applicant will ensure that a diversity of perspectives are brought to bear in the operation of the proposed project, including those of parents, teachers, the business community, a variety of disciplinary and professional fields, recipients or beneficiaries of services, or others, as appropriate.

(f) *Quality of the project evaluation.* (20 points)

The Secretary considers the quality of the evaluation to be conducted of the proposed project. In determining the quality of the evaluation, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:

(1) The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the proposed project.

(2) The extent to which the methods of evaluation provide for examining the effectiveness of project implementation strategies.

(3) The extent to which the methods of evaluation include the use of objective performance measures that are clearly related to the intended outcomes of the project and will produce quantitative and qualitative data to the extent possible.

(4) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes.

VI. Award Administration Information

1. *Award Notices:* If your application is successful, we notify your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators and send you a Grant Award Notification (GAN). We may also notify you informally.

If your application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we notify you.

2. *Administrative and National Policy Requirements:* We identify administrative and national policy requirements in the application package and reference these and other requirements in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice.

We reference the regulations outlining the terms and conditions of an award in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice and include these and other specific conditions in the GAN. The GAN also incorporates your approved application as part of your binding commitments under the grant.

3. *Reporting:* At the end of your project period, you must submit a final

performance report, including financial information, as directed by the Secretary. If you receive a multi-year award, you must submit an annual performance report that provides the most current performance and financial expenditure information as specified by the Secretary in 34 CFR 75.118.

4. *Performance Measures:* Performance measures for the National Professional Development Program are:

1. Program improvement related to K-12 state standards, scientifically based research practices, or development of subject area competence.
2. Effectiveness of graduates/completers in the instructional setting.
3. The rate of placement of graduates in an instructional setting serving LEP students, within one year of graduation.
4. The percentage of program completers who are highly qualified teachers as defined in the NCLB's Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements.

Grantees will be expected to report on progress in meeting the performance measures for the National Professional Development Program in their Annual Performance Report and in their Final Performance Report.

VII. Agency Contact

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Samuel Lopez, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Switzer Building, room 5605, Washington, DC 20202-6510. Telephone: (202) 401-1427, or by e-mail: Samuel.Lopez@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the program contact person listed in this section.

VIII. OTHER INFORMATION

Electronic Access to This Document: You may view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/news/fedregister>.

To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free, at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC area at (202) 512-1530.

Note: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code

of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html>.

Dated: January 30, 2004.

Maria H. Ferrier,

Deputy Under Secretary and Director for English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement, and Academic Achievement for Limited English Proficient Students.

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BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

RIN 1820 ZA26

National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research

AGENCY: Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of proposed priorities.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services proposes priorities under the Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTC) Program for the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). The Assistant Secretary may use one or more of these priorities for competitions in fiscal year (FY) 2004 and later years. We take this action to focus research attention on areas of national need. We intend these priorities to improve employment-related rehabilitation services and outcomes for individuals with disabilities.

DATES: We must receive your comments on or before March 5, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments about these proposed priorities to Donna Nangle, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 3412, Switzer Building, Washington, DC 20202-2645. If you prefer to send your comments through the Internet, use the following address: donna.nangle@ed.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Donna Nangle. Telephone: (202) 205-5880.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the TDD number at (202) 205-4475 or via the Internet: donna.nangle@ed.gov.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: