DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education; Overview Information; Gulf Coast Recovery Grant Initiative; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.215C.


Full Text of Announcement
I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose of Program: The purpose of the Gulf Coast Recovery Grant Initiative is to assist local educational agencies (LEAs) in improving education in areas affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Ike, or Gustav.

Priority: We are establishing this priority for the FY 2010 grant competition only, in accordance with section 437(d)(1) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA), 20 U.S.C. 1232(d)(1).

Competitive Preference Priority: This priority is a competitive preference priority. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i), we award an additional 5 points to an application that meets this priority.

This priority is: Serving Persistently Lowest-Achieving Schools

Five additional points will be awarded to an application that proposes to serve at least one school designated by the State as a “persistently lowest-achieving school” for purposes of using school improvement funds under section 1003(g) of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA). A “persistently lowest-achieving school” under section 1003(g) means a school, as defined by each State, that falls into one of the following groups:

(1) Any Title I school in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring that (i) is among the lowest-achieving five percent of Title I schools in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring in the State (or the lowest-achieving five such schools, whichever number of schools is greater) or (ii) is a Title I high school that has had a graduation rate that is less than 60 percent over a number of years.

(2) Any secondary school that is eligible for, but does not receive, Title I funds that (i) is among the lowest-achieving five percent of secondary schools in the State (or the lowest-achieving five secondary schools, whichever number of schools is greater) that are eligible for, but do not receive, Title I funds or (ii) is a high school that has had a graduation rate that is less than 60 percent over a number of years.

Waiver of Proposed Rulemaking: Under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553) the Department generally offers interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed priorities, requirements, and selection criteria. Section 437(d)(1) of GEPA, however, allows the Secretary to exempt from rulemaking requirements, regulations governing the first grant competition under a new or substantially revised program authority. This is the first grant competition for the Gulf Coast Recovery Grant Initiative and therefore qualifies for this exemption. In order to ensure timely grant awards, the Secretary has decided to forgo public comment on the priority, requirements, and selection criteria under section 437(d)(1) of GEPA. This priority, requirements, and selection criteria will apply to the FY 2010 grant competition only.


Note: The regulations in 34 CFR part 79 apply to all applicants except Federally recognized Indian Tribes.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Discretionary grants. Estimated Available Funds: $12,000,000. Estimated Range of Awards: $150,000–$3,000,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: $1,500,000. Note: An eligible LEA may request up to $500,000 per year for each school it intends to serve through the grant under this competition. To ensure that sufficient funds are available to support awards to LEAs of all sizes, and not only the largest LEAs, an applicant may not include more than three schools in a single application for a grant. We will reject any application that includes more than three schools in its proposal.
The following chart provides the maximum award amounts for applicants that propose to serve one, two, or three schools per grant with a one-year or two-year project period:

**MAXIMUM AWARDS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of schools served</th>
<th>Project Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The actual size of awards will be based on a number of factors, including the scope, quality, and comprehensiveness of the proposed project.

**Maximum Award:** We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding the maximum amounts specified in the Maximum Awards chart.

**Estimated Number of Awards:** 6–10.

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

**Project Period:** Up to 24 months.

**Note:** Budgets should be developed for a single award with a project period of up to 24 months. No continuation awards will be provided.

### III. Eligibility Information

1. **Eligible Applicants:** LEAs located in counties in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as counties eligible for individual assistance due to damage caused by Hurricanes Katrina, Ike, or Gustav.

   For the convenience of applicants, the Department has posted lists of LEAs that are eligible to apply under this competition (organized by State). These lists are available on the Gulf Coast Recovery Grant Initiative Web site at: http://www.ed.gov/programs/gulf/eligibility.html. These lists are based on the most recent information provided by each State and the Bureau of Indian Education to the Department. Although the lists attempt to identify all eligible applicants, it is possible that the lists are not exhaustive. Therefore, if an LEA believes it is eligible, but is not included on the lists, it should contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** in section VII of this notice to determine eligibility.

2. **Cost Sharing or Matching:** This competition does not require cost sharing or matching.

### IV. Application and Submission Information

1. **Address to Request Application Package:** You can obtain an application package via the Internet at: http://www.ed.gov/programs/gulf/applicant.html, or by contacting April Bolton-Smith, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 3E304, Washington, DC 20202–6200. Telephone: (202) 260–1475 or e-mail: gulfcoastrecovery@ed.gov.

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

   Individuals with disabilities can obtain a copy of the application package in an accessible 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 competition.

   **Notice of Intent to Apply:** June 21, 2010.

   **Page Limit:** The application narrative is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. You must limit the application narrative to no more than 20 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, and quotations.
   - Use a font that is either 12 point or larger or no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch).
   - Use one of the following fonts: Times New Roman, Courier, Courier New, or Arial. An application submitted in any other font (including Times Roman or Arial Narrow) will not be accepted.

   The page limit does not apply to the cover sheet; the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; the assurances and certifications; the one-page abstract; or the appendices. However, the page limit does apply to all of the application narrative section.

   We will reject your application if you exceed the page limit.

3. **Submission Dates and Times:**

   **Applications Available:** May 27, 2010.

   **Deadline for Notice of Intent to Apply:** June 21, 2010.

   **Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:** July 9, 2010.

   Applications for grants under this competition must be submitted electronically using the Electronic Application System (e-Application) accessible through the Department’s e-Grants site. For information (including dates and times) about how to submit your application electronically, or in paper format by mail or hand delivery if you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, please refer to section IV.6. **Other Submission Requirements** of this notice.

   We do not consider an application that does not comply with the deadline requirements.

   Individuals with disabilities who need an accommodation or auxiliary aid in connection with the application process should contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** in section VII of this notice. If the Department provides an accommodation or auxiliary aid to an individual with a disability in connection with the application process, the individual’s application remains subject to all other requirements and limitations in this notice.

   **Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:** September 7, 2010.

4. **Intergovernmental Review:** This competition 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 competition.

5. **Funding Restrictions:** We reference regulations outlining funding restrictions in the **Applicable Regulations** section of this notice.
6. **Other Submission Requirements:** Applications for grants under this competition must be submitted electronically unless you qualify for an exception to this requirement in accordance with the instructions in this section.

a. **Electronic Submission of Applications**

Applications for grants under the Gulf Coast Recovery Grant Initiative—CFDA Number 84.215C must be submitted electronically using e-Application, accessible through the Department’s e-Grants Web site at: http://e-grants.ed.gov.

We will reject your application if you submit it in paper format unless, as described elsewhere in this section, you qualify for one of the exceptions to the electronic submission requirement and submit, no later than two weeks before the application deadline date, a written statement to the Department that you qualify for one of these exceptions. Further information regarding calculation of the date that is two weeks before the application deadline date is provided later in this section under **Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement.**

While completing your electronic application, you will be entering data online that will be saved into a database. You may not e-mail an electronic copy of a grant application to us.

Please note the following:

- You must complete the electronic submission of your grant application by 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date.
- E-Application will not accept an application for this competition after 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date.
- Therefore, we strongly recommend that you do not wait until the application deadline date to begin the application process.
- The hours of operation of the e-Grants Web site are 6:00 a.m. Monday until 7:00 p.m. Wednesday; and 6:00 a.m. Thursday until 8:00 p.m. Sunday, Washington, DC time. Please note that, because of maintenance, the system is unavailable between 8:00 p.m. on Sundays and 6:00 a.m. on Mondays, and between 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and 6:00 a.m. on Thursdays, Washington, DC time. Any modifications to these hours are posted on the e-Grants Web site.

You will not receive additional point value because you submit your application in electronic format, nor will we penalize you if you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, as described elsewhere in this section, and submit your application in paper format.

- You must submit all documents electronically, including all information you typically provide on the following forms: the Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424), the Department of Education Supplemental Information for SF 424, Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs (ED 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications. You must attach any narrative sections of your application as files in a .DOC (document), .RTF (rich text), or .PDF (Portable Document) format. If you upload a file type other than the three file types specified in this paragraph or submit a password protected file, we will not review that material.
- Your electronic application must comply with any page limit requirements described in this notice.
- Prior to submitting your electronic application, you may wish to print a copy of it for your records.
- After you electronically submit your application, you will receive an automatic acknowledgment that 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 SF 424 to the Application Control Center after following these steps:
  1. Print SF 424 from e-Application.
  2. The applicant’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 SF 424.
  4. Fax the signed SF 424 to the Application Control Center at (202) 245-6272.
- We may request that you provide us original signatures on other forms at a later date.

**Application Deadline Date Extension in Case of e-Application Unavailability:** If you are prevented from electronically submitting your application on the application deadline date because e-Application is unavailable, we will grant you an extension of one business day to enable you to transmit your application electronically, by mail, or by hand delivery. We will grant this extension if—

- You are a registered user of e-Application and have initiated an electronic application for this competition; and
- E-Application is unavailable for 60 minutes or more between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date; or
- E-Application is unavailable for any period of time between 3:30 p.m. and 4:30:00 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 acknowledgment of any system unavailability, you may contact either (1) the person listed elsewhere in this notice under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** or (2) the e-Grants help desk at 1–888–336–8930. If e-Application is unavailable due to technical problems with the system and, therefore, the application deadline is extended, an e-mail will be sent to all registered users who have initiated an e-Application. Extensions referred to in this section apply only to the unavailability of e-Application.

**Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement:** You qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, and may submit your application in paper format, if you are unable to submit an application through e-Application because—

- You do not have access to the Internet; or
- You do not have the capacity to upload large documents to e-Application;

and

- No later than two weeks before the application deadline date (14 calendar days or, if the fourteenth calendar day before the application deadline date falls on a Federal holiday, the next business day following the Federal holiday), you mail or fax a written statement to the Department, explaining which of the two grounds for an exception prevents you from using the Internet to submit your application. If you mail your written statement to the Department, it must be postmarked no later than two weeks before the application deadline date. If you fax your written statement to the Department, we must receive the faxed statement no later than two weeks before the application deadline date.

Address and mail or fax your statement to: April Bolton-Smith, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 3E304, Washington, DC 20202–6200. FAX: (202) 260–8969.

Your paper application must be submitted in accordance with the mail or hand delivery instructions described in this notice.

b. **Submission of Paper Applications by Mail**

If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you may mail (through the U.S. Postal
Service or a commercial carrier) your application to the Department. You must mail the original and two copies of your application, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address: U.S. Department of Education, Application Control Center, Attention: (CFDA Number 84.215C), LBJ Basement Level 1, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20202–4260.

You must show proof of mailing consisting of one of the following:

1. A legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark.
2. A legible mail receipt with the date of mailing stamped by the U.S. Postal Service.
3. A dated shipping label, invoice, or receipt from a commercial carrier.
4. Any other proof of mailing acceptable to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

If you mail your application through the U.S. Postal Service, we do not accept either of the following as proof of mailing:

1. A private metered postmark.
2. A mail receipt that is not dated by the U.S. Postal Service.

If your application is postmarked after the application deadline date, we will not consider your application.

Note: The U.S. Postal Service does not uniformly provide a dated postmark. Before relying on this method, you should check with your local post office.

c. Submission of Paper Applications by Hand Delivery

If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you (or a courier service) may deliver your paper application to the Department by hand. You must deliver the original and two copies of your application, by hand, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address: U.S. Department of Education, Application Control Center, Attention: (CFDA Number 84.215C), 550 12th Street, SW., Room 7041, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202–4260.

The Application Control Center accepts hand deliveries daily between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, except Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays.

Note for Mail or Hand Delivery of Paper Applications: If you mail or hand deliver your application to the Department—

1. You must indicate on the envelope and—if not provided by the Department—in Item 11 of the SF 424 the CFDA number, including suffix letter, if any, of the competition under which you are submitting your application; and
2. The Application Control Center will mail to you a notification of receipt of your grant application. If you do not receive this grant notification within 15 business days from the application deadline date, you should call the U.S. Department of Education Application Control Center at (202) 245–6288.

V. Application Review Information

1. Selection Criteria: The maximum score for all of the selection criteria is 100 points. The maximum score for each criterion and factor is indicated in parentheses. The selection criteria for this competition are as follows:

(a) Need for the project. (40 points)
The Secretary considers the need for the proposed project. In determining the need for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The severity of the impact of the hurricane(s) on each school targeted for services under the project (10 points).

(ii) The magnitude of the need for the services to be provided or the activities to be carried out at each targeted school (10 points).

(b) Project design and services. (30 points)
The Secretary considers the quality of the design of the proposed project and the proposed services. In determining the quality of the design and services, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the proposed project services will successfully address the needs of each targeted school (15 points).

Note: In addressing this factor, applicants should consider including descriptive financial resources needed for recovery efforts at each targeted school, and the extent to which current or future funding exists to meet these needs.

(ii) The likelihood that the services to be provided by the proposed project will lead to improvements in the achievement of students as measured against rigorous academic achievement standards (10 points).

Note: In addressing this factor, applicants should consider including an explanation of how the proposed recovery efforts will result in the increased academic achievement of students.

(iii) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project involve the collaboration of appropriate partners in order to maximize the effectiveness of proposed project services (5 points).

Note: In addressing this factor, applicants should consider identifying how the proposed recovery efforts will be coordinated with other entities to meet the needs of the targeted schools.

(c) Project management. (30 points)
The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project. In determining the quality of the management plan, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key personnel (10 points).

(ii) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget (8 points).

(iii) The extent to which the management plan articulates clearly defined responsibilities and includes realistic timelines and milestones for accomplishing project tasks (5 points).

(iv) The extent to which the applicant has a sound financial management system, including effective internal controls, to administer the grant funds (7 points).

Note: In addressing this factor, applicants should consider including an overview of their financial management system, including how they maintain effective internal controls and fund-accountability procedures.

2. Review and Selection Process: Additional factors we consider in selecting an application for an award are in 34 CFR 75.217. These factors include the applicant’s performance and use of funds under a previous award under any Department program.

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 notify you informally, also.

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

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements: We identify
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION


AGENCY: Federal Student Aid, U.S. Department of Education.


SUMMARY: The Secretary announces the annual updates to the tables that will be used in the statutory “Federal Need Analysis Methodology” to determine a student’s expected family contribution (EFC) for award year 2011–2012 for the student financial aid programs authorized under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA). An EFC is the amount a student and his or her family may reasonably be expected to contribute toward the student’s postsecondary educational costs for purposes of determining financial aid eligibility. The Title IV programs include the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Work-Study, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan, and the Teach Grant Programs (Title IV, HEA Programs).


If you use a TDD, call the FRS, toll free, at 1–800–877–8339.

VIII. Other Information

Accessible Format: Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document and a copy of the application package in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT in section VII of this notice.

Electronic Access to This Document: You can 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.


Thelma Meléndez de Santa Ana, Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education.

[FR Doc. 2010–12800 Filed 5–26–10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–P

VIII. Other Information

Applicable Regulations

We reference the regulations outlining the terms and conditions of an award in the Applicable Regulations section of this notice. We reference the regulations outlining the requirements in the application package and reference these and other requirements in the Applicable Regulations section of this notice.

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