DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Applications for New Awards; Impact Aid Discretionary Construction Grant Program

AGENCY: Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education

ACTION: Notice.

Overview Information

Impact Aid Discretionary Construction Grant Program

Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2012.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.041C.


Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose of Program: The Impact Aid Discretionary Construction Grant program provides grants for emergency repairs and modernization of school facilities to certain local educational agencies (LEAs) that receive Impact Aid formula funds.

Priority: In this notice, the Secretary is soliciting applications only for Priority 1 emergency repair grants. We will not accept applications for any other priorities for emergency repair or modernization grants at this time.

In accordance with 34 CFR 75.105(b)(2)(ii) and (iv), this priority is from section 8007(b)(2)(A) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (Act) (20 U.S.C. 7707(b)), and the regulations for this program in 34 CFR 222.177.

Absolute Priority: For FY 2012, this priority is an absolute priority. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) we consider only applications that meet this priority.

This priority is: Priority 1 emergency repair grants. An LEA is eligible to apply for an emergency grant under the first priority of section 8007(b) of the Act if it—

(a) Is eligible to receive formula construction funds for the fiscal year under section 8007(a) of the Act (20 U.S.C. 7707(a));

(b)(1) Has no practical capacity to issue bonds;

(2) Has minimal capacity to issue bonds and has used at least 75 percent of its bond limit; or

(3) Is eligible to receive funds for the fiscal year for heavily impacted districts under section 8003(b)(2) of the Act (20 U.S.C. 7707(b)(2)); and

(c) Has a school facility emergency that the Secretary has determined poses a health or safety hazard to students and school personnel.

Note: For competitions with FYs 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2009 funds under this program, the amounts requested by applicants for Priority 1 grants exceeded the funds available.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 7707(b).

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 75 (except for 34 CFR 75.600 through 75.617), 77, 79, 80, 82, 84, 97, 98, and 99. (b) The Education Department suspension and debarment regulations in 2 CFR part 3485. (c) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 222.

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

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Discretionary grant.

Estimated Available Funds: $17,440,974.

Estimated Range of Awards: $50,000–$5,000,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: $1,585,543.

Estimated Number of Awards: 11.

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

Project Period: Up to 60 months. We will determine each project period based on the nature of the project proposed and the time needed to complete it. We will specify this period in the grant award document.

III. Eligibility Information

Eligible Applicants

Consistent with the requirements of the Absolute Priority, an LEA is eligible to receive an emergency grant under the first priority of section 8007(b) of the Act if it—

(a) Is eligible to receive formula construction funds for the fiscal year under section 8007(a) of the Act (20 U.S.C. 7707(a)) because it enrolls a high percentage (at least 50 percent) of federally connected children in average
daily attendance (ADA) who either reside on Indian lands or who have a parent on active duty in the U.S. uniformed services.

(b)(1) Has no practical capacity to issue bonds (as defined in 34 CFR 222.176);

(2) Has minimal capacity to issue bonds (as defined in 34 CFR 222.176) and has used at least 75 percent of its bond limit; or

(3) Is eligible to receive funds for the fiscal year for heavily impacted districts under section 8033(b)(2) of the Act (20 U.S.C. 7707(b)(2)); and

(c) Has a school facility emergency that the Secretary has determined poses a health or safety hazard to students and school personnel. In making emergency grant awards, the Secretary must also consider the LEA’s total assessed value of real property that may be taxed for school purposes, its use of available bonding capacity, and the nature and severity of the school facility emergency.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching: See 20 U.S.C. 7707(b)(5) and 34 CFR 222.174 and 222.191 through 222.193. In reviewing proposed awards, the Secretary considers the funds available to the grantee from other sources, including local, State, and other Federal funds.

Consistent with 34 CFR 222.192, an applicant will be required to submit financial reports for FYs 2010, 2011, and 2012, or the applicant’s most recently available audited financial reports for three consecutive fiscal years, showing closing balances for all school funds. If significant balances (as detailed in 34 CFR 222.192) are available at the close of the applicant’s FY 2012, or its most recently audited year, that are not obligated for other purposes, those funds will be considered available for the proposed emergency repair project, which may reduce the amount of funds that may be awarded or eliminate the applicant’s eligibility for an emergency grant award under this competition.

Supplement-Not Supplant: As outlined in 34 CFR 222.174, grants made under this program are subject to supplement, not supplant funding provisions. Grant funds under this program may not be used to supplant or replace other available non-Federal construction money.

IV. Application and Submission Information


If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) or a text telephone (TTY), 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 compact disc) by contacting the person or team listed under Accessible Format in section VIII of this notice.

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.

Page Limit: We recommend that applicants limit their responses in each applicable narrative section to two pages with a one-inch margin in 12 point font, double spaced.


Applications for grants under this competition must be submitted electronically using G5, the Department’s grant management system, accessible at www.G5.gov.

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 exemption to the electronic submission requirement, please refer to section IV. 7. 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.


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: Except for applicants with no practical capacity to issue bonds, as defined in 34 CFR 222.176, an eligible applicant’s award amount may not be more than 50 percent of the total cost of an approved project and may not exceed $4 million during any four-year period. See 34 CFR 222.193. Applicants may submit only one application for one educational facility as provided by 34 CFR 222.183. If multiple applications are submitted, the Department will consider only the first one. Grant recipients must, in accordance with Federal, State, and local laws, use emergency grants for permissible construction activities at public elementary and secondary school facilities. The scope of the project for a selected facility will be identified as part of the final grant award conditions. A grantee must also ensure that its construction expenditures under this program meet the requirements of 34 CFR 222.172 (allowable program activities) and 34 CFR 222.173 (prohibited activities).

We reference additional regulations outlining funding restrictions in the Applicable Regulations section of this notice.

6. Data Universal Numbering System Number, Taxpayer Identification Number, and Central Contractor Registry: To do business with the Department of Education, you must—

a. Have a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN);

b. Register both your DUNS number and TIN with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR), the Government’s primary registrant database;

c. Provide your DUNS number and TIN on your application; and

d. Maintain an active CCR registration with current information while your application is under review by the Department and, if you are awarded a grant, during the project period.

You can obtain a DUNS number from Dun and Bradstreet. A DUNS number can be created within one business day. If you are a corporate entity, agency, institution, or organization, you can obtain a TIN from the Internal Revenue Service. If you are an individual, you can obtain a TIN from the Internal Revenue Service or the Social Security Administration. If you need a new TIN, please allow 2–5 weeks for your TIN to become active.

The CCR registration process may take five or more business days to complete. If you are currently registered with the CCR, you may not need to make any
changes. However, please make certain that the TIN associated with your DUNS number is correct. Also note that you will need to update your CCR registration on an annual basis. This may take three or more business days to complete.

7. 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 Impact Aid Discretionary Construction Grant Program, CFDA 84.041C, must be submitted electronically using the G5 system, accessible through the Department’s G5 site (www.G5.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 email 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. G5 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 regular hours of operation of the G5 Web site are 6:00 a.m. Monday through 7:00 p.m. Wednesday; and 6:00 a.m. Thursday through 8:00 p.m. Sunday, Washington, DC time. Please note that 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, for maintenance. Any modifications to these hours are posted on the G5 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 Discretionary Construction Program under Section 8007(b) and all necessary signature pages.
- You must upload all additional narrative documents and all other attachments to your application as files in a PDF (Portable Document) read-only, non-modifiable format. Do not upload an interactive or fillable PDF file. If you upload a file type other than a read-only, non-modifiable .PDF 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, you must fax or email a signed copy of the cover page and the emergency certification form for the Application for Discretionary Construction Program under Section 8007(b) to the Impact Aid Program after following these steps:
  - (1) Print a copy of the application from G5 for your records.
  - (2) The applicant’s Authorizing Representative must sign and date the cover page. The local certifying official must sign the certification for an emergency application. These forms must be submitted within three days of the application deadline in order to be considered for funding under this program.
  - Place the PR/Award number in the upper right hand corner of the hard-copy signature page of the Application for Discretionary Construction Program under Section 8007(b).
  - (4) Fax or email the signed cover page and independent certification for the Discretionary Construction Program under Section 8007(b) to the Impact Aid Program at 1-866-799-1273 or by email to Impact.Aid@ed.gov. These forms must be submitted before midnight of the application deadline in order to be considered for funding under this program.
- We may request that you provide us original signatures on other forms at a later date.

Application Deadline Date Extension in Case of G5 System Unavailability: If you are prevented from electronically submitting your application on the application deadline date because the G5 system is unavailable, we will grant you an extension until 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time of the following business day to enable you to transmit your application electronically, by mail, or by hand delivery. We will grant this extension if—

1. You are a registered user of the G5 system and you have initiated an electronic application for this competition; and
2. (a) G5 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
(b) G5 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 (see VII. Agency Contact) or (2) the G5 help desk at 1-888-336-8930. If G5 is unavailable due to technical problems with the system and therefore the application deadline is extended, an email will be sent to all registered users who have initiated a G5 application. Extensions referred to in this section apply only to the unavailability of the G5 system.

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 the G5 system because—

- You do not have access to the Internet; or
- You do not have the capacity to upload large documents to G5; 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 prevent 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: Nyounu Wi Akamefula, Impact Aid Program, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., Room 3C121, Washington, DC 20202–6244. Phone: 202–260–2410. FAX: 1–866–799–1273. EMAIL: nyounuwi.akamefula@ed.gov.

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, Impact Aid Program, Attention: (CFDA Number 84.041C), Room 3C155, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20202–6244. You must show proof of mailing consisting of one of the following:

1. A legible mail receipt with the date of mailing stamped by the U.S. Postal Service,
2. A dated shipping label, invoice, or receipt from a commercial carrier,
3. 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, or
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, Impact Aid Program, Attention: (CFDA Number 84.041C), Room 3C155, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20202–6244. The Impact Aid Program 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—if not provided by the Department—the CFDA number, including suffix letter, if any, of the competition under which you are submitting your application; and
2. The Impact Aid Program 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 Impact Aid Program at (202) 260–3858.

V. Application Review Information

1. Selection Criteria: The selection criteria for this program are from 20 U.S.C. 7707(b)(4) and (b)(6), and are further clarified in 34 CFR 222.183 and 222.187 and described in the following paragraphs. The Secretary gives distinct weight to the listed selection criteria. The maximum score for each criterion is indicated in parentheses. Within each criterion, the Secretary evaluates each factor equally, unless otherwise specified. The maximum score that an application may receive is 100 points.

(a) Need for project/severity of the school facility problem to be addressed by the proposed project (30 points).
(b) Justification that the proposed project will address a valid emergency, and consistency of the emergency description and the proposed project with the certifying local official’s statement.
(c) Impact of the emergency condition on the health and safety of the building occupants or on program delivery. Applicants should describe the systems or areas of the facility involved, e.g., HVAC, roof, floor, windows; the type of space affected, such as instructional, resource, food service, recreational, general support, or other areas; the percentage of building occupants affected by the emergency; and the importance of the facility or affected area to the instructional program.
(d) Project urgency (28 points).

2. Review and Selection Process: We remind potential applicants that in...
reviewing applications in any discretionary grant competition, the Secretary may consider, under 34 CFR 75.217(d)(3), the past performance of the applicant in carrying out a previous award, such as the applicant’s use of funds, achievement of project objectives, and compliance with grant conditions. The Secretary may also consider whether the applicant failed to submit a timely performance report or submitted a report of unacceptable quality.

In addition, in making a competitive grant award, the Secretary also requires various assurances including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department of Education (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23).

Upon receipt, Impact Aid program staff will screen all applications to eliminate any applications that do not meet the eligibility standards, are incomplete, or are late. Applications that do not include a signed cover page and a signed independent certification submitted by fax or email before midnight of the application deadline are considered incomplete and will not be considered for funding. Program staff will also calculate the scores for each application under criteria (1) and (2). Panel reviewers will assess the applications under criteria (1) and (2).

(a) Applications are ranked based on the total number of points received during the review process. Those with the highest scores will be at the top of the funding slate.

(b) Applicants may submit only one application for one educational facility. If an applicant submits multiple applications, the Department will only consider the first sequentially submitted application, as provided under 34 CFR 222.183.

(c) For applicants that request funding for new construction and that are selected for funding, the Department will require a feasibility of construction study prior to making an award determination. This independent third-party study must demonstrate that the area upon which the construction will occur is suitable for construction and will be able to sustain the new facility or addition. This study should include information to show that the soil is stable, the site is suitable for construction, and the existing infrastructure can serve and sustain the new facility.

3. Special Conditions: Under 34 CFR 74.14 and 80.12, the Secretary may impose special conditions on a grant if the applicant or grantee is not financially stable; has a history of unsatisfactory performance; has a financial or other management system that does not meet the standards in 34 CFR parts 74 or 80, as applicable; has not fulfilled the conditions of a prior grant; or is otherwise not responsible.

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.

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: (a) If you apply for a grant under this competition, you must ensure that you have in place the necessary processes and systems to comply with the reporting requirements in 2 CFR part 170.110(b). If your application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we notify you.

(b) 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 directed by the Secretary under 34 CFR 75.118. The Secretary may also require more frequent performance reports under 34 CFR 75.720(c). For specific requirements on reporting, please go to www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html.

4. Performance Measures: The Department has established the following performance measure for this program: An increasing percentage of LEAs receiving Impact Aid Construction funds will report that the overall condition of their school buildings is adequate. Data for this measure will be reported to the Department on Table 10 of the application for Impact Aid Section 8003 Basic Support Payments.

VII. Agency Contact


If you use a TDD or TTY, 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 compact disc) on request to the program contact person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT in section VII of this notice.

Electronic Access to This Document: 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 via the Federal Digital System at: www.gpo.gov/fdsys. At this site 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). To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site.

You may also access documents of the Department published in the Federal Register by using the article search feature at: www.federalregister.gov. Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.


Michael Yudin,
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Policy and Strategic Initiatives. Delegated Authority to Perform the Functions and Duties of the Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Applications for New Awards; Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) Fellowship Program

AGENCY: Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice.