

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION****Applications for New Awards; Personnel Development To Improve Services and Results for Children With Disabilities—National Center on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities, and Other Minority Serving Institutions To Diversify the Workforce Serving Children With Disabilities**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Education (Department) is issuing a notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2024 for the National Center on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs), and Other Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) to Diversify the Workforce Serving Children with Disabilities, Assistance Listing Number (ALN) 84.325B. This notice relates to the approved information collection under OMB control number 1820–0028.

**DATES:**

*Applications Available:* March 19, 2024.

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* May 15, 2024.

*Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:* July 29, 2024.

*Pre-Application Webinar Information:* No later than March 25, 2024, the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services will post details on pre-recorded informational webinars designed to provide technical assistance (TA) to interested applicants. Links to the webinars may be found at <https://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/osep/new-osep-grants.html>.

**ADDRESSES:** For the addresses for obtaining and submitting an application, please refer to our Common Instructions for Applicants to Department of Education Discretionary Grant Programs, published in the **Federal Register** on December 7, 2022 (87 FR 75045) and available at [www.federalregister.gov/d/2022-26554](http://www.federalregister.gov/d/2022-26554).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Tracie Dickson, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 4A10, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 987–0145. Email: [tracie.dickson@ed.gov](mailto:tracie.dickson@ed.gov).

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability and wish to access telecommunications relay services, please dial 7–1–1.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Full Text of Announcement****I. Funding Opportunity Description**

*Purpose of Program:* The purposes of this program are to (1) help address State-identified needs for personnel preparation in special education, early intervention, related services, and regular education to work with children, including infants, toddlers, and youth with disabilities; and (2) ensure that those personnel have the necessary knowledge, skills, and competencies derived from practices that have been determined through scientifically based research, to be successful in serving those children.

*Priority:* This competition includes one absolute priority. In accordance with 34 CFR 75.105(b)(2)(v), this priority is from allowable activities specified in the statute (see sections 662 and 681 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); 20 U.S.C. 1462 and 1481).

*Absolute Priority:* For FY 2024 and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applications from this competition, this priority is an absolute priority. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), we consider only applications that meet this priority.

This priority is:

*National Center on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities, and Other Minority Serving Institutions to Diversify the Workforce Serving Children with Disabilities.*

*Background:*

Through its Raise the Bar initiative, the Department is focused on improving learning opportunities and conditions by working to eliminate the shortage of personnel in early intervention, early childhood special education, special education, and related services while building a higher education system that is inclusive and diverse, thereby preparing our Nation for global competitiveness (U.S. Department of Education, 2022; U.S. Department of Education, 2023b). Diversity is inherently valuable, and we are stronger as a Nation when people of varied backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives work and learn together. Diversity and inclusion also foster innovation and help to prepare everyone for an interconnected world. All children benefit from a diverse educator workforce, including children with and without disabilities, who are multilingual and from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds. Furthermore, all children demonstrate improved academic achievement, social and emotional development, and behavior when they are taught by

multilingual teachers and teachers from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds (Carver-Thomas, 2018; U.S. Department of Education, n.d.; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Education, 2016).

The population of children receiving services under IDEA is increasingly racially and ethnically diverse (U.S. Department of Education, 2020). Although children from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds make up greater than 50 percent of children receiving early intervention and special education services (U.S. Department of Education, 2023a), the demographics of personnel entering the early intervention and special education fields are not reflective of the demographics of the children and families served under IDEA. Data from the Office of Special Education Programs' (OSEP's) Personnel Development Program Data Collection System reveals that scholars supported under the personnel preparation program are predominantly White. Specifically, the race/ethnicity of scholars obtaining a graduate degree to serve children with disabilities in FY 2020 was 65.8 percent White, 14.5 percent Hispanic, 11.5 percent Black, 3.9 percent Asian, 0.7 percent American Indian or Alaska Native, 1.4 percent Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, and 2.2 percent two or more races (U.S. Department of Education, 2021).

IDEA<sup>1</sup> recognizes the need to diversify the workforce and support multilingual scholars and scholars from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds in obtaining degrees in early intervention, early childhood special education, special education, and related services. HBCUs, TCCUs, and MSIs are uniquely positioned to recruit, prepare, and graduate personnel who have the necessary knowledge, skills, and competencies to provide effective and equitable evidence-based, culturally, and linguistically responsive instruction, interventions, and services. For example, HBCUs play a critical role in producing teachers of color in the United States. Specifically, nearly half of Black teachers nationwide are graduates of an HBCU (U.S. Department

<sup>1</sup> Section 681(c)(2) of IDEA requires the Secretary to set aside funds to support one or both of the following activities: (1) the provision of outreach and TA to Historically Black Colleges and Universities and to institutions of higher education (IHEs) with high levels of minority enrollment to promote their participation in certain activities under IDEA; or (2) the provision of support to enable such institutions to assist other institutions and agencies in improving educational and transitional results for children with disabilities.

of Education, 2023c). More importantly, HBCUs, TCCUs, and other MSIs have the experience and expertise to recruit, prepare, and graduate scholars who are multilingual and from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds with the necessary knowledge, skills, and competencies to serve children with disabilities and who can also serve as models for predominantly White institutions and other institutions on increasing the diversity of the scholars that they prepare.

While HBCUs, TCCUs, and other MSIs are more likely to graduate scholars who are multilingual and from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds, there are currently a limited number that receive OSEP funding to prepare personnel to work in early intervention, early childhood special education, special education, and related services. Therefore, there is a need to build capacity at HBCUs, TCCUs, and other MSIs to access and successfully implement Federal grants to improve or develop high-quality degree or certification programs of study, and to prepare scholars to work in early intervention and special education fields. However, during listening sessions held by OSEP, faculty at HBCUs, TCCUs, and other MSIs identified barriers to accessing funding for personnel preparation, such as a lack of knowledge about funding opportunities, faculty workload, and lack of existing institutional infrastructure and support. Supporting HBCUs, TCCUs, and other MSIs to improve or develop high-quality degree or certification programs of study, and to receive and successfully implement Federal personnel preparation grants, would increase the number of multilingual and racially and ethnically diverse personnel with the necessary knowledge, skills, and competencies to serve children with disabilities in early intervention, early childhood special education, special education, and related services. This priority is consistent with the Secretary's Supplemental Priority related to supporting a diverse educator workforce and professional growth to strengthen student learning. See Secretary's Final Supplemental Priorities and Definitions for Discretionary Grants Programs, 86 FR 70612 (December 10, 2021) (Supplemental Priorities) (Priority 3).

#### Priority:

The purpose of this priority is to fund a cooperative agreement to establish and operate a National Technical Assistance Center to Diversify the Workforce Serving Children with Disabilities

(Center) by supporting HBCUs,<sup>2</sup> TCCUs,<sup>3</sup> and other MSIs<sup>4</sup> that offer high-quality degree<sup>5</sup> or certification<sup>6</sup> programs in early intervention, early childhood special education, special education, or related services.<sup>7</sup> The Center must achieve, at a minimum, the following expected outcomes:

(a) Improve the capacity of HBCUs, TCCUs, and MSIs to improve or develop high-quality degree programs that integrate effective, equitable, evidence-based,<sup>8</sup> and culturally and linguistically responsive instruction, interventions, and services in inclusive settings to prepare early intervention, early childhood special education, special education, and related services personnel with the competencies necessary to provide services to children with disabilities, including those who are multilingual and those from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds;

(b) Increase the numbers of HBCUs, TCCUs, and other MSIs that are aware of, apply for, and successfully receive and implement Federal grants to prepare early intervention, early

<sup>2</sup> For purposes of this priority, "Historically Black Colleges and Universities" means colleges and universities that meet the criteria set out in 34 CFR 608.2.

<sup>3</sup> For purposes of this priority, "Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities" has the meaning ascribed to it in section 316(b)(3) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA).

<sup>4</sup> For purposes of this priority, "Minority-Serving Institution" means an institution that is eligible to receive assistance under sections 316 through 320 of part A of title III, under part B of title III, or under title V of the HEA. For purposes of this priority, the Department will use the FY 2023 Eligibility Matrix to determine MSI eligibility (see <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/ides/eligibility.html>).

<sup>5</sup> For purposes of this priority "degree" refers to programs of study that lead to bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, or clinical doctoral degrees.

<sup>6</sup> For the purposes of this priority, "certification" refers to programs of study for individuals with bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, or clinical doctoral degrees that lead to licensure, endorsement, or certification from a State or national credentialing authority following completion of the degree program that qualifies graduates to teach or provide services to children with disabilities.

<sup>7</sup> For the purposes of this priority, "related services" includes the following: speech-language pathology and audiology services; assistive technology services; sign language interpreting services; intervener services; psychological services; applied behavior analysis; physical therapy and occupational therapy; recreation, including therapeutic recreation; artistic and cultural services, including music, art, dance and movement therapy; social work services; counseling services, including rehabilitation counseling; and orientation and mobility services.

<sup>8</sup> For the purposes of this priority, "evidence-based" means, at a minimum, evidence that demonstrates a rationale (as defined in 34 CFR 77.1), where a key project component included in the project's logic model is informed by research or evaluation findings that suggest the project component is likely to improve relevant outcomes.

childhood special education, special education, and related services personnel to serve children with disabilities, including those who are multilingual and from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds; and

(c) Increase collaboration, networking, and mentorship among faculty at HBCUs, TCCUs, and other MSIs to increase their capacity to improve or develop high-quality degree programs, and receive and implement Federal grants to prepare early intervention, special education, and related services personnel to serve children with disabilities, including those who are multilingual and from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds.

In addition to these programmatic requirements, to be considered for funding under this priority, applicants must meet the application and administrative requirements in this priority, which are:

(a) In the narrative section of the application under "Significance"—

(1) Describe how the proposed project will address current and emerging needs to increase the number of high-quality preservice preparation programs at HBCUs, TCCUs, and other MSIs that prepare early intervention, early childhood special education, special education, and related services personnel to ensure that the special education and early intervention workforce is prepared to serve children with disabilities, including those who are multilingual and from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds;

(2) Demonstrate knowledge about the current capacity of faculty in HBCUs, TCCUs, and other MSIs to apply for, evaluate, and manage Federal personnel preparation discretionary grant projects to prepare scholars in early intervention, special education, and related services; and

(3) Present applicable data and demonstrate knowledge of the current research on the need for early intervention, early childhood special education, special education, and related services preservice programs of study at HBCUs, TCCUs, and other MSIs to prepare personnel to deliver equitable interventions and services for children with disabilities, including those who are multilingual and from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds.

(b) Demonstrate, in the narrative section of the application under "Quality of project services," how the proposed project will—

(1) Ensure equal access and treatment for members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability. To meet this

requirement, the applicant must describe how it will—

(i) Identify the needs of the intended recipients for TA and information; and

(ii) Ensure that services and products meet the needs of the intended recipients of the project's services;

(2) Achieve its goals, objectives, and intended outcomes. To meet this requirement, the applicant must provide—

(i) Measurable intended project outcomes; and

(ii) In appendix A, the logic model (as defined in 34 CFR 77.1) by which the proposed project will achieve its intended outcomes that depicts, at a minimum, the goals, activities, outputs, and intended outcomes of the proposed project;

(3) Use a conceptual framework (and provide a copy in appendix A) to develop project plans and activities, describing any underlying concepts, assumptions, expectations, beliefs, or theories, as well as the presumed relationships or linkages among these variables, and any empirical support for this framework;

*Note:* The following websites provide more information on logic models and conceptual frameworks: [https://osepideasthatwork.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/ConceptualFramework\\_Updated.pdf](https://osepideasthatwork.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/ConceptualFramework_Updated.pdf) and [www.osepideasthatwork.org/resources-grantees/program-areas/ta-ta/tad-project-logic-model-and-conceptual-framework](http://www.osepideasthatwork.org/resources-grantees/program-areas/ta-ta/tad-project-logic-model-and-conceptual-framework).

(4) Be based on current research and make use of evidence-based practices. To meet this requirement, the applicant must describe—

(i) The current research on improving or developing high-quality programs of study in early intervention, early childhood special education, special education, and related services to include effective, equitable, evidence-based, and culturally and linguistically responsive instruction, interventions, and services in inclusive settings to prepare scholars to serve children with disabilities, including those who are multilingual and from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds;

(ii) The current research and theoretical constructs that support the development and implementation of faculty communities of practice;

(iii) The current research about adult learning principles and implementation science that will inform the proposed TA; and

(iv) How the proposed project will incorporate current research and practices in the development and delivery of its products and services;

(5) Develop products and provide services that are of high quality and sufficient intensity and duration to achieve the intended outcomes of the proposed project. To address this requirement, the applicant must describe—

(i) How it proposes to identify or develop the knowledge base on—

(A) Improving and developing high-quality programs to include effective and equitable, evidence-based, culturally, and linguistically responsive instruction, interventions, and services in inclusive settings necessary to prepare scholars who are multilingual and racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse to serve children with disabilities, including those who are multilingual and from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds; and

(B) Building the capacity of faculty to access Federal grant funding to support the long-standing resource needs of HBCUs, TCCUs, and MSIs to prepare early intervention, early childhood special education, special education, and related services personnel to serve children with disabilities, including those who are multilingual and from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds;

(ii) The proposed approach to universal, general TA,<sup>9</sup> which must describe—

(A) The intended recipients, including the type and number of recipients, that will receive the products and services;

(B) The products and services that the project proposes to make available;

(C) The development and maintenance of a high-quality website, with an easy-to-navigate design, that meets or exceeds government- or industry-recognized standards for accessibility; and

(D) The expected reach and impact of universal, general TA;

(iii) The proposed approach to targeted, specialized TA,<sup>10</sup> which must describe—

<sup>9</sup> “Universal, general TA” means TA and information provided to independent users through their own initiative, resulting in minimal interaction with TA project staff and including one-time, invited or offered conference presentations by TA project staff. This category of TA also includes information or products, such as newsletters, guidebooks, or research syntheses, downloaded from the TA project's website by independent users. Brief communications by TA center staff with recipients, either by telephone or email, are also considered universal, general TA.

<sup>10</sup> “Targeted, specialized TA” means TA services based on needs common to multiple recipients and not extensively individualized. A relationship is established between the TA recipient and one or more TA project staff. This category of TA includes one-time, labor-intensive events, such as facilitating strategic planning or hosting regional or national

(A) The intended recipients, including the type and number of recipients, that will receive the products and services;

(B) The products and services that the project proposes to make available;

(C) The proposed approach to measure the readiness of potential TA recipients to work with the project, including, at a minimum, an assessment of potential recipients' current infrastructure, available resources, and ability to build capacity of faculty;

(D) The proposed approach to provide TA to grants funded under “Preservice Development Grants at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities, and Other Minority Serving Institutions to Diversify Personnel Serving Children with Disabilities (ALN 84.325X)” and “Personnel Preparation of Special Education, Early Intervention, and Related Services Personnel at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities, and Other Minority Serving Institutions (ALN 84.325M)”;

(E) The expected reach and impact of targeted, specialized TA; and

(iv) The proposed approach to intensive, sustained TA,<sup>11</sup> which must describe—

(A) The intended recipients, including the type and number of recipients from a variety of settings and geographic distribution, that will receive the products and services designed to impact;

(B) The proposed approach to measure the readiness of recipients of the products and services; and

(C) The expected impact of intensive, sustained TA;

(6) Develop products and implement services that maximize efficiency. To address this requirement, the applicant must describe—

(i) How the proposed project will use technology to achieve the intended project outcomes;

conferences. It can also include episodic, less labor-intensive events that extend over a period of time, such as facilitating a series of conference calls on single or multiple topics that are designed around the needs of the recipients. Facilitating communities of practice can also be considered targeted, specialized TA.

<sup>11</sup> “Intensive, sustained TA” means TA services often provided on-site and requiring a stable, ongoing relationship between the TA project staff and the TA recipient. “TA services” are defined as negotiated series of activities designed to reach a valued outcome. This category of TA should result in changes to policy, program, practice, or operations that support increased recipient capacity or improved outcomes at one or more systems levels.

(ii) With whom the proposed project will collaborate and the intended outcomes of this collaboration; and

(iii) How the proposed project will use non-project resources to achieve the intended project outcomes;

(7) How the project will systematically disseminate information, products, and services to varied intended audiences. To address this requirement the applicant must describe—

(i) The variety of dissemination strategies the project will use throughout the five years of the project to promote awareness and use of its products and services;

(ii) How the project will tailor dissemination strategies across all planned levels of TA to ensure that products and services reach intended recipients, and how those recipients can access and use those products and services;

(iii) How the project's dissemination plan is connected to the proposed outcomes of the project; and

(iv) How the project will evaluate and remediate all digital products and external communications to ensure they meet or exceed government and industry-recognized standards for accessibility.

(c) In the narrative section of the application under "Quality of the project evaluation," include an evaluation plan for the project as described in the following paragraphs. The evaluation plan must describe measures of progress in implementation, including the criteria for determining the extent to which the project's products and services have met the goals for reaching its target population; measures of intended outcomes or results of the project's activities in order to evaluate those activities; and how well the goals or objectives of the proposed project, as described in its logic model, have been met.

The applicant must provide an assurance that, in designing the evaluation plan, it will—

(1) Designate, with the approval of the OSEP project officer, a project liaison with sufficient dedicated time, experience in evaluation, and knowledge of the project to work in collaboration with the Center to Improve Program and Project Performance (CIPP),<sup>12</sup> the project

director, and the OSEP project officer on the following tasks:

(i) Revise the logic model submitted in the application, as needed, to provide for a more comprehensive measurement of implementation and outcomes and to reflect any changes or clarifications to the model discussed at the kick-off meeting;

(ii) Refine the evaluation design and instrumentation proposed in the application consistent with the revised logic model and using the most rigorous design suitable (e.g., prepare evaluation questions about significant program processes and outcomes; develop quantitative or qualitative data collections that permit both the collection of progress data, including fidelity of implementation, as appropriate, and the assessment of project outcomes; and identify analytic strategies); and

(iii) Revise, as needed, the evaluation plan submitted in the application such that it clearly—

(A) Specifies the evaluation questions, measures, and associated instruments or sources for data appropriate to answer these questions, suggests analytic strategies for those data, provides a timeline for conducting the evaluation, and includes staff assignments for completing the evaluation activities;

(B) Delineates the data expected to be available by the end of the second project year for use during the project's evaluation (3+2 review) for continued funding described under the heading *Fourth and Fifth Years of the Project*; and

(C) Assists the project director and the OSEP project officer, with the assistance of CIPP, as needed, in specifying the project performance measures to be addressed in the project's annual performance report;

(2) Dedicate sufficient staff time and other resources during the first six months of the project to collaborate with CIPP staff, including regular meetings (e.g., weekly, biweekly, or monthly) with CIPP and the OSEP project officer, in order to accomplish the tasks described in paragraph (C)(1) of this section; and

(3) Dedicate sufficient funds in each budget year to cover the costs of carrying out the tasks described in paragraphs (C)(1) and (2) of this section and revising and implementing the evaluation plan. Applicants must

include funds dedicated for this activity in the budget and budget narrative.

(d) Demonstrate, in the narrative section of the application under "Adequacy of resources and quality of project personnel," how—

(1) The proposed project will encourage 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, as appropriate;

(2) The proposed key project personnel, consultants, and subcontractors have the qualifications and experience to carry out the proposed activities and achieve the project's intended outcomes;

(3) The applicant and any key partners have adequate resources to carry out the proposed activities; and

(4) The proposed project will have processes, resources, and funds in place to provide equitable access for project staff, contractors, and partners, who require digital accessibility accommodations;<sup>13</sup> and

(5) The proposed costs are reasonable in relation to the anticipated results and benefits.

(e) Demonstrate, in the narrative section of the application under "Quality of the management plan," how—

(1) The proposed management plan will ensure that the project's intended outcomes will be achieved on time and within budget. To address this requirement, the applicant must describe—

(i) Clearly defined responsibilities for key project personnel, consultants, and subcontractors, as applicable; and

(ii) Timelines and milestones for accomplishing the project tasks;

(2) Key project personnel and any consultants and subcontractors will be allocated and how these allocations are appropriate and adequate to achieve the project's intended outcomes;

(3) The proposed management plan will ensure that the products and services provided are of high quality, relevant, and useful to recipients; and

(4) The proposed project will benefit from a diversity of perspectives, including those of faculty and graduates from HBCUs, TCCUs, and other MSIs; families; educators; TA providers; researchers; and policy makers, among others, in its development and operation.

<sup>12</sup> The major tasks of CIPP are to guide, coordinate, and oversee the design of formative evaluations for every large discretionary investment (i.e., those awarded \$500,000 or more per year and required to participate in the 3+2 process) in OSEP's Technical Assistance and Dissemination; Personnel Development; Parent Training and Information Centers; and Educational Technology,

Media, and Materials programs. The efforts of CIPP are expected to enhance individual project evaluation plans by providing expert and unbiased TA in designing the evaluations with due consideration of the project's budget. CIPP does not function as a third-party evaluator.

<sup>13</sup> For information about digital accessibility and accessibility standards from Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, visit <https://osepideasthatwork.org/resources-grantees/508-resources>.

(f) Address the following application requirements. The applicant must—

(1) Include, in appendix A, personnel-loading charts and timelines, as applicable, to illustrate the management plan described in the narrative;

(2) Include, in the budget, attendance at the following:

(i) A one and one-half day kick-off meeting in Washington, DC, after receipt of the award, and an annual planning meeting in Washington, DC, with the OSEP project officer and other relevant staff during each subsequent year of the project period.

*Note:* Within 30 days of receipt of the award, a post-award teleconference must be held between the OSEP project officer and the grantee's project director or other authorized representative;

(ii) A three-day project directors' conference in Washington, DC, during each year of the project period. The project must reallocate funds for travel to the project directors' conference no later than the end of the third quarter of each budget period if the conference is conducted virtually;

(iii) Three annual two-day trips to attend Department briefings, Department-sponsored conferences, and other meetings, as requested by OSEP. The project must reallocate funds for travel to the meetings no later than the end of the third quarter of each budget period if the meetings are conducted virtually; and

(iv) A one-day virtual intensive 3+2 review meeting during the second year of the project period;

(3) Include, in the budget, a line item for an annual set-aside of 5 percent of the grant amount to support emerging needs that are consistent with the proposed project's intended outcomes, as those needs are identified in consultation with, and approved by, the OSEP project officer. With approval from the OSEP project officer, the project must reallocate any remaining funds from this annual set-aside no later than the end of the third quarter of each budget period;

(4) Engage doctoral scholars or post-doctoral fellows, including those who are multilingual and racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse, in the implementation of the project to increase the number of future leaders in the field who are knowledgeable about early intervention, special education, and related services personnel preparation, academic program development and implementation, OSEP discretionary grant funding, and delivering equity-focused professional development and TA;

(5) Maintain a high-quality website;

(6) Ensure that annual project progress toward meeting project goals is posted on the project website; and

(7) Include, in appendix A, an assurance to assist OSEP with the transfer of pertinent resources and products and to maintain the continuity of services to HBCUs, TCCUs, and other MSIs during the transition to a new award at the end of this award period, as appropriate.

#### *Fourth and Fifth Years of the Project:*

In deciding whether to continue funding the project for the fourth and fifth years, the Secretary will consider the requirements of 34 CFR 75.253(a), including—

(a) The recommendations of a 3+2 review team consisting of experts knowledgeable about early intervention, special education, and related services personnel preparation, academic program development and implementation, OSEP discretionary grant funding, and delivering equity-focused professional development and TA. This review will be conducted during a one-day intensive meeting that will be held during the last half of the second year of the project period;

(b) The timeliness with which, and how well, the requirements of the negotiated cooperative agreement have been or are being met by the project; and

(c) The quality, relevance, and usefulness of the project's products and services and the extent to which the project's products and services are aligned with the project's objectives and likely to result in the project achieving its intended outcomes.

Under 34 CFR 75.253, the Secretary may reduce continuation awards or discontinue awards in any year of the project period for excessive carryover balances or a failure to make substantial progress. The Department intends to closely monitor unobligated balances and substantial progress under this program and may reduce or discontinue funding accordingly.

#### *References:*

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#### *Waiver of Proposed Rulemaking:*

Under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (5 U.S.C. 553) the Department generally offers interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed priorities. Section 681(d) of IDEA, however, makes the public comment requirements of the APA inapplicable to the priority in this notice.

*Program Authority:* 20 U.S.C. 1462 and 1481.

*Note:* Project will be awarded and must be operated in a manner consistent with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in Federal civil rights laws.

*Applicable Regulations:* (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations in 34 CFR parts 75, 77, 79, 81, 82, 84, 86, 97, 98, and 99. (b) The Office of Management and Budget Guidelines to Agencies on

Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) in 2 CFR part 180, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3485. (c) The Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards in 2 CFR part 200, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3474.

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

*Note:* The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to IHEs only.

## II. Award Information

*Type of Award:* Cooperative agreement.

*Estimated Available Funds:* The Administration has requested \$250,000,000 for the Personnel Development to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities program for FY 2024, of which we intend to use an estimated \$1,500,000 for this competition. The actual level of funding, if any, depends on final congressional action. However, we are inviting applications to allow enough time to complete the grant process if Congress appropriates funds for this program.

Contingent upon the availability of funds and the quality of applications, we may make additional awards in FY 2025 from the list of unfunded applications from this competition.

*Maximum Award:* We will not make an award exceeding \$1,500,000 for a single budget period of 12 months.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 1.

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

*Project Period:* Up to 60 months.

## III. Eligibility Information

1. *Eligible Applicants:* HBCUs, TCCUs, MSIs, and private nonprofit organizations that have legal authority to enter into grants and cooperative agreements with the Federal Government on behalf of an HBCU, TCCU, or MSI.

*Note:* If you are a nonprofit organization, under 34 CFR 75.51, you may demonstrate your nonprofit status by providing: (1) proof that the Internal Revenue Service currently recognizes the applicant as an organization to which contributions are tax deductible under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; (2) a statement from a State taxing body or the State attorney general certifying that the organization is a nonprofit organization operating within the State and that no part of its net earnings may lawfully benefit any private shareholder or individual; (3) a

certified copy of the applicant's certificate of incorporation or similar document if it clearly establishes the nonprofit status of the applicant; or (4) any item described above if that item applies to a State or national parent organization, together with a statement by the State or parent organization that the applicant is a local nonprofit affiliate.

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

b. *Indirect Cost Rate Information:* This program uses an unrestricted indirect cost rate. For more information regarding indirect costs, or to obtain a negotiated indirect cost rate, please see [www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/intro.html](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/intro.html).

c. *Administrative Cost Limitation:* This program does not include any program-specific limitation on administrative expenses. All administrative expenses must be reasonable and necessary and conform to Cost Principles described in 2 CFR part 200 subpart E of the Uniform Guidance.

3. *Subgrantees:* Under 34 CFR 75.708(b) and (c), a grantee under this competition may award subgrants—to directly carry out project activities described in its application—to the following types of entities: IHEs, nonprofit organizations suitable to carry out the activities proposed in the application, and public agencies. The grantee may award subgrants to entities it has identified in an approved application or that it selects through a competition under procedures established by the grantee, consistent with 34 CFR 75.708(b)(2).

4. *Other General Requirements:*

a. Recipients of funding under this competition must make positive efforts to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities (see section 606 of IDEA).

b. Applicants for, and recipients of, funding must, with respect to the aspects of their proposed project relating to the absolute priority, involve individuals with disabilities, or parents of individuals with disabilities ages birth through 26, in planning, implementing, and evaluating the project (see section 682(a)(1)(A) of IDEA).

## IV. Application and Submission Information

1. *Application Submission*

*Instructions:* Applicants are required to follow the Common Instructions for Applicants to Department of Education Discretionary Grant Programs, published in the **Federal Register** on

December 7, 2022 (87 FR 75045) and available at [www.federalregister.gov/d/2022-26554](http://www.federalregister.gov/d/2022-26554), which contain requirements and information on how to submit an application.

2. *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.

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

4. *Recommended Page Limit:* The application narrative is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. We recommend that you (1) limit the application narrative to no more than 70 pages and (2) use the following standards:

- A “page” is 8.5” x 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, reference citations, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, graphs, and screen shots.

- Use a font that is 12 point or larger.

- Use one of the following fonts:

Times New Roman, Courier, Courier New, or Arial.

The recommended page limit does not apply to the cover sheet; the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; the assurances and certifications; or the abstract (follow the guidance provided in the application package for completing the abstract), the table of contents, the list of priority requirements, the resumes, the reference list, the letters of support, or the appendices. However, the recommended page limit does apply to all of the application narrative, including all text in charts, tables, figures, graphs, and screen shots.

## V. Application Review Information

1. *Selection Criteria:* The selection criteria for this competition are from 34 CFR 75.210 and are listed below:

(a) *Significance (10 points).*

(1) The Secretary considers the significance of the proposed project.

(2) In determining the significance of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which specific gaps or weaknesses in services, infrastructure, or opportunities have been identified and will be addressed by

the proposed project, including the nature and magnitude of those gaps or weaknesses.

(ii) The importance or magnitude of the results or outcomes likely to be attained by the proposed project.

(b) *Quality of project services (35 points).*

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project.

(2) 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.

(3) In addition, the Secretary considers the following factors:

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

(ii) The extent to which there is a conceptual framework underlying the proposed research or demonstration activities and the quality of that framework.

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

(iv) 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.

(v) The extent to which the TA services to be provided by the proposed project involve the use of efficient strategies, including the use of technology, as appropriate, and the leveraging of non-project resources.

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

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the evaluation to be conducted of the proposed project.

(2) In determining the quality of the evaluation, the Secretary considers the following factors:

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

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

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

(iv) 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.

(d) *Adequacy of resources and quality of project personnel (15 points).*

(1) The Secretary considers the adequacy of resources for the proposed project and the quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project.

(2) 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.

(3) In addition, the Secretary considers the following factors:

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

(ii) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of project consultants or subcontractors.

(iii) The adequacy of support, including facilities, equipment, supplies, and other resources, from the applicant organization or the lead applicant organization.

(iv) The extent to which the budget is adequate to support the proposed project.

(e) *Quality of the management plan (20 points).*

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project.

(2) In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) 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.

(ii) 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.

(iii) The adequacy of mechanisms for ensuring high-quality products and services from the proposed project.

(iv) 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.

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 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 (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23).

3. *Additional Review and Selection Process Factors:* In the past, the Department has had difficulty finding peer reviewers for certain competitions because so many individuals who are eligible to serve as peer reviewers have conflicts of interest. The standing panel requirements under section 682(b) of IDEA also have placed additional constraints on the availability of reviewers. Therefore, the Department has determined that for some discretionary grant competitions, applications may be separated into two or more groups and ranked and selected for funding within specific groups. This procedure will make it easier for the Department to find peer reviewers by ensuring that greater numbers of individuals who are eligible to serve as reviewers for any particular group of applicants will not have conflicts of interest. It also will increase the quality, independence, and fairness of the review process, while permitting panel members to review applications under discretionary grant competitions for which they also have submitted applications.

4. *Risk Assessment and Specific Conditions:* Consistent with 2 CFR 200.206, before awarding grants under this competition the Department conducts a review of the risks posed by applicants. Under 2 CFR 200.208, the Secretary may impose specific conditions, and under 2 CFR 3474.10, in appropriate circumstances, high-risk 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 2 CFR part 200, subpart D; has not fulfilled the conditions of a prior grant; or is otherwise not responsible.

5. *Integrity and Performance System:* If you are selected under this competition to receive an award that over the course of the project period may exceed the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$250,000), under 2 CFR 200.206(a)(2) we must make a judgment about your integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards—that is, the risk posed by you as an applicant—before we make an award. In doing so, we must consider any information about you that is in the integrity and performance system (currently referred to as the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)), accessible through the System for Award Management. You may review and comment on any information about yourself that a Federal agency previously entered and that is currently in FAPIIS.

Please note that, if the total value of your currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from the Federal Government exceeds \$10,000,000, the reporting requirements in 2 CFR part 200, appendix XII, require you to report certain integrity information to FAPIIS semiannually. Please review the requirements in 2 CFR part 200, appendix XII, if this grant plus all the other Federal funds you receive exceed \$10,000,000.

6. *In General:* In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget's guidance located at 2 CFR part 200, all applicable Federal laws, and relevant Executive guidance, the Department will review and consider applications for funding pursuant to this notice inviting applications in accordance with:

(a) Selecting recipients most likely to be successful in delivering results based on the program objectives through an objective process of evaluating Federal award applications (2 CFR 200.205);

(b) Prohibiting the purchase of certain telecommunication and video surveillance services or equipment in alignment with section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2019 (Pub. L. 115–232) (2 CFR 200.216);

(c) Providing a preference, to the extent permitted by law, to maximize use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States (2 CFR 200.322); and

(d) Terminating agreements in whole or in part to the greatest extent authorized by law if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities (2 CFR 200.340).

## 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); or we may send you an email containing a link to access an electronic version of your 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 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. *Open Licensing Requirements:* Unless an exception applies, if you are awarded a grant under this competition, you will be required to openly license to the public grant deliverables created in whole, or in part, with Department grant funds. When the deliverable consists of modifications to pre-existing works, the license extends only to those modifications that can be separately identified and only to the extent that open licensing is permitted under the terms of any licenses or other legal restrictions on the use of pre-existing works. Additionally, a grantee that is awarded competitive grant funds must have a plan to disseminate these public grant deliverables. This dissemination plan can be developed and submitted after your application has been reviewed and selected for funding. For additional information on the open licensing requirements please refer to 2 CFR 3474.20.

4. *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 should you receive funding under the competition. This does not apply if you have an exception under 2 CFR 170.110(b).

(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 multiyear 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](http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html).

5. *Performance Measures:* For the purpose of Department reporting under 34 CFR 75.110, we have established a set of performance measures, including long-term measures, that are designed to yield information on various aspects of the effectiveness and quality of the Technical Assistance and Dissemination to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities program. These measures are:

- **Program Performance Measure #1:** The percentage of Technical Assistance and Dissemination products and services deemed to be of high quality by an independent review panel of experts qualified to review the substantive content of the products and services.

- **Program Performance Measure #2:** The percentage of Special Education Technical Assistance and Dissemination products and services deemed by an independent review panel of qualified experts to be of high relevance to educational and early intervention policy or practice.

- **Program Performance Measure #3:** The percentage of all Special Education Technical Assistance and Dissemination products and services deemed by an independent review panel of qualified experts to be useful in improving educational or early intervention policy or practice.

- **Program Performance Measure #4:** The cost efficiency of the Technical Assistance and Dissemination Program includes the percentage of milestones achieved in the current annual performance report period and the percentage of funds spent during the current fiscal year.

- **Long-term Program Performance Measure:** The percentage of States receiving Special Education Technical Assistance and Dissemination services regarding scientifically or evidence-based practices for infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities that successfully promote the implementation of those practices in school districts and service agencies.

The measures apply to projects funded under this competition, and grantees are required to submit data on these measures as directed by OSEP.

Grantees will be required to report information on their project's performance in annual and final performance reports to the Department (34 CFR 75.590).



The Department will also closely monitor the extent to which the products and services provided by the Center meet needs identified by stakeholders and may require the Center to report on such alignment in their annual and final performance reports.

6. *Continuation Awards:* In making a continuation award under 34 CFR 75.253, the Secretary considers, among other things: whether a grantee has made substantial progress in achieving the goals and objectives of the project; whether the grantee has expended funds in a manner that is consistent with its approved application and budget; and, if the Secretary has established performance measurement requirements, whether the grantee has made substantial progress in achieving the performance targets in the grantee's approved application.

In making a continuation award, the Secretary also considers whether the grantee is operating in compliance with the assurances in its approved application, including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23).

## VII. Other Information

*Accessible Format:* On request to the program contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, individuals with disabilities can obtain this document and a copy of the application package in an accessible format. The Department will provide the requestor with an accessible format that may include Rich Text Format (RTF) or text format (txt), a thumb drive, an MP3 file, braille, large print, audiotope, or compact disc, or other accessible format.

*Electronic Access to This Document:* The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. You may access the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations at [www.govinfo.gov](http://www.govinfo.gov). 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 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](http://www.federalregister.gov). Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit

your search to documents published by the Department.

**Glenna Wright-Gallo,**

*Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.*

[FR Doc. 2024-05767 Filed 3-18-24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED-2024-SCC-0003]

### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Migrant Student Information Exchange User Application Form

**AGENCY:** Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE), Department of Education (ED).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Department is proposing an extension without change of a currently approved information collection request (ICR).

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before April 23, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for proposed information collection requests should be submitted within 30 days of publication of this notice. Click on this link [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain) to access the site. Find this information collection request (ICR) by selecting "Department of Education" under "Currently Under Review," then check the "Only Show ICR for Public Comment" checkbox. [Reginfo.gov](http://Reginfo.gov) provides two links to view documents related to this information collection request. Information collection forms and instructions may be found by clicking on the "View Information Collection (IC) List" link. Supporting statements and other supporting documentation may be found by clicking on the "View Supporting Statement and Other Documents" link.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Benjamin Starr, 202-245-8116.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate;

(4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

*Title of Collection:* Migrant Student Information Exchange User Application Form.

*OMB Control Number:* 1810-0686.

*Type of Review:* An extension without change of a currently approved ICR.

*Respondents/Affected Public:* State, Local, and Tribal Governments.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 732.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 366.

**Abstract:** Regulations for the Migrant Information Exchange (MSIX), effective on June 9, 2016, were issued by the U.S. Department of Education (the Department). The MSIX, a nationwide, electronic records exchange mechanism mandated under Title I, Part C of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended. As a condition of receiving a grant of funds under the Migrant Education Program (MEP), each State educational agency (SEA) is required to collect, maintain, and submit minimum health and education-related data to MSIX within established timeframes. MSIX is designed to facilitate timely school enrollment, grade and course placement, accrual of secondary course credits and participation in the MEP for migratory children. Additionally, the regulations help the Department to determine accurate migratory child counts and meet other MEP reporting requirements. The MEP is authorized under sections 1301-1309 in Title I, Part C of the ESEA, as amended. MSIX and the minimum data elements (MDEs) are authorized specifically under section 1308(b) of the ESEA, as amended.

The Department is requesting approval to extend the 1810-0686 information collection that supports statutory requirements for data collection under Title I, Part C—MEP. The purpose of the MSIX User Application Form is to collect user directory data to verify the identity of users in order to grant access to the MSIX system for the purpose of transferring migratory student data. The application collects information on an MSIX users' identity, title/position, work address, work telephone, email, and role in MSIX.