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Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1057, 1059c and 1065a.

Dated: December 23, 1999.

Claudio R. Prieto,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

[FR Doc. 99-33959 Filed 12-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA Nos. 84.339A; 84.339B]

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education—Learning Anytime Anywhere Partnerships (LAAP) (Preapplications and Applications); Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2000.

Purpose of Program: To provide grants or enter into cooperative agreements to enhance the delivery, quality, and accountability of postsecondary education and career-

oriented lifelong learning through technology and related innovations.

For fiscal year (FY) 2000, the Secretary encourages applicants to design projects that focus on the invitational priorities set forth in the invitational priorities section of this application notice.

Eligible Applicants: Partnerships consisting of two or more independent agencies, organizations, or institutions, including institutions of higher education, community organizations, and other public and private institutions, agencies, and organizations. **Note:** A nonprofit organization must serve as the fiscal agent for a funded partnership.

Applications Available: December 30, 1999.

Deadline for Transmittal of Preapplications: March 3, 2000.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: June 9, 2000.

Note: All applicants must submit a preapplication to be eligible to submit a final application.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: August 8, 2000.

Available Funds: \$4,300,000. **Note:** Federal funds available under this competition may not pay for more than 50 percent of the cost of a project. The non-Federal share of project costs may be in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including services, supplies, or equipment.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$100,000 to \$500,000 per year.

Estimated Size of Awards: \$333,333 per year.

Estimated Number of Awards: 12–13.

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

Project Period: Up to 48 months.

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

Authorized Activities: Funds awarded to an eligible partnership must be used to conduct one or more of the following activities:

(a) Develop and assess model distance learning programs or innovative educational software.

(b) Develop methodologies for the identification and measurement of skill competencies.

(c) Develop and assess innovative student support services.

(d) Support other activities consistent with the statutory purpose of this program.

Invitational Priorities

The Secretary is particularly interested in applications that meet one

or more of the following invitational priorities. However, an application that meets one or more of these invitational priorities does not receive competitive or absolute preference over other applications (34 CFR 75.105(c)(1)).

Invitational Priority 1

Projects to address the need to ensure that significant development costs can be justified by wide-scale applicability and long-term sustainability of technology-mediated distance education, and the need to find new ways to overcome the barriers that may inhibit faculty across institutions from working collectively.

Invitational Priority 2

Projects to develop high quality, interactive courseware that can be implemented to achieve the scale necessary to recoup large investments, but is modular and sufficiently flexible for faculty to shape and modify academic content.

Invitational Priority 3

Projects to package courses and programs to assist students who wish to draw from the offerings of multiple providers and to assist institutions to cooperate and share resources.

Invitational Priority 4

Projects to use skill competencies and learning outcomes in order to measure student progress and achievement in technology-mediated distance learning programs.

Invitational Priority 5

Projects to improve quality and accountability of technology-mediated distance education to ensure that credentials are meaningful, that educational providers are accountable, and that courses meet high standards.

Invitational Priority 6

Projects to create new technology-mediated education opportunities for underserved learners, especially those who have not always been well served by traditional campus-based education or common forms of distance education, including: individuals with disabilities; individuals who have lost their jobs; individuals making the transition from welfare to the workforce; and individuals seeking basic or technical skills or their first postsecondary education experience.

Invitational Priority 7

Projects to improve support services for students seeking technology-mediated distance education to ensure that they have complete and convenient

access to needed services such as registration, financial aid, advising, assessment, counseling, libraries, and many others.

Invitational Priority 8

Projects to remove or revise institutional, system, state, or other policies which are barriers to the implementation of new types of technology-mediated distance education.

Selection Criteria

The Secretary selects from the criteria in 34 CFR 75.210 to evaluate preapplications and applications for this competition. Under 34 CFR 75.201, the Secretary announces in the application package the selection criteria and factors, if any, for this competition and the maximum weight assigned to each criterion.

GPRA Participation

In 1993, Congress enacted the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), which directs federal departments and agencies to improve the effectiveness of their programs by engaging in strategic planning, setting outcome-related goals for programs, and measuring program results against those goals. Under the GPRA policy, the LAAP program has four primary objectives, with related performance indicators that grant recipients will be asked to include in their evaluation plans. The four objectives are: (1) Develop innovative partnerships resulting in economies of scale, delivering asynchronous distance education and training; (2) increase access to asynchronous distance education for diverse groups of learners, especially to prepare them for work in technical and other areas of critical shortage or for the changing requirements of fields; (3) enable advancements in quality and accountability within postsecondary, asynchronous distance education; (4) enable advancements in flexibility of distance education design and delivery. More details about LAAP performance indicators are provided on the LAAP website: www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/FIPSE/LAAP.

FOR APPLICATIONS CONTACT: Education Publications Center (ED Pubs), P.O. Box 1398, Jessup, MD 20794-1398. Telephone (toll free): 1-877-433-7827. FAX: (301) 470-1244. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call (toll free): 1-877-576-7734. You may also contact ED Pubs via its Web site (<http://www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html>) or its e-mail address (edpubs@inet.ed.gov). If

you request an application from ED Pubs, be sure to identify the competition as follows: CFDA number 84.339A.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006-8544. Telephone: (202) 502-7500. Individuals may also request applications or request information by submitting the name of the competition, their name, and postal mailing address to the e-mail address LAAP@ed.gov. The application text may be obtained from the Internet address: <http://www.ed.gov/FIPSE/LAAP>.

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Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070f *et seq.*

Dated: December 23, 1999.

Maureen A. McLaughlin,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

[FR Doc. 99-33957 Filed 12-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Science

Office of Financial Assistance Program Notice 00-09: Carbon Sequestration Research Program

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice inviting research grant applications.

SUMMARY: The Office of Biological and Environmental Research (OBER) of the Office of Science (SC), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), hereby announces its interest in receiving applications for research on Carbon Sequestration in the Terrestrial Biosphere and the Oceans.

DATES: Applicants are encouraged (but not required) to submit a brief preapplication for programmatic review. Early submission of preapplications is encouraged to allow time for meaningful dialog.

The deadline for receipt of formal applications is 4:30 p.m., E.S.T., March 2, 2000, to be accepted for merit review and to permit timely consideration for award in Fiscal Year 2000 and early Fiscal Year 2001.

ADDRESSES: Preapplications, referencing Program Notice 00-09, for Section A on Terrestrial Biosphere should be sent E-mail to roger.dahlman@science.doe.gov and for Section B on the Oceans to anna.palmisano@science.doe.gov.

Formal applications, referencing Program Notice 00-09, should be sent to: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Grants and Contracts Division, SC-64, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290, ATTN: Program Notice 00-09. This address must also be used when submitting applications by U.S. Postal Service Express Mail or any other commercial overnight delivery service, or when hand-carried by the applicant.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. John Houghton, Environmental Sciences Division, SC-74, Office of Biological and Environmental Research, Office of Science, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290, telephone: (301) 903-8288, E-mail:

john.houghton@science.doe.gov, fax: (301) 903-8519. The full text of Program Notice 00-09 is available via the Internet using the following web site address: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Predictions of global energy use in the next century suggest a continued increase in carbon emissions and rising concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere unless major changes