

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education—Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities National Programs—Federal Activities—Grant Competition To Prevent High-Risk Drinking and Violent Behavior Among College Students

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

ACTION: Notice of final priorities, definitions, and selection criteria.

SUMMARY: The Secretary announces final priorities, definitions, and selection criteria for fiscal year (FY) 2000 under the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities National Programs—Federal Activities—Grant Competition to Prevent High-Risk Drinking and Violent Behavior Among College Students. The Secretary may use one or more of these priorities, definitions, and selection criteria for competitions in fiscal year (FY) 2001 and later years. The Secretary takes this action to focus Federal financial assistance on an identified national need. This competition seeks to prevent high-risk drinking and violent behavior among college students.

EFFECTIVE DATE: These priorities, definitions, and selection criteria are effective May 8, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Lucey, Jr., U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW—Room 3E252, Washington, DC 20202—6123. Telephone: (202) 205-5471. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at (800) 877-8339.

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

Note: This notice of final priorities does not solicit applications. A notice inviting applications under this competition is published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**. The notice inviting applications will specify the date and time by which applications for this competition must be received by the Department. Applications received after that time will not be eligible for funding. Postmarked dates will not be accepted.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary published a notice of proposed priorities, definitions, and selection criteria for this competition in the **Federal Register** on February 14, 2000 (65 FR 7372-7374). Except for

minor editorial revisions, there are no differences between the notice of proposed priorities, definitions, and selection criteria and this notice of final priorities, definitions, and selection criteria.

Public Comment

In the notice of proposed priorities, definitions and selection criteria, the Secretary invited comments on the proposed priorities, definitions, and selection criteria. We did not receive any substantive comments.

Definitions

1. "Two-year institutions of higher education (IHEs)" are defined as those IHEs or branches of IHEs that are public or private nonprofit organizations and confer at least a two-year formal award (certificate, diploma, or associate's degree), or have a two-year program creditable toward a baccalaureate degree or higher award.

2. "High-risk drinking" is defined as those situations that may involve but not be limited to: binge drinking (commonly defined as five or more drinks on any one occasion); underage drinking; drinking and driving; situations when one's condition is already impaired by another cause, such as depression or emotional stress; or combining alcohol and medications, such as tranquilizers, sedatives, and antihistamines.

General

In making awards under this grant program, the Secretary may take into consideration the geographic distribution of the projects in addition to the rank order of applicants.

Contingent upon the availability of funds, the Secretary may make additional awards in FY 2001 from the rank-ordered list of nonfunded applications from this competition.

Priorities: Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) and the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1994, the Secretary gives an absolute preference to applications that meet one or both of the following priorities, and funds under this competition *only* those applications that meet one or both of the following absolute priorities:

Absolute Priority #1—Develop or Enhance, Implement, and Evaluate Campus-Based Strategies To Prevent High-Risk Drinking by College Student Athletes, First-Year Students, or Students Attending Two-Year Institutions

Under this priority, applicants are required to propose projects that develop or enhance, implement, and

evaluate strategies to prevent high-risk drinking by college student athletes, first-year students, or students attending two-year institutions of higher education. Grant applicants are required to:

(1) Identify the target population and provide a justification for its selection;

(2) Provide evidence that a needs assessment has been conducted on campus to document prevalence rates related to high-risk drinking by the population selected;

(3) Set measurable goals and objectives for the proposed project and provide a description of how progress toward achieving goals will be measured annually;

(4) Design and implement prevention strategies, using student input and participation, that research has shown to be effective in preventing high-risk drinking by the target population;

(5) Use a qualified evaluator to design and implement an evaluation of the project using outcomes-based (summative) performance indicators related to behavioral change and process (formative) measures that assess and document the strategies used; and

(6) Demonstrate the ability to start the project within 60 days after receiving Federal funding in order to maximize the time available to show impact within the grant period.

Absolute Priority #2—Develop or Enhance, Implement, and Evaluate Campus-Based Strategies To Prevent Violent Behavior by College Students

Under this priority, applicants must propose projects that develop or enhance, implement, and evaluate strategies to prevent violent behavior by college students. Grant applicants are required to:

(1) Provide evidence that a needs assessment has been conducted on campus to document prevalence rates related to violent behavior;

(2) Set measurable goals and objectives for the proposed project and provide a description of how progress toward achieving goals will be measured annually;

(3) Design and implement prevention strategies, using student input and participation, that research has shown to be effective in preventing violent behavior among college students;

(4) Use a qualified evaluator to design and implement an evaluation of the project using outcomes-based (summative) performance indicators related to behavioral change and process (formative) measures that assess and document the strategies used; and

(5) Demonstrate the ability to start the project within 60 days after receiving

Federal funding in order to maximize the time available to show impact within the grant period.

Selection Criteria

The Secretary uses the following selection criteria to evaluate applications for new grants under this competition. The maximum score for all of these criteria is 100 points. The maximum score for each criterion or factor under that criterion is indicated in parentheses.

(1) *Need for project.* (15 points)

In determining the need for the proposed project, the following factors are considered:

(a) The magnitude or severity of the problem to be addressed by the proposed project. (10 points)

(b) 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. (5 points)

(2) *Significance.* (20 points)

In determining the significance of the proposed project, the following factors are considered:

(a) The likelihood that the proposed project will result in system change or improvement. (5 points)

(b) The potential contribution of the proposed project to the development and advancement of theory, knowledge, and practices in the field of study. (10 points)

(c) The extent to which the proposed project involves the development or demonstration of promising new strategies that build on, or are alternatives to, existing strategies. (5 points)

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

In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the following factors are considered:

(a) The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the proposed project are clearly specified and measurable. (10 points)

(b) The extent to which the design of the proposed project is appropriate to, and will successfully address, the needs of the target population or other identified needs. (5 points)

(c) The extent to which the design of the proposed project reflects up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice. (10 points)

(d) The extent to which the proposed project will establish linkages with other appropriate agencies and organizations providing services to the target population. (5 points)

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

In determining the quality of project personnel, the following factors are considered:

(a) 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 points)

(b) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel. (7 points)

(5) *Quality of the project evaluation.* (25 points)

In determining the quality of the evaluation, the following factors are considered:

(a) The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the proposed project. (10 points)

(b) 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. (10 points)

(c) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes. (5 points)

Intergovernmental Review: This program is subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR

part 79. One of the objectives of the Executive order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism. The Executive order relies on processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

This document provides early notification of our specific plans and actions for this program.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 7131.

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

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Dated: March 31, 2000.

Michael Cohen,

Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education.

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