

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**[CFDA No. 84.031A, CFDA No. 84.031G]****Notice Inviting Applications for Designation as an Eligible Institution for Fiscal Year 1997 for the Strengthening Institutions, Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), and Endowment Challenge Grant Programs****Purpose**

Institutions of higher education must meet specific statutory and regulatory requirements to be designated eligible to receive funds under the Strengthening Institutions, HSI, and Endowment Challenge Grant Programs, authorized, respectively, under Part A, Section 316, and Part C of Title III of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA).

The Department has made no decision as to whether it will hold grant competitions for new awards under Parts A, Section 316, and Part C of Title III. The Department must review the available funding for the program before determining whether to hold competitions for new awards in Fiscal Year 1997.

Institutions that wish to be considered for waivers of certain non-Federal share requirements under the Federal Work-Study (FWS) of Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) Programs authorized under Title IV of the HEA must submit a Title III eligibility application to the Department by the deadline dates set forth in this notice and must qualify as an eligible institution under this notice. Qualified institutions may receive these waivers even if they are not recipients of grants funds under Title III.

If an institution is interested in obtaining eligibility for purposes of receiving a new grant under the Strengthening Institutions or HSI Programs, applying for a new grant under the Endowment Challenge Grant Program, or receiving a waiver of the non-Federal share under FWS or FSEOG Programs, it must submit its application to the Department by March 13, 1997. However if an institution submits its application by February 13, 1997, the Department will notify the applicant of its eligibility status by March 17, 1997. Any of these applicants that believe it failed to be designated as an eligible institution because of errors in its application or insufficient information in its waiver request may submit an amended application to the Department no later than April 14, 1997.

If an applicant submits its initial application after February 13, 1997 but on or before March 13, 1997, the

Department does not guarantee that it can review this delayed application and notify the applicant in time to allow revisions to the application by April 14, 1997 deadline date for amended applications.

An institution that misses the April 14, 1997 deadline for submission of a revised application will not be designated as eligible for fiscal year 1997.

Because of the direct benefits to institutions that are able to revise unapproved applications, the Department strongly recommends that institutions apply by the February 13, 1997 deadline.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications

February 13, 1997 for early applications, March 13, 1997 for all initial applications, and April 14, 1997 for amended applications.

Applications Available

January 6, 1997.

Eligibility Information

To qualify as an eligible institution under the Strengthening Institutions and Endowment Challenge Grant Programs, an applicant must (1) be accredited or preaccredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency; (2) be legally authorized by the State in which it is located to be a junior or community college or to provide a bachelor's degree program; and (3) have a high enrollment of needy students. In addition, its educational and general (E&G) expenditures per full-time equivalent (FTE) undergraduate student must be low in comparison with the average E&G expenditures per FTE undergraduate student of institutions that offer similar instruction. The complete eligibility requirements are found in the Strengthening Institutions Program regulations, 34 CFR 607.2–607.5, as revised in the Federal Register on August 15, 1994 (59 FR 41914, 41922).

Enrollment of Needy Students

Under 34 CFR § 607.3(a), an institution is considered to have a high enrollment of needy students if—(1) at least 50 percent of its degree students received financial assistance under one or more of the following programs: Pell Grant, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, College Work Study, or Perkins Loan Program; or (2) the percentage of its undergraduate degree students who were enrolled on at least a half-time basis and received Pell Grants exceeded the median percentage of undergraduate degree students who

were enrolled on at least a half-time basis and received Pell Grants at comparable institutions that offer similar instruction. To qualify under this latter criterion, an institution's Pell Grant percentage for base year 1994–95 must be more than the median for its category of comparable institutions provided on the table in this notice.

E&G Expenditures per FTE Student

An institution should compare its average E&G expenditure/FTE student to the average E&G expenditure/FTE student for its category of comparable institutions contained in the table in this notice. If the institution's average E&G expenditure for the 1994–95 base year is less than the average for its category of comparable institutions, it meets this eligibility requirement.

The institution's E&G expenditures are the total amount it expended during the base year for instruction, research, public service, academic support, student services, institutional support, operation and maintenance, scholarships and fellowships, and mandatory transfers.

The following table identifies the relevant median Pell Grant percentages and the average E&G expenditures per FTE student for the 1994–95 base year for the four categories of comparable institutions:

	Median Pell Grant percentage	Average E&G per FTE student
2-year Public Institutions	29.57	\$6,025
2-year Non-Profit Private Institutions	31.43	9,075
4-year Public Institutions	28.83	14,735
4-year Non-Profit Private Institutions	28.68	21,062

Waiver Information

Institutions of higher education that are unable to meet the needy student enrollment requirement or the E&G expenditure requirement may apply to the Secretary for waivers of these requirements, as described in 34 CFR §§ 607.3(b) and 607.4 (c) and (d). As discussed in the preamble to the final regulations published in the Federal Register on August 15, 1994 (59 FR 41914–41917), the Secretary has developed a set of more specific instructions relating to the waiver provisions for institutions unable to meet the needy student enrollment requirement. Institutions requesting a waiver of this requirement must include detailed information as set forth in the

instructions for completing the application.

Under specific waiver options provided under the authority in 34 CFR § 607.3(b) (2), (3) and (6), an institution must provide evidence related to the number of students from low-income families that it served in base year 1994-95. The regulations define "low-income" as an amount that does not exceed 150 percent of the amount equal to the poverty level as established by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, 34 CFR 607.3(c). For the purposes of this waiver provision, the following table sets forth the low-income levels for the various sizes of families:

BASE YEAR LOW-INCOME LEVELS

Size of family unit	Contiguous 48 States, the District of Columbia, and outlying jurisdictions	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$7,360	\$9,200	\$8,470
2	9,840	12,300	11,320
3	12,320	15,400	14,170
4	14,800	18,500	17,020
5	17,280	21,600	19,870
6	19,760	24,700	22,720
7	22,240	27,800	25,570
8	24,720	30,900	28,420

For family units with more than eight members add the following amount for each additional family member: \$2,480 for the contiguous 48 states, the District of Columbia and outlying jurisdictions; \$3,100 for Alaska; and \$2,850 for Hawaii.

The figures shown as low-income levels represent amounts equal to 150 percent of the family income levels established by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for determining poverty status. The Census levels were published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the Federal Register on February 10, 1994 (59 FR 6277-6278).

In reference to the waiver option specified in § 607.3(b)(4) of the regulations, information about "metropolitan statistical areas" may be obtained by requesting the *Metropolitan Statistical Areas, 1993*, order number PB93-192664, from the National Technical Information Services, Document sales, 5285 Port Royal Road,

Springfield, Virginia 22161, telephone number (703) 487-4650. There is a charge for this publication. For general information about "metropolitan statistical areas", institutions of higher education may contact the Strengthening Institutions Program Branch.

Applicable Regulations

Regulations applicable to the eligibility process include: (a) the Strengthening Institutions Program Regulations in 34 CFR Part 607, as revised in the Federal Register on August 15, 1994 (59 FR 41914); (b) the Endowment Challenge Grant Program Regulations in 34 CFR Part 628; and (c) the Education Department General Administrative Regulations in 34 CFR Parts 74, 75, 77, 82, 85, and 86.

For Applications or Information Contact

Strengthening Institutions Program Branch, Division of Institutional Development, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, SW., (Suite 600-C, Portals Building), Washington, DC 20202-5335. Telephone: (202) 708-8839 or 708-8857. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

Information about the Department's funding opportunities, including copies of application notices for discretionary grant competitions, can be viewed on the Department's electronic bulletin board (ED Board), telephone (202) 260-9950; or on the Internet Gopher Server (at Gopher://gcs.ED.GOV/); or on the World Wide Web (at <http://gcs.ed.gov>). However, the official application notice for a discretionary grant competition is the notice published in the Federal Register.

Program Authority

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

Dated: November 21, 1996.

David A. Longanecker,
Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[Docket No. EA-134]

Application To Export Electric Energy to Mexico; Arizona Public Service Company

AGENCY: Office of Fossil Energy, DOE.

AGENCY: Notice of application.

SUMMARY: Arizona Public Service Company (APS), a regulated public utility, has submitted an application to export electric energy to Mexico pursuant to section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act.

DATES: Comments, protests or requests to intervene must be submitted on or before December 27, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments, protests or requests to intervene should be addressed as follows: Office of Coal & Power Import & Export Activities (FE-52), Office of Coal & Power Systems, Office of Fossil Energy, Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585 (FAX 202-287-5736).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ellen Russell (Program Office) 202-586-9624 or Michael Skinker (Program Attorney) 202-586-6667.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Exports of electricity from the United States to a foreign country are regulated and require authorization under section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act (FPA) (16 U.S.C. 824a(e)).

On November 12, 1996, APS filed an application with the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) for authorization to export electric energy to the Comision Federal de Electricidad (CFE), the national electric utility of Mexico, pursuant to section 202(e) of the FPA. Specifically, APS, has proposed to transmit to CFE electric energy purchased in the wholesale power marketplace, or when available, excess energy from its own system.

APS would arrange for the exported energy to be transmitted to CFE over one or more of the following international transmission or subtransmission lines for which Presidential permits (PP) have been previously issued:

Owner	Location	Presidential voltage	Permit No.
San Diego Gas & Elect	Miguel, CA	230 kV	PP-68.
	Imperial Valley, CA	230 kV	PP-79.
El Paso Electric	Diablo, NM	115 kV	PP-92.
	Ascarate, TX	115 kV	PP-48.
Central Power and Light	Brownsville, TX	138 kV	PP-94.
		69 kV	PP-94.