

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LITERACY
[CFDA NO. 84.257I]

Literacy Leader Fellowship Program

AGENCY: National Institute for Literacy.

ACTION: Notice.

Purpose of Program: The Literacy Leader Fellowship Program is designed to provide Federal financial assistance to adult learners and to individuals pursuing careers in adult education or literacy in the areas of instruction, research, or innovation. Under the program, literacy workers and adult learners are applicants for fellowships.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: Applications must be received at the National Institute for Literacy no later than 4:30 p.m. August 4, 1997.

Available Funds: \$140,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$30,000–\$50,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$35,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 4.

Note: The National Institute for Literacy is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: Projects will be not less than three and no more than 12 months of full or part-time activity.

Applicable Regulations: The regulations governing the National Institute for Literacy's Literacy Leader Fellowship Program as published in this issue of the **Federal Register**.

While the Institute is administered by an Interagency agreement with the U.S. Departments of Education, Labor, and Health and Human Services, the specific policies and procedures of these agencies regarding rulemaking and administration of grants are not adopted by the Institute except as expressly stated in this Notice and in the regulations.

Transmittal of Applications: An original and seven (7) copies of applications for award must be received by the Institute on or before the deadline date of August 4, 1997.

Applications delivered by mail: Applications sent by mail must be addressed to National Institute for Literacy, 800 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20006, Attention: (CFDA#84.257I).

An applicant is encouraged to use registered, certified, or first-class mail.

Late applicants will be notified that their applications will not be considered, and their applications will be returned.

Applications delivered by Hand: Applications that are hand-delivered must be taken to the National Institute

for Literacy, 800 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Suite 200, Washington, DC.

The Institute will accept hand-delivered applications between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (Washington, DC time) daily, except Saturdays, Sundays and Federal holidays. Applications that are hand-delivered will not be accepted by the Institute after 4:30 p.m. on the due date.

Acknowledgment of Applications: The Institute will mail an Applicant Receipt Acknowledgment to each applicant within 15 days from the due date. If an applicant fails to receive the application acknowledgement, call the National Institute for Literacy at (202) 632-1525.

The applicant must indicate on the outside of the envelope the CFDA number of the competition under which the application is being submitted.

Application Forms: Applicants are required to submit the following forms, assurances and certifications:

- (a) Application Information and Budget Summary (NIFL Form No. 001)
- (b) Assurances—Non-Construction Programs (Standard Form 424B).
- (c) Certification Regarding Lobbying: Debarment, Suspension, and other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements (ED 80-0013).
- (d) Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (Standard Form LLL) (if applicable); and
- (e) Certification of Eligibility for Federal Assistance in Certain Programs (ED 80-0016)

The NIFL form, assurances, and certifications must each have an original signature. No award can be made unless these forms are submitted.

Prescribed Format: Applicants will also be required to submit a proposal narrative. The narrative should be no more than 8 pages in length. The narrative format is described in the Literacy Leader Fellowship Application package. Applicants should also submit a resume, budget narrative, and four letters of recommendation.

Priorities: (a) The Director invites applications for Literacy Leader Fellowships that meet the priorities for 1997.

(b) The priorities for 1997 are major areas of concern in the literacy field that are currently being addressed in the Institute's work.

(c) An application may be awarded up to 5 bonus points for addressing a priority or priorities, depending on how well the application meets the priority or priorities.

(d) The publication of these priorities does not bind the Institute to fund only applications addressing priorities. The Director is especially interested in fellowship applications that address one

or more of the priorities, but not to the exclusion of other significant issues that may be proposed by applicants.

(e) The priorities selected from the regulations for 1997 are as follows:

(1) *Developing Leadership in Adult Learners.* Because Adult learners are the true experts on literacy, they are an important resource for the field. Their firsthand experience as "customers" of the literacy system can be invaluable in assisting the field in moving forward, particularly in terms of raising public awareness and understanding about literacy. Projects that enhance best practices or the adult learner network will be given priority consideration.

(2) *Expanding the Use of Technology in Literacy Programs.* One of the NIFL's major projects is the Literacy Information and Communication System (LINCS), an Internet based information system that provides timely information and abundant resources to the literacy community. Keeping the literacy community up to date in the information age is vital. Projects that improve or increase use of technology will be given priority consideration.

(3) *Improving Accountability for Literacy Programs.* Legislation that has passed both houses of the U.S. Congress emphasizes that literacy programs must develop accountability systems that demonstrate their effectiveness in helping adult learners contribute more fully in the workplace, family and community. Projects that focus on results-oriented literacy practice, especially as related to the Equipped for the Future (EFF) framework, are a priority.

(4) *Raising Public Awareness about Literacy.* The NIFL is leading a national effort to raise public awareness that literacy is part of the solution to many social concerns, including the well-being of children, health, welfare and the economy. Projects that enhance this effort will be given priority consideration.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: National Educational Goal 6, which is included in the Goals 2000: Educate America Act, puts forward an ambitious agenda for adult literacy and lifelong learning in America. To further this goal, the Congress passed Public Law 102-73, the National Literacy Act of 1991, which is the first piece of national legislation to focus exclusively on literacy. The overall intent of the Act, as stated, is:

To enhance the literacy and basic skills of adults, to ensure that all adults in the United States acquire the basic skills necessary to function effectively and achieve the greatest possible opportunity in their work and in their lives and to strengthen and coordinate adult literacy programs.

In designing the Act, among the primary concerns shared by the Congress and literacy stakeholders was the fragmentation and lack of coordination among the many efforts in the field. To address these concerns, the Act created the National Institute for Literacy to:

(A) provide a national focal point of research, technical assistance, and research dissemination, policy analysis and program evaluation in the area of literacy; and

(B) facilitate a pooling of ideas and expertise across fragmented programs and research efforts.

Among the Institute's authorized activities is the awarding of fellowships to outstanding individuals who are pursuing careers in adult education or literacy in the areas of instruction, management, research, or innovation. These fellowships are to be awarded for

activities that advance the field of adult education and literacy.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Meg Young, National Institute for Literacy, 800 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 200, Washington, DC 20006. Telephone: 202/632-1517, Fax: 202/632-1512. E-mail: myoung@nifl.gov. To receive an application package, please contact Darlene McDonald at the same address: Telephone: 202/632-1517, E-mail: dmcDonald@nifl.gov.

Instructions for Estimated Public Reporting Burden

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 3430-0003, Expiration Date

6/30/2000. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 20 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and disseminating the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: the National Institute for Literacy, 800 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20006.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1213c.

Dated: June 17, 1997.

Carolyn Staley,

Deputy Director, NIFL.

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