

showing measurable change. The latter commenter noted that "effecting such change requires complex, comprehensive, intense and long term interventions."

Discussion: Two of the selection criteria that will be used by reviewers to rate applications will address the issue of program impact. These are (under *Quality of Project Services*) the "likely impact of the services to be provided by the proposed project on the intended recipients of those services," and (under *Quality of Project Evaluation*) the "extent to which the methods of evaluation provide for examining the effectiveness of project implementation strategies." In addition to locally designed evaluations of program effects, the Government Performance and Results Act requires ED to develop performance indicators for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program at the national level.

Changes: None.

PRIORITIES

Absolute Priority: Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), the Secretary gives an absolute preference to applications that meet the absolute priority in the next paragraph. The Secretary funds under this competition only applications that meet this absolute priority.

Activities to Expand Learning Opportunities

The Secretary funds *only* those applications for 21st Century Community Learning Centers grants that include, among the array of services required and authorized by the statute, activities that offer significant expanded learning opportunities for children and youth in the community and that contribute to reduced drug use and violence.

Competitive Priorities: Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i), the Secretary gives preference to applications that meet one or both of the two competitive priorities in the next two paragraphs. The Secretary awards up to five (5) points for each competitive priority addressed in an application (for a maximum of 10 points if an application addresses both competitive priorities). These points are in addition to the 100 points an application may earn under the selection criteria which will be published in the application package.

Competitive Priority 1—Projects that propose to serve early adolescents and middle-school students.

Competitive Priority 2—Projects designed to assist students to meet or exceed State and local standards in core academic subjects such as reading, mathematics or science, as appropriate

to the needs of the participating children.

Note: This notice of final priorities does *not* solicit applications. A notice inviting applications under this competition is published in a separate notice in this issue of the **Federal Register**.

Executive Order 12866: This notice of final priorities has been reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 12866. Under the terms of the order the Secretary has assessed the potential costs and benefits of this regulatory action.

The potential costs associated with the notice of final priorities are those resulting from statutory requirements and those determined by the Secretary as necessary for administering this program effectively and efficiently.

In assessing the potential costs and benefits—both quantitative and qualitative—of this notice of final priorities, the Secretary has determined that the benefits of the priorities justify the costs.

To assist the Department in complying with the specific requirements of Executive Order 12866, the Secretary invites comment on whether there may be further opportunities to reduce any potential costs or increase potential benefits resulting from these final priorities without impeding the effective and efficient administration of the program.

Summary of potential costs and benefits: There are no identified costs associated with this notice of final priorities. Announcement of these priorities will not result in costs to State and local governments or to recipients of grant funds.

Intergovernmental Review: This program is subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR Part 79. The objective of the Executive order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism by relying on processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

In accordance with the order, this document is intended to provide early notification of the Department's specific plans and actions for this program. 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.

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Note: The official version of a document is the document published in the **Federal Register**.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 8241-8247.

Dated: November 25, 1997.

Ricky T. Takai,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 84.287, 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program)

[FR Doc. 97-31567 Filed 12-1-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.287]

21st Century Community Learning Centers; Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year 1998

Purpose of Program: The 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program was established by Congress to award grants to rural and inner-city public schools, or consortia of such schools, to enable them to plan, implement, or expand projects that benefit the educational, health, social services, cultural and recreational needs of the community. School-based community learning centers can provide a safe, drug-free, supervised and cost-effective after-school, weekend or summer haven for children, youth and their families.

Eligible Applicants: Only rural or inner-city public elementary or secondary schools, consortia of those schools, or LEAs applying on their behalf, are eligible to receive a grant under the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program. An LEA with many interested schools is encouraged to submit a consortium application on their behalf. Applicants must

demonstrate that they meet the statutory program purpose as being either a "rural" or "inner-city" school or a consortium of those schools.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: March 9, 1998

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: May 8, 1998

Applications Available: December 16, 1997

Available Funds: \$40 million

Estimated Range of Awards: \$35,000—\$200,000 per Center. Awards to consortia or LEAs involving multiple Centers will be adjusted to reflect the number of Centers included.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$100,000 (per Center)

Estimated Number of Awards: 200–300, depending on how many awards will assist multiple Centers.

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

Project Period: Up to 36 months. Please note that all applicants for multi-year awards are required to provide detailed budget information for the total grant period requested. The Department will negotiate at the time of the initial award the funding levels for each year of the grant award.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administration Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR Parts 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, and 86, and (b) 34 CFR part 299, General Provisions, Elementary and Secondary Education Act, published on May 22, 1997, in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 28247).

Priorities: The priorities in the notice of final priorities for this program, as published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**, apply to this competition. In addition, the Secretary gives preference to applications that meet the following competitive priority. (34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(ii) and 34 CFR 299.3(a)). The Secretary selects an application that meets this competitive priority over an application of comparable merit that does not meet this competitive priority.

Competitive Priority—Projects that will use a significant portion of the program funds to address substantial problems in an Empowerment Zone, including a Supplemental Empowerment Zone, or an Enterprise Community designated by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development or the United States Department of Agriculture.

Note: A list of areas that have been designated as Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities is published as an appendix to this notice.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program is authorized under Title X, Part I (20 USC 8241) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Grantees under this program are required to carry out at least four of the activities listed in section 10905 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 USC 8245), as listed below:

- (1) Literacy education programs;
- (2) Senior citizen programs;
- (3) Children's day care services;
- (4) Integrated education, health, social service, recreational, or cultural programs;
- (5) Summer and weekend school programs in conjunction with recreation programs;
- (6) Nutrition and health programs;
- (7) Expanded library service hours to serve community needs;
- (8) Telecommunications and technology education programs for individuals of all ages;
- (9) Parenting skills education programs;
- (10) Support and training for child day care providers;
- (11) Employment counseling, training, and placement;
- (12) Services for individuals who leave school before graduating from secondary school, regardless of the age of such individual; and
- (13) Services for individuals with disabilities.

Applicants should propose an array of inclusive and supervised services that include extended learning opportunities (such as instructional enrichment programs, tutoring, or homework assistance) but may also include recreational, musical and artistic activities; opportunities to use advanced technology, particularly for those children who do not have access to computers or telecommunications at home, or safety and substance-abuse prevention programs. Grants awarded under this program may be used to plan, implement, or expand community learning centers.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION: In awarding grants, the Secretary assures an equitable distribution of assistance among the States, among urban and rural areas of a State, and among urban and rural areas of the United States.

FOR APPLICATIONS OR INFORMATION CONTACT:

To Obtain an Application Package: Written requests should be mailed to: Amanda Clyburn, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, 555 New Jersey Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20208–5644, Attn: 21st Century Center

Learning Centers. Requests may also be e-mailed to Amanda Clyburn (amanda_clyburn@ed.gov) or faxed to (202) 219–2198.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Carol J. Mitchell or Amanda Clyburn, U. S. Department of Education, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20208–5644. E-mail addresses are: carol_j._mitchell@ed.gov or amanda_clyburn@ed.gov respectively. Fax number is (202) 219–2198.

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.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternate format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, or computer diskette) on request to the contact persons identified in this notice.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain a copy of the application package in an alternate format, also, by contacting that person. However, the Department is not able to reproduce in an alternate format the standard forms included in the application package.

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Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 8241–8246.

Dated: November 25, 1997.

Ricky T. Takai,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement.

Appendix—Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities

Empowerment Zones (Listed Alphabetically by State)

California: Oakland
Georgia: Atlanta
Illinois: Chicago
Kansas: Kansas City
Kentucky: Kentucky Highlands Area (Clinton, Jackson, and Wayne Counties)
Maryland: Baltimore
Massachusetts: Boston
Michigan: Detroit
Mississippi: Mid-Delta Area (Bolivar, Holmes, Humphreys, and LeFlore Counties)
Missouri: Kansas City
New Jersey: Camden
New York: Harlem, Bronx
Pennsylvania: Philadelphia
Texas: Houston, Rio Grande Valley Area (Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy Counties)

Supplemental Empowerment Zones (Listed Alphabetically by State)

California: Los Angeles
Ohio: Cleveland

Enterprise Communities (Listed Alphabetically by State)

Alabama: Birmingham, Chambers County, Greene County, Sumter County

Arizona: Arizona Border Area, (Cochise, Santa Cruz and Yuma Counties), Phoenix

Arkansas: East Central Area (Cross, Lee, Monroe, and St. Francis Counties), Mississippi County, Pulaski County

California: Imperial County, Los Angeles (Huntington Park), San Diego, San Francisco (Hayview, Hunter's Pointer), Watsonville

Colorado: Denver

Connecticut: Bridgeport, New Haven

Delaware: Wilmington

District of Columbia: Washington

Florida: Jackson County

Georgia: Central Savannah River Area (Burke, Hancock, Jefferson, McDuffie, Taliaferro, and Warrent Counties), Crisp County, Dooley County

Illinois: East St. Louis, Springfield

Indiana: Indianapolis

Iowa: Des Moines

Kentucky: Louisville, McCreary County

Louisiana: Macon Ridge Area

(Catahouis, Concordia, Franklin, Morehouse, and Tensas Parishes), New Orleans, Northeast Delta Area (Madison Parish), Quachita Parish

Massachusetts: Lowell, Springfield

Michigan: Five Cap, Flint, Muskegon

Minnesota: Minneapolis, St. Paul

Mississippi: Jackson, North Delta Area (Panola, Quitman, and Tallahatchie Counties)

Missouri: East Prairie, St. Louis

Nebraska: Omaha

Nevada: Clarke County, Las Vegas

New Hampshire: Manchester

New Jersey: Newark

New Mexico: Albuquerque, Moro County, Rio Arriba County, Taos County

New York: Albany, Buffalo, Kingston, Newburgh, Rochester, Schenectady, Troy

North Carolina: Charlotte, Edgecombe County, Halifax County, Robeson County, Wilson County

Ohio: Akron, Columbus, Greater Portsmouth Area (Scioto County)

Oklahoma: Choctaw County, McCurtain County, Oklahoma City

Pennsylvania: Harrisburg, Lock Haven, Pittsburgh

Rhode Island: Providence

South Carolina: Charleston, Williamsburg County

South Dakota: Beadle County, Spink County

Tennessee: Fayette County, Haywood County, Memphis Nashville, Scott County

Texas: Dallas, El Paso, San Antonio, Waco

Utah: Ogden

Vermont: Accomack County, Norfolk

Washington: Lower Yakima County, Seattle, Tacoma

West Virginia: Huntington, McDowell County, West Central Areas (Braxton, Clay, Fayette, Nichols, and Roane Counties)

Wisconsin: Milwaukee

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