

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.031A, CFDA No. 84.031G]

**Notice of Extension Inviting Applications for Designation as an Eligible Institution for Fiscal Year 1998 for the Strengthening Institutions Program**

**PURPOSE:** On November 13, 1997, the Department of Education published in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 60988) a closing date notice for applications from institutions that wish to be designated as an eligible institution under the Strengthening Institutions Program authorized under Title III, Part A of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA) for Fiscal Year 1998. The purpose of this notice is to extend the closing dates for transmittal of applications. This action is needed due to unforeseen administrative delays.

An institution that wishes to be designated as an eligible institution under the Strengthening Institutions Program for any purpose must submit its application to the Department by February 10, 1998.

If an institution submits its application by January 16, 1998, the Department will notify the applicant of its eligibility status by February 10, 1998. If an applicant believes it failed to be designated as an eligible institution because of errors in its application or insufficient information in its waiver request, it may submit an amended application to the Department no later than March 27, 1998.

If an applicant submits its initial application after January 16, 1998, but on or before February 10, 1998, the Department does not guarantee that it

will be able to review the application and notify the applicant in time for the applicant to submit an amended application by March 27, 1998, the deadline date for amended applications.

An applicant will not be designated as an eligible institution if the applicant misses the February 10, 1998 deadline for initial applications or the March 27, 1998 deadline for amended applications. The Department strongly recommends that applicants apply by January 16, 1998 to take advantage of the opportunity to amend unapproved applications.

**Deadline for Transmittal of Applications**

January 16, 1998 for early applications, February 10, 1998 for all initial applications, and March 27, 1998 for amended applications. These deadlines apply to institutions of higher education that anticipate competing for new awards, under the Strengthening Institutions Program, and for institutions that plan to obtain a waiver of certain non-Federal share requirements under the Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant and Federal Work Study Programs.

*Applications Available: December 12, 1997.*

For Applications or Information Contact: Blanca Westgate or Jane Wrenn, Institutional Development and Undergraduate Education Service, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, SW. (Portals CY-80) Washington, DC 20202-5335. Telephone (202) 708-8866, 708-9926 and 708-8839. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf

(TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-9339 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, audio tape, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed in the preceding paragraph.

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.

**Electronic Access to This Document**

Anyone may view this document, as well as all other Department of Education documents published in the **Federal Register**, in text or portable document format (pdf) on the World Wide Web at either of the following sites:

<http://ocfo.ed.gov/fedreg/htm>

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To use the pdf you must have the Adobe Acrobat Reader Program with Search, which is available free at either of the previous sites. If you have questions about using the pdf, call the U.S., Government Printing Office toll free at 1-888-293-6498.

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

Dated: December 5, 1997.

**David A. Longanecker,**

*Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.*

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