

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**[CFDA NO. 84.256]****Freely-Associated States Educational Grant Program****AGENCY:** Department of Education.**ACTION:** Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 1999.

Purpose of the Program: The program provides financial assistance for educational purposes to local educational agencies in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: December 11, 1998.

Applications Available: October 15, 1998.

Available Funds: \$4,750,000.00.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$700,000—\$800,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$750,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: six (6).

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

Project Period: 24 months.

Applicable Regulations: The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR Parts 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85 and 86.

Selection Criteria: The Secretary will use the following selection criteria in accordance with 34 CFR 75.209 and 75.210 to evaluate applications under this competition. In accordance with 20 U.S.C. 6331(b)(2), the Pacific Regional Educational Laboratory uses these criteria in making funding recommendations to the Secretary.

(a) *Need for project.* (25 points)

(1) The Secretary considers the need for the proposed project.

(2) In determining the need for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

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

(ii) The magnitude of the need for the services to be provided or the activities to be carried out by the proposed project.

(iii) The extent to which the proposed project will provide services or otherwise address the needs of students at risk of educational failure.

(iv) The extent to which the proposed project will focus on serving or otherwise addressing the needs of disadvantaged individuals.

(b) *Significance.* (10 points)

(1) The Secretary considers the significance of the proposed project.

(2) In determining the significance of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The significance of the proposed project to education in the area to be served.

(ii) The significance of the problem or issue to be addressed by the proposed project.

(iii) The importance or magnitude of the results or outcomes likely to be attained by the proposed project, especially improvements in teaching and student achievement.

(c) *Quality of the project design.* (25 points)

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the design of the proposed project.

(2) In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

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

(ii) 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.

(iii) The extent to which the proposed project will be coordinated with similar or related efforts, and with other appropriate community, State, and Federal resources.

(iv) The extent to which the proposed project is part of a comprehensive effort to improve teaching and learning and support rigorous academic standards for students.

(v) The extent to which the proposed project encourages parental involvement.

(vi) The extent to which performance feedback and continuous improvement are integral to the design of the proposed project.

(d) *Adequacy of resources.* (5 points)

(1) The Secretary considers the adequacy of resources for the proposed project.

(2) In determining the adequacy of resources for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the budget is adequate to support the proposed project.

(ii) The extent to which the costs are reasonable in relation to the objectives, design, and potential significance of the proposed project.

(iii) The extent to which the costs are reasonable in relation to the number of persons to be served and to the anticipated results and benefits.

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

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project.

(2) In determining the quality of the personnel, the Secretary considers 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) In addition, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of the project director or principal investigator.

(ii) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel.

(iii) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of project consultants or subcontractors.

(f) *Quality of the project evaluation.* (15 points)

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the evaluation to be conducted of the proposed project.

(2) In determining the quality of the evaluation, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the methods of evaluation provide for examining the effectiveness of project implementation strategies.

(ii) 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.

(g) *Quality of project services.* (10 points)

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project.

(2) In determining the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project, the Secretary considers the quality and sufficiency of strategies for ensuring equal access and treatment for eligible project participants who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age or disability.

(3) In addition, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project are appropriate to the needs of the intended recipients or beneficiaries of those services.

(ii) The likely impact of the services to be provided by the proposed project on the intended recipients of those services.

(iii) The extent to which the training or professional development services to be provided by the proposed project are of sufficient quality, intensity and duration to lead to improvements in practice among the recipients of those services.

(iv) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project are focused on those with greatest needs.

FOR APPLICATIONS OR INFORMATION

CONTACT: Valerie Rogers, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 3E245, Washington, D.C. 20202-6140. Telephone (202) 260-2543. 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.,

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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. 6331(b)(2).

Dated: October 9, 1998.

Gerald N. Tirozzi,

Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education.

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