

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No.: 84.305T]

Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI) National Research Institutes' Field-Initiated Studies (FIS) Research Grant Program; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 1999

Purpose of Program: The Field-Initiated Studies Program awards grants to conduct education research in which topics and methods of study are generated by investigators.

Eligible Applicants: Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education; State and local education agencies; public and private organizations, institutions, and agencies; and individuals.

Applications Available: December 29, 1998. Application packages will be available by mail and, electronically, on the World Wide Web at the following site:

<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OERI/FIS/>

Deadline for Receipt of Applications: February 19, 1999.

Note: All applications must be received on or before February 19, 1999. This requirement takes exception to the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), 34 CFR 75.102. In accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553), it is the practice of the Secretary to offer interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed regulations. However, this amendment to EDGAR makes procedural changes only and does not establish new substantive policy. Therefore, under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(A), proposed rulemaking is not required.

Tentative Award Date: May 31, 1999.

Available Funds: \$9.6 million.

Estimated Range of Awards: In the past awards have ranged from \$450,000 to \$1,000,000 per award for a three-year project. The length of projects and the size of awards will be commensurate with the nature and scope of the work proposed.

Budget Period: 12 months.

Project Periods: 1 to 3 years.

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

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, 85 and 86 (part 86 applies to IHEs only); and (b) the regulations in 34 CFR part 700.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Field-Initiated Studies Grant Program is highly competitive. In its last competition, OERI funded about 1 award for every 20 eligible applications. In general, peer reviewers find that strong applications for FIS grants clearly address each of the applicable selection criteria.

Strong applications make a reasoned and compelling case for the national significance of the problems or issues that will be the subject of the proposed research. The design of the work to be carried out should be complete and clearly delineated, incorporating sound research methods and appropriate statistical techniques. The personnel descriptions included in the application should make it apparent that the project director, principal investigator and other key personnel possess training and experience commensurate with their duties.

The project period of the grant may be from one to three years. In the past, the total amount of the grant for the entire project period has ranged from \$450,000 to \$1,000,000. In the application, the project period should be divided into 12-month budget periods. Each 12-month budget should be clearly delineated and justified in terms of the proposed activities.

Collaboration

The Secretary encourages collaboration in the conduct of research. For example, major research universities and institutions may collaborate with historically underrepresented institutions, such as Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR

APPLICATIONS: To request an application or to obtain further information about the FIS competition write to the Office

of Educational Research and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW., Room 604, Washington, DC 20208, or contact Veda Bright at (202) 219-1935 or by e-mail: veda_bright@ed.gov

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.

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

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 6031(c)(2)(B)

Dated: December 8, 1998.

C. Kent McGuire,

Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement.

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