

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.303A]

Technology Innovation Challenge Grants; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 1999

Purpose of Program: The Technology Innovation Challenge Grant Program provides grants to consortia that are working to improve and expand new applications of technology to strengthen school reform efforts, improve student achievement, and provide for sustained professional development of teachers, administrators, and school library media personnel.

Eligible Applicants: Only consortia may receive grants under this program. A consortium must include at least one local educational agency (LEA) with a high percentage or number of children living below the poverty line. A consortium may also include other LEAs, private schools, State educational agencies, institutions of higher education, businesses, academic content experts, software designers, museums, libraries, and other appropriate entities.

Note: In each consortium a participating LEA shall submit the application on behalf of the consortium and serve as a fiscal agent for the grant.

Applications Available: January 12, 1999.

Deadline for Receipt of Applications: March 12, 1999.

Note: All applications must be received on or before the deadline date unless one of the mailing conditions noted in the notice of final selection criteria, selection procedures, and application procedures for Technology Innovation Challenge Grants published in the **Federal Register** on May 12, 1997 (62 FR 26175) applies. 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.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: May 12, 1999.

Estimated Available Funds: \$22,000,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$500,000–\$2,000,000 per year.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$1,000,000 per year.

Maximum Award: The Secretary will not consider an application that proposes a budget exceeding \$2,000,000 for any one of the 12-month budget periods.

Estimated Number of Awards: 22.

Project Period: 5 years. 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.

Note: The Department of Education 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, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, and 86, and (b) the regulations in 34 CFR part 299.

Other Requirements

In prior fiscal years, applications for awards under this program were evaluated and selected in accordance with procedures established in the notice of final selection criteria, selection procedures, and application procedures for Technology Innovation Challenge Grants published in the **Federal Register** on May 12, 1997 (62 FR 26175). This year, however, these procedures for "evaluation and selection of applications" will not apply to this program. Instead, the Department will, except as indicated above, follow the procedures in 34 CFR part 75.

Selection Criteria

The Secretary uses two of the selection criteria in the notice of final selection criteria, selection procedures, and applications procedures published in the **Federal Register** on May 12, 1997 (62 FR 26176) and other selection criteria in 34 CFR 75.210 to evaluate applications for new grants under this program. Under 75.201 (a) and (b), the Secretary announces in the application package the selection criteria selected for this competition and the maximum weight assigned to each criterion.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Technology Innovation Challenge Grant Program is authorized under Title III, section 3136, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 6846). The statute authorizes the use of funds for activities similar to the following activities:

(a) Developing, adapting, or expanding existing and new applications of technology to support the schools reform effort.

(b) Providing ongoing professional development in the integration of quality educational technologies into school curriculum and long-term planning for implementing educational technologies.

(c) Funding projects of sufficient size and scope to improve student learning and, as appropriate, support professional development, and provide administrative support.

(d) Acquiring connectivity linkages, resources, and services, including the acquisition of hardware and software, for use by teachers, students, and school library media personnel in the classroom or in school library media centers, in order to improve student learning by supporting the instructional program offered and to ensure that students in schools will have meaningful access on a regular basis to such linkages, resources, and services.

(e) Acquiring connectivity with wide area networks for purposes of accessing information and educational programming sources, particularly with institutions of higher education and public libraries.

(f) Providing educational services for adults and families.

Note: Section 14503 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 8893), is applicable to the Technology Innovation Challenge Grant Program. Section 14503 requires that an LEA, SEA, or educational service agency receiving financial assistance under this program must provide private school children and teachers, on an equitable basis, special educational services or other program benefits under this program. The section further requires SEAs, LEAs, and educational service agencies to consult with private school officials during the design and development of the Technology Innovation Challenge Grant projects. Each application must describe the ways in which the proposed project will address the needs of private school children and teachers.

For Applications or Information Contact: For applications, telephone 1-800-USA-LEARN (1-800-872-5327) or fax requests to (202) 208-4042. The application package is also available from the Technology Innovation Challenge Grant web site at: <http://www.ed.gov/Technology/chalgrnt.html>. For information contact Elizabeth Payer, Technology Innovation Challenge Grants, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC 20208-5544. Telephone: (202) 208-3882. E-mail address is: elizabeth_payer@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.

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 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.

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) via the Internet at either of the following sites:

<http://ocfo.ed.gov/fedreg.htm>
<http://www.ed.gov/news.html>

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 at (202) 512-1530 or, toll free, at 1-888-293-6498.

Anyone may also view these documents in text copy only on an electronic bulletin board of the Department.

Telephone: (202) 219-1511 or, toll free, 1-800-222-4922. The documents are located under Option G—Files/Announcements, Bulletins and Press Releases.

Note: The official version of a document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 6846.

Dated: December 17, 1998.

C. Kent McGuire,

Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement.

[FR Doc. 98-33828 Filed 12-21-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-U