

Financial Partners, U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid, 830 First Street, NE., Room 111H1, Washington, DC. Hand-delivered applications will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. daily (Eastern time), except Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays.

Applications that are hand-delivered will not be accepted after 4:30 p.m. on the closing date.

*Applicable Regulations:* The following regulations are applicable to the LEAP and SLEAP programs:

(1) The LEAP and SLEAP Program regulations in 34 CFR part 692.

(2) The Student Assistance General Provisions in 34 CFR part 668.

(3) The Regulations Governing Institutional Eligibility in 34 CFR part 600.

(4) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR 75.60 through 75.62 (Ineligibility of Certain Individuals to Receive Assistance), part 76 (State-Administered Programs), part 77 (Definitions that Apply to Department Regulations), part 79 (Intergovernmental Review of Department of Education Programs and Activities), part 80 (Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments), part 82 (New Restrictions on Lobbying), part 85 (Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants)), part 86 (Drug-Free Schools and Campuses) and part 99 (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act).

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**Note:** The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html>.

**Program Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 1070c *et seq.*

Dated: March 31, 2003.

**Theresa S. Shaw,**

Chief Operating Officer Federal Student Aid.  
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#### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA Nos. 84.133S and 84.017S]

#### Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) and the Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE); Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program—Phase I Notice Inviting Grant Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

*Purpose of Program:* The purpose of this program is to stimulate technological innovation in the private sector, strengthen the role of small business in meeting Federal research or research and development (R/R&D) needs, increase the commercial application of Department of Education (ED) supported research results, and improve the return on investment from Federally-funded research for economic and social benefits to the Nation.

For FY 2003, we encourage applicants to present activities that focus on the invitational priorities in the *Priorities* section of this application notice.

*Eligible Applicants:* Each organization submitting an application must qualify as a small business concern as defined by the Small Business Administration (SBA) at the time of the award. This definition is included in the application package.

Firms with strong research capabilities in educational and assistive technologies, science, or engineering in any of the priority areas listed are encouraged to participate. Consultative or other arrangements between these firms and universities or other non-profit organizations are permitted, but the small business must serve as the grantee.

If it appears that an applicant organization does not meet the eligibility requirements, we will request an evaluation by the SBA. Under circumstances in which eligibility is unclear, we will not make an SBIR award until the SBA makes a determination.

*Applications Available:* April 3, 2003.

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* June 3, 2003.

*Estimated Available Funds:* Up to \$4,176,000 for new Phase I awards.

The estimated amount of funds available for new Phase I awards is based upon the estimated threshold SBIR allocation for OSERS and OPE, minus prior commitments for Phase II

continuation awards. The actual funds available could be less, should an office make any new Phase II awards in FY 2003.

*Estimated Average Size of Awards:* Up to \$75,000 for Priority 1 and \$60,000 for Priority 2.

*Maximum Award:* We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding \$75,000 for Priority 1 or \$60,000 for Priority 2 for a project period of up to 6 months.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 25.

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

*Project Period:* Up to 6 months.

*Page Limits:* The application narrative is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. You must limit your application narrative to the equivalent of no more than 25 pages, excluding any documentation of prior multiple Phase II awards, if applicable; and required forms. The following standards should be used:

- A "page" is 8.5" x 11", on one side only, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides.

- Single space all text in the application narrative, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.

- Use a font that is either 12-point or larger or no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch). Standard black type should be used to permit photocopying.

- Draw all graphs, diagrams, tables, and charts in black ink. Do not include glossy photographs or materials that cannot be photocopied in the body of the application.

The application package will provide instructions for completing all components to be included in the application. Each application must include an application cover sheet (ED Standard Form 424); budget requirements (ED Form 524) and other required forms; an abstract, certifications, and statements; a technical content project narrative; and related application(s) or award(s) and documentation of multiple Phase II awards, if applicable.

We will reject your application if—

- You apply these standards and exceed the page limit; or
- You apply other standards and exceed the equivalent of the page limit.

#### Applicable Statutes and Regulations

(a) *Statutes.* The Small Business Reauthorization Act of 2000, Pub. L. 106-554 (15 U.S.C. 631 and 638); Title