

knowledge from research and effective practice (20 points).

Note: Under this factor we will look for the applicant's inclusion of the four phases (mitigation/prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery) in "Practical Information on Crisis Planning: A Guide for Schools and Communities" (available online at <http://www.ed.gov/emergencyplan>) and a clear description of how the proposed project will address those four phases.

(c) The extent to which the proposed project encourages parental involvement. (5 points)

(4) *Quality of the project evaluation.* (5 points)

In determining the quality of the evaluation, the following factor is considered:

(a) 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. (5 points)

(5) *Quality of the management plan.* (10 points)

In determining the quality of the management plan, the following factor is considered:

(a) How the applicant will ensure that a diversity of perspectives are brought to bear in the operation of the proposed project, including those of parents, teachers, the business community, a variety of disciplinary and professional fields, recipients or beneficiaries of services, or others, as appropriate. (10 points)

Note: Under this criterion we will look at the quality of the applicant's planned coordination and collaboration with the head of the local government, and community-based law enforcement, public safety, health, and mental health agencies in the strengthening and improvement of the plan. This description should go beyond simply the roles and responsibilities discussed in the absolute priority.

Waiver of Proposed Rulemaking:

Under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553), the Secretary generally offers interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed rules. Section 437(d)(1) of the General Education Provisions Act, however, exempts from this requirement rules that apply to the first competition under a new or substantially revised program authority. This is the first competition under the Emergency Response and Crisis Management Grant Program. These rules will apply to the FY 2003 grant competition only.

For Applications Contact: Education Publications Center (ED Pubs), P.O. Box 1398, Jessup, MD 20794-1398. Telephone (toll free): 1-877-433-7827.

Fax: (301) 470-1244. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf, you may call 1-877-576-7734. You may also contact ED Pubs at its Web site: <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs/html>.

Or you may contact ED Pubs at its e-mail address: edpubs@inet.ed.gov.

If you request an application from ED Pubs, be sure to identify this competition as follows: CFDA No. 84.184.E. Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed below.

Pilot Project for Electronic Submission of Applications: In FY 2003, the U.S. Department of Education is continuing to expand its pilot project for electronic submission of applications to include additional formula grant programs and additional discretionary grant competitions. The Emergency Response and Crisis Management Grant Program (CFDA #84.184.E) is one of the programs included in the pilot project. If you are an applicant under this grant program, you may submit your application to us in either electronic or paper format.

The pilot project involves the use of the Electronic Grant Application System (e-Application) portion of the Grant Administration and Payment System (GAPS). Users of e-Application will be entering data on-line while completing their applications. You may not e-mail a soft copy of a grant application to us. If you participate in this voluntary pilot project by submitting an application electronically, the data you enter on-line will be saved into a database. We request your participation in e-Application. We shall continue to evaluate its success and solicit suggestions for improvement.

If you participate in e-Application, please note the following:

- Your participation is voluntary.
- You will not receive any additional point value because you submit a grant application in electronic format, nor will we penalize you if you submit an application in paper format. When you enter the e-Application system, you will find information about its hours of operation.

- You may submit all documents electronically, including the Application for Federal Assistance (ED 424), Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs (ED 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications.

- After you electronically submit your application, you will receive an automatic acknowledgement, which will include a PR/Award number (an identifying number unique to your application).

- Within three working days after submitting your electronic application, fax a signed copy of the Application for Federal Assistance (ED 424) to the Application Control Center after following these steps:

(1) Print ED 424 from the e-Application system.

(2) The institution's Authorizing Representative must sign this form.

(3) Place the PR/Award number in the upper right hand corner of the hard copy signature page of the ED 424.

(4) Fax the signed ED 424 to the Application Control Center at (202) 260-1349.

- We may request that you give us original signatures on all other forms at a later date.

- **Closing Date Extension in Case of System Unavailability:** If you elect to participate in the e-Application pilot for the Emergency Response and Crisis Management Grant Program and you are prevented from submitting your application on the closing date because the e-Application system is unavailable, we will grant you an extension of one business day in order to transmit your application electronically, by mail, or by hand delivery. For us to grant this extension—

(1) You must be a registered user of e-Application, and have initiated an e-Application for this competition; and

(2)(a) The e-Application system must be unavailable for 60 minutes or more between the hours of 8:30 and 3:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the deadline date; or

(b) The e-Application system must be unavailable for any period of time during the last hour of operation (that is, for any period of time between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time) on the deadline date.

The Department must acknowledge and confirm these periods of unavailability before granting you an extension. To request this extension you must contact either (1) the person listed elsewhere in this notice under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** or (2) the e-GRANTS help desk at 1-888-336-8930.

You may access the electronic grant application for the Emergency Response and Crisis Management Grant Program at: <http://e-grants.ed.gov>. We have included additional information about the e-Application pilot project (see Parity Guidelines between Paper and Electronic Applications) in the application package. If you want to apply for a grant and be considered for funding, you must meet the deadline requirements included in this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Connie Ann Deshpande or Jennifer