

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**[CFDA No. 84.206A]****Office of Elementary and Secondary Education; Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 and Establishing Two Absolute Priorities**

Purpose of Program: The purpose of the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program (the Javits program) is to carry out a coordinated program of scientifically based research, demonstration projects, innovative strategies, and similar activities designed to build and enhance the ability of elementary and secondary schools nationwide to meet the special educational needs of gifted and talented students.

Eligible Applicants: State educational agencies (SEAs), local educational agencies (LEAs), institutions of higher education, other public agencies, and other private agencies and organizations (including Indian tribes and Indian organizations and Native Hawaiian organizations). Under the first priority in this competition, all of these entities are eligible to apply. Under the second priority, an SEA and one or more LEAs collaborate on the project and either the SEA or an LEA is eligible to apply and to serve as the fiscal agent.

Notification of Intent to Apply for Funding: We strongly encourage each potential applicant to notify us by June 6, 2003, of its intent to submit an application for funding. We will be able to develop a more efficient process of reviewing grant applications if we have an early estimate of the number of entities that intend to apply for funding under this competition. Notifications should be sent by e-mail to the following Internet address: jacobk.javits@ed.gov.

Please put "Notice of Intent, Priority 1" or "Notice of Intent, Priority 2" in the subject line. Applicants that choose not to provide this e-mail notification may still apply for funding.

Applications Available: May 20, 2003.
Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: July 7, 2003.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: September 2, 2003.

Available Funds: Priority 1—\$5,100,000. Priority 2—\$3,676,875.

Estimated Number of Awards: Priority 1—10. Priority 2—12.

Estimated Size of Awards: Priority 1—\$400,000—\$600,000. Priority 2—\$200,000—\$300,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: Priority 1—\$500,000. Priority 2—\$250,000.

Note: These estimates are projections for the guidance of potential applicants. The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.)

Project Period: Up to 60 months for the first priority and up to 36 months for the second priority.

Applicable Regulations: The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, 97, 98, and 99.

Page Limit: The application narrative is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. Applicants are strongly encouraged to limit the program narrative (text plus all figures, charts, tables and diagrams) to the equivalent of 25 pages, using the following standards:

- A page is 8.5" x 11", on one side only, with 1" margins at the top, bottom and both sides.
- Double space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative.
- Use a font that is either 12 point or larger or no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch).
- The page limit does not apply to Standard Form 424; the project abstract; the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; the assurances and certifications; or the resumes, bibliography, or letters of support.

We have found that reviewers are able to conduct the highest-quality review when applications are concise and easy to read, with pages consecutively numbered.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education invites applications for new grant awards for FY 2003 for the Javits program. In 2001, the Javits program was rewritten in its entirety by Pub. L. 107-110, the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) as the "Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act of 2001" (The Act), and is now located in title V, part D, subpart 6 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA), under which these grants are authorized (20 U.S.C 7253 *et seq.*). The Act supports a coordinated program of research, demonstration projects, and other activities designed to build and enhance the ability of schools nationwide to serve gifted and talented students.

The Assistant Secretary also announces two final absolute priorities and final selection criteria to govern this competition and the FY 2003 Javits program grant awards. In accordance

with § 5465(a) and (b) of the statute, the Assistant Secretary intends to give priority to projects designed to: (1) develop new information that improves the capability of schools to plan, conduct, and improve programs to identify and serve gifted and talented students and, (2) identify and serve students from underrepresented groups, including economically disadvantaged, limited English proficient, and disabled students. The Assistant Secretary also will implement § 5464(c) of the statute, requiring funding of certain projects when appropriation levels for the Javits program in a given year exceed the FY 2001 appropriation.

Accordingly, the Assistant Secretary will make awards under the following two absolute priorities to encourage activities that will contribute to an understanding of the most effective ways to educate gifted and talented students. These priorities will help to target funds to high-needs populations within the general program purpose of assisting States and local school districts to better serve gifted and talented students.

The Assistant Secretary's first priority implements § 5465(a) of the statute and focuses on projects that propose to develop, conduct, "scale up", and evaluate programs that identify and serve gifted and talented students who are economically disadvantaged or limited English proficient, or who have disabilities, and who may not be identified and served through traditional assessment methods. According to a 2002 report by the National Research Council titled "Minority Students in Special and Gifted Education," these groups of students remain significantly underrepresented at the highest levels of performance. Over the past decade, small-scale model projects and intervention strategies have produced some evidence of effectiveness in raising student achievement to high levels. The goal of this first priority is to expand upon, field-test, and evaluate research-based interventions that have existing evidence of success in increasing the proportion of economically disadvantaged, limited English proficient, or disabled students performing at high levels of achievement. Based on the experience of previous grant recipients, the Assistant Secretary believes that these projects will be most successful if they are carried out by applicants that can demonstrate an expertise in: education research and program evaluation, one or more of the core academic subject areas (English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages,