

awards under this competition. The maximum score for all of these criteria is 100 points. The maximum score of each criterion or factor under the criterion is indicated in parentheses.

(1) *Significance.* (15 points)

In determining the significance of the proposed project, the following factors are considered:

(a) The national significance of the proposed project.

(b) The potential contribution of the proposed project to increased knowledge or understanding of educational problems, issues or effective strategies.

(c) The extent to which the proposed project involves the development or demonstration of promising new strategies that build on, or are alternatives to, existing strategies.

(d) The importance or magnitude of the results or outcomes likely to be attained by the proposed project especially improvements in teaching and student achievement.

(2) *Quality of the project design.* (25 points)

In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the following factors are considered:

(a) The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the proposed project are clearly specified and measurable.

(b) The extent to which the design of the proposed project includes a thorough, high-quality review of the relevant literature, a high-quality plan for project implementation, and the use of appropriate methodological tools to ensure successful achievement of project activities.

(c) The extent to which the proposed project represents an exceptional approach for meeting statutory purposes and requirements.

(3) *Quality of project services.* (30 points)

In determining the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project, the quality and sufficiency of strategies for ensuring equal access and treated for eligible project participants who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability is considered. In addition, the following factors are considered:

(a) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project are appropriate to the needs of the intended recipients or beneficiaries of those services.

(b) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project reflect up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice.

(c) The extent to which the training or professional development services to be provided by the proposed project are of sufficient quality, intensity, and duration to lead to improvements in practice among the recipients of those services.

(d) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project involve the collaboration of appropriate partners for maximizing the effectiveness of project services.

(4) *Quality of project personnel.* (15 points)

In determining the quality of project personnel, the following factors are considered:

(a) The extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.

(b) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of the project director or principal investigator.

(c) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel.

(d) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of project consultants or subcontractors.

(5) *Adequacy of resources.* (5 points)

In determining the adequacy of resources for the proposed project, the following factors are considered:

(a) The adequacy of support, including facilities, equipment, supplies, and other resources, from the applicant organization.

(b) The extent to which the budget is adequate to support the proposed project.

(6) *Quality of the project evaluation.* (10 points)

In determining the quality of the evaluation, the following factors are considered:

(a) The extent to which the methods of evaluation, are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the proposed project.

(b) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes.

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If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TTD), you may call 1–877–576–7734.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document or an application package in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the program contact person listed at the beginning of this section. However, the Department is not able to reproduce in an alternative format the standard forms included in the application package.

Pilot Project for Electronic Submission of Applications

In FY 2003, the U.S. Department of Education is continuing to expand its pilot project of electronic submission of applications to include additional formula grant programs, as well as discretionary grant competitions. The Cooperative Civic Education and Economic Education Exchange Program is one of the programs included in the pilot project. If you are an applicant under this grant competition, 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, formerly e-GAPS) portion of the Grant Administration and Payment System (GAPS). We invite your participation in this pilot project. We will continue to evaluate its success and solicit suggestions for improvement.

If you participate in this e-APPLICATION pilot, please note the following:

- Your participation is voluntary.
- You will not receive any additional point value or penalty because you submit a grant application in electronic or paper format.
- You can submit all documents electronically, including the Application for Federal Assistance (ED Form 424), Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs, (ED Form 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications.
- Within three working days of submitting your electronic application, fax a signed copy of the Application for Federal Assistance (ED Form 424) to the Application Control Center following these steps:
 1. Printed ED Form 424 from the e-APPLICATION system.
 2. Make sure that the applicant's Authorizing Representative signs this form.
 3. Before faxing this form, submit your electronic application via the e-APPLICATION system. You will receive automatic acknowledgement, which will include a PR/Award number an identifying number unique to your application).
 4. Place the PR/Award number in the upper right corner of ED Form 424.