

proposed project, the following factor is considered:

(a) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.

(5) *Quality of the project evaluation.* (20 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 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.

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

(d) The extent to which the evaluation will provide guidance about effective strategies suitable for replication or testing in other settings.

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 number 84.255A.

Note: Some of the procedures in these instructions for transmitting applications differ from those in EDGAR (34 CFR 75.102). Under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553) the Department generally offers interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed regulations. However, these amendments make procedural changes only and do not establish new substantive policy. Therefore, under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(A), the Secretary has determined that proposed rulemaking is not required.

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 Life Skills for State and Local Prisoners 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. Print 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 an 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.

5. Fax ED Form 424 to the Application Control Center within three business days of submitting your electronic application at (202) 260-1349.

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

7. *Closing Date Extension in the Case of System Unavailability:* If you elect to participate in the e-Application pilot for the Life Skills for State and Local Prisoners 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 via e-Application, by mail,

or by hand delivery. For us to grant this extension:

(1) You must be a registered user of e-Applications, 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 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. (ET), 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 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Eastern time on the deadline date.

The Department must acknowledge and confirm the period of unavailability before you will be granted an extension. To request this extension you must contact Carlette Huntley by e-mail at Carlette.Huntley@ed.gov or by telephone at (202) 260-7274 or the e-Grants help desk at (888) 336-8930.

You may access the electronic grant application for the Life Skills for State and Local Prisoners Program at: <http://e-grants.ed.gov>.

We have included additional information on 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:

Carlette Huntley, U. S. Department of Education, 330 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20202-7274. Telephone: (202) 260-7272 or via Internet: Carlette.Huntley@ed.gov.

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 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.

Electronic Access To This Document

You may view this document, as well as all other Department of Education documents published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister>.

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