

*Applications available:* June 26, 2003.

*Deadline for transmittal of applications:* July 30, 2003.

*Deadline for intergovernmental review:* August 30, 2003.

*Estimated available funds:* \$993,500.

*Estimated range of awards:* \$200,000–\$300,000.

*Estimated average size of awards:* \$248,000.

*Estimated number of awards:* 4.

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

*Project period:* Up to 18 months.

*Applicable regulations:* (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, 97, 98, and 99; and (b) the final priorities, selection criteria and definitions for this grant competition as published in this notice.

*Absolute priority:* Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Title V “Section 5542”), we give absolute preference to applications that meet the following priority: grants to local educational agencies, local councils, community-based organizations, and other public and nonprofit private entities to assist eligible children to become ready for school.

To be eligible for funding, a project must propose to:

(1) Deliver services to eligible children and their families that foster eligible children’s emotional, behavioral, and social development;

(2) Coordinate and facilitate access by eligible children and their families to the services available through community resources, including mental health, physical health, substance abuse, educational, domestic violence prevention, child welfare, and social services; and

(3) Develop or enhance early childhood community partnerships and build toward a community system of care that brings together child-serving agencies or organizations to provide individualized supports for eligible children and their families.

*Competitive Preference Priority:* Within the statutory priority for this competition for FY 2003, we will award five additional points to novice applicants. These points are in addition to any points the application earns under the selection criteria for this program.

**Note:** The total number of points an application may earn is 105.

## Limitations

(1) Grant funds may be used only to pay for services that cannot be paid for using other Federal, State, or local public resources or through private insurance.

(2) A grantee may not use more than 3 percent of the amount of the grant to pay the expenses of administering the authorized activities, including assessment of children’s eligibility for services.

## Application Requirements

Applications submitted under this program must include the following:

(1) A description of the population that the applicant intends to serve and the types of services to be provided under the grant;

(2) A description of the manner in which services under the grant will be coordinated with existing similar services provided by public and nonprofit private entities within the State; and

(3) An assurance that:

- Services under the grant shall be provided by or under the supervision of qualified professionals with expertise in early childhood development;
- services shall be culturally competent;
- services shall be provided in accordance with the absolute priority;
- funds shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, non-Federal funds; and
- parents of students participating in services will be involved in the design and implementation of the services.

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### Participation of Faith-Based Organizations

Faith-based organizations are eligible to apply for grants under this competition provided they meet all statutory and regulatory requirements.

## General Information

Contingent upon the availability of funds, we may make additional awards in FY 2004 from the rank-ordered list of unfunded applications from this competition.

## Definitions

(1) The term “eligible child” means a child who has not attained the age of 7 years, and to whom two or more of the following characteristics apply:

- The child has been abused, maltreated, or neglected.
- The child has been exposed to violence.
- The child has been homeless.
- The child has been removed from child care, Head Start, or preschool for

behavioral reasons or is at risk of being so removed.

- The child has been exposed to parental depression or other mental illness.
- The family income with respect to the child is below 200 percent of the poverty line.
- The child has been exposed to parental substance abuse.
- The child has had early behavioral and peer relationship problems.
- The child had a low birth weight.
- The child has a cognitive deficit or developmental disability.

(2) The term “parent” includes a legal guardian or other person standing in *loco parentis* (such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the child’s welfare).

(3) The term “local council” means a council that is established or designated by a local government entity, Indian tribe, regional corporation, or native Hawaiian entity, as appropriate, which is composed of representatives of local agencies directly affected by early learning programs, parents, key community leaders, and other individuals concerned with early learning issues in the locality, such as elementary education, child care resource and referral services, early learning opportunities, child care, and health services.

(4) The term “local educational agency” (LEA) means:

- A public board of education or other public authority legally constituted within a State for either administrative control or direction of, or to perform a service function for, public elementary or secondary schools in a city, county, township, school district, or other political subdivision of a State, or for such a combination of school districts or counties that is recognized in a State as an administrative agency for its public elementary or secondary schools.

• The term includes any other public institution or agency having administrative control and direction of a public elementary or secondary school.

• The term includes an elementary or secondary school funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs but only to the extent that including the school makes the school eligible for programs for which specific eligibility is not provided to such school in another provision of law and the school does not have a student population that is smaller than the student population of the local educational agency receiving assistance under this act with the smallest student population, except that the school shall