

In order to ensure that grant program activities address the needs of private school children, timely and meaningful consultation with appropriate private school officials must occur during the design and development of the program. Administrative direction and control over grant funds must remain with the grantee.

Maintenance of Effort LEAs may receive a grant only if the State educational agency finds that the combined fiscal effort per student or the aggregate expenditures of the agency and the State with respect to the provision of free public education by the agency for the preceding fiscal year was not less than 90 percent of the combined effort or aggregate expenditures for the second preceding fiscal year.

Waiver of Proposed Rulemaking: In accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553), the Department 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. This is the first competition under the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Programs for Native Hawaiians under the ESEA as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

Absolute Priority: Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), we will consider only applications that meet the following absolute priority: Projects implemented by eligible organizations primarily serving and representing Native Hawaiians, for the benefit of Native Hawaiians, to plan, conduct, and administer programs that (1) prevent violence in and around schools; (2) prevent the illegal use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs; (3) involve parents and communities; and (4) are coordinated with related Federal, State, school, and community efforts and resources to foster a safe and drug-free learning environment that supports student academic achievement.

Performance Measures: We require that applicants under this program establish performance measures for their projects. These performance measures must assess the effectiveness of the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Programs for Native Hawaiians, and include measures related to changes in student behaviors or risk or protective factors related to youth drug use or youth violence.

In applying the selection criteria that follow for "Quality of the project design" and "Quality of project evaluation," we will take into

consideration the extent to which the applicant demonstrates a strong capacity to (1) help achieve the performance targets identified by the applicant, and (2) provide reliable data to the Department on the project's impact as measured against the performance targets identified by the applicant.

Selection Criteria: We will use the following selection criteria to evaluate applications under this competition. The maximum score for all of these criteria is 100 points. The maximum score for each criterion is indicated in parenthesis.

(1) *Need for project.* (10 points)

In determining the need for the proposed project, we consider the following factor:

The extent to which specific gaps or weaknesses in services, infrastructure, or opportunities have been identified and will be addressed by the proposed project, including the nature and magnitude of those gaps or weaknesses.

(2) *Significance of the project.* (10 points)

In determining the significance of the proposed project, we consider the following factor:

The extent to which the proposed project is likely to build local capacity to provide, improve, or expand services that address the needs of the target population.

(3) *Quality of the project design.* (45 points)

In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, we consider following factors:

(a) The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the proposed project are clearly specified and measurable. (10 points)

(b) The extent to which the design of the proposed project is appropriate to, and will successfully address, the needs of the target population or other identified needs. (10 points)

(c) The extent to which the proposed project is designed to build capacity and yield results that will extend beyond the period of Federal financial assistance. (10 points)

(d) The extent to which the proposed project will establish linkages with other appropriate agencies and organizations providing services to the target population. (10 points)

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

Note: In applying the selection criteria for "Quality of the project design" we will take into consideration the extent to which the applicant demonstrates a strong capacity (1

to help achieve the performance targets identified by the applicant, and (2) to provide reliable data to the Department on the project's impact as measured against the performance targets identified by the applicant.

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

In determining the quality of project personnel, we consider the following factor:

(a) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel. (10 points)

(b) The extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability. (5 points)

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

In determining the quality of the evaluation, we consider the following factors:

(a) The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the proposed project. (10 points)

(b) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes. (5 points)

(c) 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)

Note: In applying the selection criteria for "Quality of the project evaluation" we will take into consideration the extent to which the applicant demonstrates a strong capacity (1) to help achieve the performance targets identified by the applicant, and (2) to provide reliable data to the Department on the project's impact as measured against the performance targets identified by the applicant.

For Applications and Other Information Contact: David Quinlan, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 3E248, Washington, DC 20202-6450. Telephone: (202) 260-2658, email address: david.quinlan@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) 1-888-877-8339.

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