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Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Joseph Schubart at his e-mail address Joe.Schubart@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No.: 84.299A]

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office of Indian Education Demonstration Grants for Indian Children, Notice Inviting Applications for New Discretionary Program Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

Purpose of Program: The purpose of the Demonstration Grants program is to provide financial assistance to projects to develop, test, and demonstrate the effectiveness of services and programs to improve the educational opportunities and achievement of preschool, elementary, and secondary students. For FY 2003 the competition for new awards focuses on projects designed to meet the priorities we describe in the Priorities section of this application notice.

Eligible Applicants: Eligible applicants for this program are: State educational agencies (SEAs); local educational agencies (LEAs); Indian tribes; Indian organizations; federally supported elementary or secondary schools for Indian students; Indian institutions, including Indian

institutions of higher education; or a consortium of such institutions that meet the requirements of 34 CFR 75.127 through 75.129. An application from a consortium of eligible entities must meet the requirements of 34 CFR 75.127 through 75.129. The consortium agreement, signed by all parties, must be submitted with the application in order to be considered as a consortium application.

Note: Letters of support do not meet the consortium requirements. The Secretary rejects any application that does not meet these requirements.

Applications Available: July 24, 2003.

Deadline for Transmittal of

Applications: August 25, 2003.

Deadline for Intergovernmental

Review: September 9, 2003.

Estimated Available Funds:

\$2,484,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$150,000 to \$400,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$310,500.

Estimated Number of Awards: 8.

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

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

Budget Requirement: Projects funded under this competition must budget for a one and one-half day Project Directors' meeting in Washington, DC during each year of the project.

Maximum Annual Award Amount: In no case does the Secretary make an award greater than \$400,000 during any single budget period in the award period. The Secretary rejects any application that proposes a budget exceeding this maximum amount.

Page Limit: The application narrative is where an applicant addresses the selection criteria that are used by reviewers in evaluating the application. An applicant must limit the narrative to the equivalent of no more than 50 double-spaced pages, using the following standards:

(1) A "page" is 8½" x 11" (one side only) with one-inch margins (top, bottom and sides).

(2) All text in the application narrative, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs, must be double-spaced (no more than three lines per vertical inch).

(3) For all text (including charts, tables, and graphs), 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 the cover sheet; the assurances and certifications; or the one-page abstract, appendices, resumes, bibliography, and

letters of support. However, all of the application narrative addressing the selection criteria must be included in the narrative section.

Reviewers will not read any pages of applications that—

- Exceed the page limit if you apply these standards; or
- Exceed the equivalent of the page limit if you apply other standards.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, 86, 97, 98, and 99; and (b) 34 CFR part 263.

Note: The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to institutions of higher education only.

Priorities

Absolute Priority

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), the Secretary gives an absolute preference to applications that meet the priority selected. The program regulations at 34 CFR 263.21(c) identify the absolute priorities for the Demonstration Grants for Indian Children program that may be selected by the Secretary. For the FY 2003 grant competition, the Secretary reserves all of the funds available for new awards under the Demonstration Grants for Indian Children program to fund only those applications that meet one or more of the following absolute priorities found at 34 CFR 263.21(c)(1) and (3):

(1) School readiness projects that provide age appropriate educational programs and language skills to three- and four-year old Indian students to prepare them for successful entry into school at the kindergarten school level.

(3) College preparatory programs for secondary school students designed to increase competency and skills in challenging subject matters, including math and science, to enable Indian students to successfully transition to postsecondary education.

Competitive Preference

(1) In making multiyear grants under this program, the Secretary will award five (5) additional points to an application that presents a plan for combining two or more of the activities described in section 7121(c) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended, over a period of more than one year.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 7441(d)(1)(B).)

(2) In making grants under this program, the Secretary will award five (5) additional points to an application submitted by an Indian tribe, Indian