

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 3.  
*Estimated Total Number of Awards:* 41.

**Note:** The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice. Applicants should periodically check MSEIP's Web site for further information on this program. The address is: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/HEP/itudes/msi.html>

*Project Period:* Up to 36 months.

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

(b) the regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 637.

**Note 1:** The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to institutions of higher education only.

**Note 2:** The regulations in 34 CFR part 79 apply to all applicants except federally recognized Indian tribes.

*Applicability of Executive Order 13202:* Applicants that apply for construction funds under these programs must comply with Executive Order 13202, signed by President Bush on February 17, 2001 and amended on April 6, 2001. This Executive Order provides that recipients of Federal construction funds may not "require or prohibit bidders, offerors, contractors, or subcontractors to enter into or adhere to agreements with one or more labor organizations, on the same or other construction project(s)" or "otherwise discriminate against bidders, offerors, contractors, or subcontractors for becoming or refusing to become or remain signatories or otherwise adhere to agreements with one or more labor organizations, on the same or other construction project(s)." However, the Executive Order does not prohibit contractors or subcontractors from voluntarily entering into these agreements.

Projects funded under this program that include construction activity will be provided a copy of this Executive Order and will be asked to certify that they will adhere to it.

#### *Application Procedures*

**Note:** Some of the procedures in these instructions for transmitting applications differ from those in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (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 for electronic submission of applications to include additional formula grant programs and additional discretionary grant competitions. The MSEIP, CFDA 84.120A is one of the programs included in the pilot project. If you are an applicant under the MSEIP, 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) portion of the Grant Administration and Payment System (GAPS). Users of e-Application will be entering data on-line while completing their applications. You may not e-mail a copy of a grant application to us. If you participate in this voluntary pilot project by submitting an application electronically, the data you enter on-line will be saved into a database. We request your participation in e-Application. We shall continue to evaluate its success and solicit suggestions for improvement.

If you participate in e-Application, please note the following:

- Your participation is voluntary.
- You will not receive any additional point value because you submit a grant application in electronic format, nor will we penalize you if you submit an application in paper format. When you enter the e-Application system, you will find information about its hours of operation.
- You may submit all documents electronically, including the Application for Federal Assistance under MSEIP (OMB No. 1840-0109), Project Summary page, Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs (ED 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications.
- After you electronically submit your application, you will receive an automatic acknowledgement, which will include a PR/Award number (an identifying number unique to your application).
- Within three working days of submitting your electronic application, fax a signed copy of the Application for Federal Assistance under MSEIP (OMB No. 1840-0109) to the Application Control Center after following these steps:

(1) Print the Application for Federal Assistance under MSEIP (OMB No. 1840-0109) from the e-Application system.

(2) The institution's Authorizing Representative must sign this form.

(3) Place the PR/Award number in the upper right hand corner of the hard copy signature page of the Application for Federal Assistance under MSEIP (OMB No. 1840-0109).

(4) Fax the Application for Federal Assistance under MSEIP (OMB No. 1840-0109) to the Application Control Center at (202) 260-1349.

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

- Closing Date Extension in Case of System Unavailability: If you elect to participate in the e-Application pilot for the MSEIP 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 electronically, by mail, or by hand delivery. For us to grant this extension—

(1) You must be a registered user of e-Application, 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., Washington, DC time, 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 and 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time) on the deadline date. The Department must acknowledge and confirm these periods of unavailability before granting you an extension. To request this extension you must contact either (1) the person listed elsewhere in this notice under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** or (2) the e-GRANTS help desk at 1-888-336-8930.

You may access the electronic grant application for MSEIP at <http://e-grants.ed.gov>.

*For Applications and Further Information Contact:* Kenneth Waters, Deborah Newkirk or Sophia McArdle, Institutional Development and Undergraduate Education Service, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20006-8517. Telephone: Mr. Waters (202) 502-7586, Ms. Newkirk (202) 502-7591, Dr. McArdle (202) 219-7078. FAX: (202) 502-7861, or via Internet: [ken.waters@ed.gov](mailto:ken.waters@ed.gov), [deborah.newkirk@ed.gov](mailto:deborah.newkirk@ed.gov), [sophia.mcardle@ed.gov](mailto:sophia.mcardle@ed.gov).

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative