

Length of Funding for UBP-PEI

Comments: Four commenters inquired about the expected funding period for this initiative.

Discussion: To the extent that the commenters were questioning whether the Secretary planned to provide additional funding in future fiscal years, the Secretary anticipates awarding funds under the UBP-PEI for the next four project/budget years. However, the expenditure of funds in the future is always contingent upon Congressional action, including the size of the Congressional appropriation for a program in a given fiscal year.

Changes: None.

Requests for Clarification on Student Eligibility

Comments: Ten commenters asked whether students already enrolled in Upward Bound who took part in the previous Upward Bound initiative could participate in this year's initiative. Eight commenters asked whether all UBP-PEI students must come from the target schools that have 50 percent or more students eligible for the Free Lunch program. Another commenter asked whether grades of C or less in 8th grade core subjects were acceptable if a student's grade point average was unavailable.

Discussion: Students currently being served by Upward Bound projects as a consequence of participating in the FY 2000 expansion initiative may participate in UBP-PEI *as long as they meet all UBP-PEI criteria*, that is they are eligible Upward Bound participants who are enrolled in an eligible target high school and meet one or more of the greatest academic need criteria listed in the priority. With regard to the second question, for the reasons explained in a previous response, all UBP-PEI students must attend eligible target schools. With regard to the third question, the Secretary does not wish to add additional criteria. Moreover, the third criterion allows a project to use the grade point average for the most recent school year for which grade point averages are available. Therefore, a relevant grade point average will almost always be available.

Changes: None.

Request To Reduce the Minimum Number of Participants Served

Comments: One commenter proposed that eligible projects be given the opportunity to serve the number of needy participants they could manage best. The commenter indicated that project and institutional resources may not be sufficient to accommodate and

serve well 20 additional students, yet resources would be available to serve a smaller number adequately.

Discussion: The Secretary considers this suggestion reasonable and viable.

Changes: A project may request three levels of funding, \$100,000, \$75,000, or \$50,000. If a project requests \$100,000, it must serve at least 20 students; if it requests \$75,000, it must serve at least 15 students; if it requests \$50,000, it must serve at least 10 students.

Concerns About Local Impediments That Run Counter to UBP-PEI

Comments: Three commenters identified local or regional situations that present difficulties in meeting the UBP-PEI criteria or providing the required services. One was the Appalachia situation that was mentioned above, a second was small rural schools, and a third was jurisdictions like Chicago, where the School Board has mandated students who flunk state tests take summer courses so the students would be unable to participate in the Upward Bound summer component.

Discussion: The change discussed above that allows a project to apply for three levels of funding should eliminate the first two concerns. Jurisdictions like Chicago are providing a valuable service to Chicago students, obviating the need for Upward Bound involvement.

Changes: See preceding change.

Suggestions for Additional Criteria for Student Eligibility

Comments: Three commenters suggested additional eligibility criteria for program participants: limited English proficiency, English as a second language, and a grade of C or less in core academic subjects.

Discussion: As stated earlier, a student currently served by Upward Bound projects may be eligible to participate in UBP-PEI if the student is enrolled in an eligible target high school, and meets one or more of the greatest academic need criteria listed in the priority. The Secretary does not wish to add additional criteria that may be hard to implement consistently across projects nationwide and may confound the evaluation of the impact that UBP-PEI has on the individuals served.

Changes: None.

Intergovernmental Review

This program is subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. One of the objectives of the Executive order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism. The Executive

order relies on processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

This document provides early notification of our specific plans and actions for this program.

Applicable Program Regulations

34 CFR part 645

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(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 84.047A, Upward Bound Program Participant Expansion Initiative)

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070.

Dated: August 18, 2003.

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Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education.

[FR Doc. 03-21582 Filed 8-19-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No: 84.047A]

Office of Postsecondary Education, Upward Bound Program Participant Expansion Initiative; Notice Inviting Applications for Supplemental Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

Purpose of Program: The purpose of this initiative is to help the Upward Bound Program achieve one of its key performance goals: increasing the college enrollment rate of low-income, first generation college students.

Eligible Applicants: All currently funded Upward Bound projects successful in the FY 2003 grant competition. Veterans Upward Bound projects and Upward Bound Math-Science projects are not eligible to participate.

Applications Available: August 21, 2003.