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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The requested amendment has been granted under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the provisions of 50 CFR 222.306 of the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222-226).

The modification extends the expiration date of the Permit from December 31, 2003, to December 31, 2004, for takes of green (*Chelonia mydas*), loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) sea turtles. The take authority has been extended 1 year, or until the permit holder has exhausted the total number of unused takes authorized for the year in which this permit was about to expire, whichever occurs first. NMFS is also taking this opportunity to update permit conditions and reporting requirements so they meet current permitting standards.

Issuance of this amendment, as required by the ESA was based on a finding that such permit: (1) was applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the threatened and endangered species which are the subject of this permit; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: September 12, 2003.

Stephen L. Leathery,

Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA Nos. 84.116A, 84.116B]

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education—Comprehensive Program (Preapplications and Applications); Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

Purpose of Program: To provide grants or enter into cooperative agreements to improve postsecondary education opportunities.

Eligible Applicants: Institutions of higher education or combinations of those institutions and other public and private nonprofit institutions and agencies.

Applications Available: September 18, 2003.

Deadline for Transmittal of Preapplications: November 3, 2003.

Deadline for Transmittal of Final Applications: March 22, 2004.

Note: All applicants must submit a preapplication to be eligible to submit a final application.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: May 21, 2004.

Estimated Available Funds: \$9,000,000 for new awards.

The Administration has requested \$39 million for this program for FY 2004 (approximately \$9 million of which will be available for new awards). The actual level of funding, if any, depends on final congressional action. However, we are inviting applications to allow enough time to complete the grant process if Congress appropriates funds for this program.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$50,000–\$275,000 per year.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$156,000 per year.

Estimated Number of Awards: 50–55.

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

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

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

Invitational Priorities

While applicants may propose any project within the scope of 20 U.S.C. 1138, under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1) the Secretary is particularly interested in applications that meet one or more of the following invitational priorities. However, an application that meets one or more of these invitational priorities does not receive competitive or absolute preference over other applications.

Invitational Priority 1

Projects to improve the quality of K–12 teaching through new models of teacher preparation and through new kinds of partnerships between schools and colleges and universities that enhance students' preparation for, access to, and success in college.

Invitational Priority 2

Projects to promote innovative reforms in the curriculum and instruction of various subjects at the college preparation, undergraduate, and graduate/professional levels, especially through student-centered or technology-mediated strategies, and including the subject area of civic education.

Invitational Priority 3

Projects designing more cost-effective ways of improving postsecondary instruction and operations, *i.e.*, to promote more student learning relative to institutional resources expended.

Invitational Priority 4

Projects to support new ways to ensure equal access to postsecondary education and to improve rates of retention and program completion, especially for underrepresented students whose retention and completion rates continue to lag behind those of other groups, and especially to encourage wider adoption of proven approaches to this problem.

Aligning Your Proposal to the Review Criteria

The success of FIPSE's Comprehensive Program depends upon (1) the extent to which funded projects are being replicated—*i.e.*, adopted or adapted—by others; and (2) the manner in which projects are being institutionalized and continued after grant funding. These two results constitute FIPSE's indicators of the success of our program.

If funded, you will be asked to collect and report data in your project's annual performance report (EDGAR, 34 CFR 75.590) on steps taken toward these goals. Consequently, applicants to FIPSE's Comprehensive Program are advised to include these two outcomes in conceptualizing the design, implementation and evaluation of the proposed project. Consideration of FIPSE's two performance outcomes is an important part of many of the review criteria discussed below. Thus, it is important to the success of your application that you include these objectives. Their measure should be a part of the project evaluation plan, along with measures of objectives specific to your project.