

opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: December 19, 2003.

**Angela C. Arrington,**

*Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

#### **Institute of Education Sciences**

*Type of Review:* New Collection.

*Title:* National Assessment of Educational Progress 2004–2007 System Clearance.

*Frequency:* One-time.

*Affected Public:* State, local, or tribal gov't, SEAs or LEAs (primary); Not-for-profit institutions.

*Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:*

*Responses:* 906,322.

*Burden Hours:* 231,800.

*Abstract:* This clearance request covers all pilot, field, and full scale assessment and survey activities of the National Assessment of Educational Progress. Students are assessed and surveyed in the 4th, 8th and 12th grades as well as some of their teachers and school administrators.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be

accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 2429. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202–4651 or to the e-mail address [vivian\\_reese@ed.gov](mailto:vivian_reese@ed.gov). Requests may also be electronically mailed to the Internet address [OCIO\\_RIMG@ed.gov](mailto:OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov) or faxed to 202–708–9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Kathy Axt at her e-mail address, [Kathy.Axt@ed.gov](mailto:Kathy.Axt@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**

##### **Office of Innovation and Improvement; Overview Information; Charter Schools Program (CSP); Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004**

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.282A, 84.282B, and 84.282C.

Dates: Applications Available: December 24, 2003.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: February 19, 2004.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: April 19, 2004.

*Eligible Applicants:* (a) State educational agencies (SEAs) in States with a State statute specifically authorizing the establishment of charter schools may apply for funding.

(b) Non-SEA eligible applicants may apply for funding directly from the U.S. Department of Education (Department) if the SEA in the State elects not to participate in the CSP or does not have an application approved under the program.

*Estimated Available Funds:* Although the Congress has not enacted a final appropriation for FY 2004, the Department is inviting applications for this competition now so that it may be prepared to make awards following final action on the Department's appropriations bill. Based on the congressional action to date, we

estimate that \$64,000,000 will be available for new awards under this competition. The actual level of funding depends on final congressional action.

*Estimated Range of Awards:* SEAs: \$500,000–\$8,000,000 per year. Other eligible applicants: \$10,000–\$150,000 per year.

*Estimated Average Size of Awards:* SEAs: \$3,000,000 per year. Other eligible applicants: \$130,000 per year.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* SEAs: 18–22. Other eligible applicants: 50–75.

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

*Project Period:* Up to 36 months.

#### **Full Text of Announcement**

##### **I. Funding Opportunity Description**

*Purpose of Program:* The purpose of the CSP is to increase national understanding of the charter school model and to expand the number of high-quality charter schools available to students across the Nation by providing financial assistance for the planning, program design, and initial implementation of charter schools and for evaluating the effects of charter schools, including the effects on students, student academic achievement, staff, and parents.

The Department will hold three (3) separate competitions under this program. All SEA applicants must apply for grant funds under CFDA No. 84.282A. Non-SEA eligible applicants that propose to use grant funds for planning, program design, and implementation must apply under CFDA No. 84.282B. Non-SEA eligible applicants that are requesting funds for dissemination activities must submit their applications under CFDA No. 84.282C.

*Priorities:* In accordance with 34 CFR 75.105(b)(2)(iv), these priorities are from section 5202(e) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA), 20 U.S.C. 7221a(e).

*Competitive Preference Priorities:* For FY 2004 these priorities are competitive preference priorities. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i) we award up to an additional 40 points to an applicant, depending on how well the application meets these priorities.

In awarding grants to SEAs under this competition, the Secretary gives priority to States to the extent that the State meets the statutory criterion described in paragraph (a) of this section, and one or more of the statutory criteria described in paragraphs (b) through (d) of this section.

An SEA that meets priority (a) but does not meet one or more of the other