

Education (Title VII, Part B of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended) to support projects addressing a particular problem area or improvement approach in postsecondary education.

Priority: Under this program we are particularly interested in applications that meet the following priority.

Invitational Priority: For FY 2004 this priority is an invitational priority. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1) we do not give an application that meets this invitational priority a competitive or absolute preference over other applications.

This priority is to encourage proposals designed to support the formation of educational consortia of institutions and organizations in the United States and the European Union to encourage cooperation in the coordination of curricula, the exchange of students and the opening of educational opportunities between the United States and the European Union. This includes the new member States scheduled to join the European Union in Summer 2004. The invitational priority is issued in cooperation with the European Union. European institutions participating in any consortium proposal responding to the invitational priority may apply to the European Commission's Directorate General for Education and Culture for additional funding under a separate European competition.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1138–1138d.

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.

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

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Discretionary grants or cooperative agreements.

Estimated Available Funds: The Administration has requested \$700,000 under this program for FY 2004. 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: \$25,000–\$200,000 total for up to three years.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$25,000 for one-year preparatory projects; \$75,000 for two-year complementary activities projects; \$50,000 for year one of a three-year

consortia implementation project with a \$200,000 three-year total.

Estimated Number of Awards: 12.

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

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

III. Eligibility Information

1. **Eligible Applicants:** Institutions of higher education and vocational education and training or combinations of these institutions and other public and private nonprofit educational institutions and agencies.

2. **Cost Sharing or Matching:** This program does not involve cost sharing or matching.

IV. Application and Submission Information

1. **Address to Request Application Package:** Education Publications Center (ED Pubs), P.O. Box 1398, Jessup, MD 20794–1398. Telephone (toll free): 1–877–433–7827. FAX: (301) 470–1244. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call (toll free): 1–877–576–7734.

You may also contact ED Pubs at its Web site: www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html or you may contact ED Pubs at its e-mail address: edpubs@inet.ed.gov.

If you request an application from ED Pubs, be sure to identify this competition as follows: CFDA number 84.116J.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain a copy of the application package in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) by contacting the program office at FIPSE, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., 6th floor, Washington, DC 20006–8544. Telephone: 202–502–7500 or via the Internet at www.ed.gov/FIPSE. However, the Department is not able to reproduce in an alternative format the standard forms included in the application package.

2. **Content and Form of Application Submission:** Requirements concerning the content of an application, together with the forms you must submit, are in the application package for this program.

You may also request application forms by calling 732–544–2504 (fax on demand), or application guidelines by calling 202–358–3041 (voice mail), or submitting the name of the competition and your name and postal address to FIPSE@ed.gov (e-mail). Applications also are available on the FIPSE Web site: <http://www.ed.gov/FIPSE>.

3. **Submission Dates and Times:**

Applications Available: January 16, 2004.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: April 16, 2004.

The dates and times for the transmittal of applications by mail or by hand (including a courier service or commercial carrier) are in the application package for this program. The application package also specifies the hours of operation of the e-Application Web site.

We do not consider an application that does not comply with the deadline requirements.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: June 16, 2004.

4. **Intergovernmental Review:** This program is subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. Information about Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs under Executive Order 12372 is in the application package for this program.

5. **Funding Restrictions:** We reference regulations outlining funding restrictions in the Applicable Regulations section of this notice.

6. **Other Submission Requirements:** Instructions and requirements for the transmittal of applications by mail or by hand (including a courier service or commercial carrier) are in the application package for this program.

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: We are continuing to expand our pilot project for electronic submission of applications to include additional formula grant programs and additional discretionary grant competitions. The European Community-United States of America Cooperation Program in Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training—CFDA Number 84.116J is one of the programs included in the pilot project. If you are an applicant under the EC–US Cooperation Program 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). If you use e-Application, you will be entering data online while completing your