

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION****Bilingual Education: Comprehensive School Grants; Bilingual Education: Systemwide Improvement Grants; and Bilingual Education: Program Enhancement Grants**

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of final priorities for fiscal year (FY) 1995.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary announces priorities for FY 1995 under the following programs authorized by title VII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended (the Act): (1) Bilingual Education: Comprehensive School Grants, (2) Bilingual Education: Systemwide Improvement Grants, and (3) Bilingual Education: Program Enhancement Grants. The Secretary takes this action to focus Federal financial assistance on an identified national need. These priorities provide for a competitive preference to be given to projects providing program services in an Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community designated under section 1391 of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended by title XIII of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** These priorities take effect on May 22, 1995.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Harry Logel, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 5090, Switzer Building, Washington, D.C. 20202. Telephone: (202) 205-5530. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice contains priorities under the following programs:

Bilingual Education: Comprehensive School Grants.

Bilingual Education: Systemwide Improvement Grants.

Bilingual Education: Program Enhancement Grants.

The purpose of each program is stated separately under the title of that program in a later section of this notice.

Funding of particular projects depends on the availability of funds and the quality of the applications received.

**Note:** This notice of final priorities does not solicit applications. Notices inviting applications under these competitions are published separately in this issue of the **Federal Register**.

**Background**

The Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community program is a

critical element of the Administration's community revitalization strategy. The program is a first step in rebuilding communities in America's poverty-stricken inner cities and rural heartlands. It is designed to empower people and communities by inspiring Americans to work together to create jobs and opportunity.

Under this program, the Federal Government has designated certain areas as Empowerment Zones and as Enterprise Communities in accordance with Internal Revenue Code (IRC) section 1391, as amended by title XIII of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (Pub. L. 103-66). Each of these areas was nominated by one or more local governments and the State or States in which it is located or by a State-Chartered Economic Development Corporation. The selected areas are characterized by pervasive poverty, unemployment, and general distress, and have a poverty rate of not less than the level specified in section 1392 of the IRC.

Interested individuals may contact the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at 1-800-998-9999 for additional information on the Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community program. A listing of areas that have been selected as Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities is included as an appendix to this notice.

In the Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community program, communities submitted strategic plans that comprehensively address how the community would link economic development with education and training as well as how community development, public safety, human services, and environmental initiatives together would support sustainable communities. Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities were designated by the Department of Agriculture and HUD based on the quality of their strategic plans. Designated areas will receive Federal grant funds and substantial tax benefits and will have access to other Federal programs.

The Department of Education is supporting the Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community initiative in a variety of ways. It is encouraging Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities to use funds they already receive from Department of Education programs (including Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as amended, the Drug-Free Schools and Community Act, the Adult Education Act, and the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology

Education Act) to support the comprehensive vision of their strategic plans. In addition, the Department of Education intends to give preferences to Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities in a number of discretionary grant programs that are well-suited for inclusion in a comprehensive approach to economic and community development. In addition to the Bilingual Education: Comprehensive School Grants program, the Bilingual Education: Systemwide Improvement Grants program, and the Bilingual Education: Program Enhancement Grants program, the Department intends to give preferences to Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities in the Urban Community Service program, the Parent Training program and Early Childhood Education program under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, and a variety of discretionary programs under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended.

**Relationship of the Program Enhancement Grants Program, the Comprehensive School Grants Program, and the Systemwide Improvement Grants Program to the Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community Program**

These Bilingual Education programs provide grants to assist local educational agencies (LEAs), LEAs in collaboration with other entities, institutions of higher education (IHEs), and community-based organizations (CBOs) to develop and enhance their capacity to provide high-quality instruction through bilingual education or special alternative instruction programs to limited English proficient (LEP) children and youth. These programs are intended to help LEP children and youth to develop proficiency in English and, to the extent possible, their native language and to meet the same challenging academic State standards set for all children and youth.

These Bilingual Education programs are ideally suited to play a key role in the Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community program because of the high concentration of LEP children and youth in low-income areas. By improving the quality of education provided to LEP children and youth, these programs enhance their economic opportunities and contribute to the improvement of our communities.

Communities designated as Empowerment Zones or Enterprise Communities already have demonstrated a capacity for the type of cooperative planning that is critical to

developing and maintaining successful educational systems. Projects funded under these programs will provide models for educational systems in other distressed areas.

In addition, these Bilingual Education programs provide a vehicle for achieving the National Education Goal that by the year 2000 every adult American will be literate and will possess the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global economy and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. These programs help further this goal by encouraging programs that help LEP children and youth become proficient in English and meet the same high academic State standards set for all children and youth.

Accordingly, the Secretary has determined that it would serve the purposes of the three programs in this notice to award a competitive preference to applications that propose projects that serve these Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities.

#### **Bilingual Education: Program Enhancement Grants**

##### *Purpose of Program*

Under section 7113 of the Act, the purpose of the program is to assist (1) LEAs, (2) LEAs in collaboration with IHEs, CBOs, other LEAs, or an SEA, or (3) CBOs and IHEs that have had their applications approved by LEAs to carry out highly focused, innovative, locally designed projects to expand or enhance existing bilingual education or special alternative instructional programs for LEP students.

**Program Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 7423

#### **Bilingual Education: Comprehensive School Grants**

##### *Purpose of Program*

Under section 7114 of the Act, the purpose of the program is to assist LEAs or LEAs in collaboration with IHEs, CBOs, other LEAs, or an SEA to implement schoolwide bilingual education programs or special alternative instructional programs for reforming, restructuring, and upgrading all relevant programs and operations, within an individual school, that serve virtually all LEP children and youth in schools with significant concentrations of these children and youth.

**Program Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 7424.

#### **Bilingual Education: Systemwide Improvement Grants**

##### *Purpose of Program*

Under section 7115 of the Act, the purpose of the program is to assist LEAs

or LEAs in collaboration with IHEs, CBOs, other LEAs, or an SEA to implement districtwide bilingual education programs or special alternative instructional programs to improve, reform, and upgrade relevant programs and operations, within an entire LEA, that serve a significant number of LEP children and youth in one or more LEAs with significant concentrations of these children and youth.

**Program Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 7425

#### **Priority**

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i), the Secretary gives preference to applications that meet the following competitive priority. The Secretary awards 5 points to an application that meets this competitive priority. These points would be in addition to any points an application earns under the selection criteria for the programs to which this priority applies. The priority applies to the following programs:

Bilingual Education: Comprehensive School Grants.

Bilingual Education: Systemwide Improvement Grants.

Bilingual Education: Program Enhancement Grants.

Under each of these programs, competitive preference will be given to applications that—

(1) Propose to provide services to schools and LEP students eligible to be served under the program located in one or more Empowerment Zones or Enterprise Communities; and

(2) Propose projects that contribute to the strategic plan of the Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community and that are made an integral component of the Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community activities.

#### *Waiver of Proposed Priority*

In accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553), it is the practice of the Department of Education to offer interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed priorities. However, in order to make timely grant awards in FY 1995, the Director, in accordance with section 437(d)(1) of the General Education Provisions Act, has decided to issue this final priority, which will apply only to the FY 1995 grant competition.

#### **Intergovernmental Review**

These programs are subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. The objective of the Executive order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened

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

In accordance with the order, this document is intended to provide early notification of the Department's specific plans and actions for these programs.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers: 84.289 Bilingual Education: Program Enhancement Grants; 84.290 Bilingual Education: Comprehensive School Grants; and 84.291 Bilingual Education: Systemwide Improvement Grants.)

Dated: April 11, 1995.

**Eugene E. Garcia,**

*Director, Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs.*

#### **Appendix—Areas Designated as Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities**

##### *Urban Empowerment Zones*

Atlanta, Georgia  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Chicago, Illinois  
Detroit, Michigan  
New York, New York  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania & Camden, New Jersey

##### *Urban Supplemental Zones*

Los Angeles, California  
Cleveland, Ohio

##### *Rural Empowerment Zones*

Kentucky Highlands (Clinton, Jackson, Wayne Counties, Kentucky)  
Mid-Delta Mississippi (Bolivar, Holmes, Humphreys, Leflore Counties, Mississippi)  
Rio Grande Valley Texas (Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Willacy Counties, Texas)

##### *Urban Enhanced Enterprise Communities*

Boston, Massachusetts  
Houston, Texas  
Kansas City, Kansas & Kansas City, Missouri  
Oakland, California

##### *Urban and Rural Enterprise Communities*

(Listed Alphabetically by State)

Alabama

Birmingham  
Chambers County  
Green & Sumter Counties

Arizona

Arizona Border Region: Cochise, Santa Cruz & Yuma Counties

Phoenix

Arkansas

Eastern Arkansas: Cross, Lee, Monrow & St. Francis Counties

Mississippi County

Pulaski County

California

Imperial County

Los Angeles (South Central/Huntington Park)  
San Diego

San Francisco (Hunters Point)  
 City of Watsonville: Santa Cruz County  
 Colorado  
 Denver  
 Connecticut  
 Bridgeport  
 New Haven  
 Delaware  
 Wilmington  
 District of Columbia  
 Washington  
 Florida  
 Dade County/Miami  
 Jackson County  
 Tampa  
 Georgia  
 Albany  
 Crisp & Dooly Counties  
 Central Savannah River Area: Burke,  
 Hancock, Jefferson, McDuffie, Taliaferro  
 & Warren Counties  
 Illinois  
 East St. Louis  
 Springfield  
 Indiana  
 Indianapolis  
 Iowa  
 Des Moines  
 Kentucky  
 Louisville  
 McCreary County  
 Louisiana  
 Macon Ridge: Catahouls, Concordia,  
 Franklin, Morehouse & Tensas Parishes  
 New Orleans  
 Northeast Louisiana Delta: Madison Parish  
 Ouachita Parish  
 Massachusetts  
 Lowell  
 Springfield  
 Michigan  
 Flint  
 Lake County  
 Muskegon  
 Minnesota  
 Minneapolis  
 St. Paul  
 Mississippi  
 Jackson  
 North Delta: Panola, Quitman & Tallahatchie  
 Counties  
 Missouri  
 City of East Prairie: Mississippi County  
 St. Louis  
 Nebraska  
 Omaha  
 Nevada  
 Clark County/Las Vegas  
 New Hampshire  
 Manchester  
 New Jersey  
 Newark

New Mexico  
 Albuquerque  
 Mora, Taos, & Rio Arriba Counties  
 New York  
 Albany  
 Buffalo  
 Newburgh-Kingston  
 Rochester  
 North Carolina  
 Charlotte  
 Halifax, Edgecombe & Wilson Counties  
 Robeson County  
 Ohio  
 Akron  
 Columbus  
 Greater Portsmouth: Scioto County  
 Oklahoma  
 Oklahoma City  
 Southeast Oklahoma: Choctaw & McCurtain  
 Counties  
 Oregon  
 Josephine County  
 Portland  
 Pennsylvania  
 Harrisburg  
 City of Lock Haven: Clinton County  
 Pittsburgh  
 Rhode Island  
 Providence  
 South Carolina  
 Charleston  
 Williamsburg County & Lake City: Florence  
 & Williamsburg Counties  
 South Dakota  
 Boadie & Spink Counties  
 Tennessee  
 Fayette & Haywood Counties  
 Memphis  
 Nashville  
 Scott County  
 Texas  
 Dallas  
 El Paso  
 San Antonio  
 Waco  
 Utah  
 Ogden  
 Vermont  
 Burlington  
 Virginia  
 Accomack & Northampton Counties  
 Norfolk  
 Washington  
 Lower Yakima County  
 Seattle  
 Tacoma  
 West Virginia  
 Central Appalachia: Braxton, Clay, Fayette,  
 Nicholas & Roane Counties  
 Huntington  
 McDowell County  
 Wisconsin  
 Milwaukee  
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**Bilingual Education: Comprehensive School Grants; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 1995**

*Purpose of Program:* The purpose of this program is to provide grants to implement schoolwide bilingual education programs or special alternative instruction programs for reforming, restructuring, and upgrading all relevant programs and operations, within an individual school, that serve all or virtually all limited English proficient (LEP) children and youth in one or more schools with significant concentrations of these children and youth.

*Eligible Applicants:* One or more local educational agencies (LEAs), or one or more LEAs in collaboration with an institution of higher education, community-based organizations, other LEAs, or a State educational agency.

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* May 30, 1995.

*Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:* July 31, 1995.

*Applications Available:* April 21, 1995.

*Available Funds:* \$49,772,000.

*Estimated Range of Awards:*

\$150,000-\$400,000.

*Estimated Average Size of Awards:* \$310,000.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 160.

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

*Project Period:* 60 months.

*Applicable Regulations:* The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, and 86.

**Priorities**

*Absolute Priority*

The following absolute priority, as published in the **Federal Register** on March 2, 1995 (60 FR 11868) in a notice of final priority for this program, applies to this competition:

Projects that serve only schools in which the number of LEP students, in each school served, equals at least 25 percent of the total student enrollment.

*Competitive Priority*

The competitive priority in the notice of final priorities for this program, as published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**, applies to this competition. The notice announces a competitive preference to be given to projects providing program services in a designated Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community.