

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No.: 84.206R]

**Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Education Program—National Research and Development Center; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 1995**

*Purpose of Program:* To support a national research and development center to study the education of gifted and talented children and youth.

*Eligible Applicants:* The following are eligible for a new award under this program: institutions of higher education, State educational agencies, or a combination of these entities.

*Deadline for Transmittal of*

*Applications:* June 26, 1995.

*Applications Available:* May 12, 1995.

*Estimated Available Funds:* This center will be awarded as a cooperative agreement. In fiscal year 1995, \$1,750,000 is available for the first year of funding for a national research and development center to study the education of gifted and talented children and youth. The following list indicates the estimated funding levels over the five-year project period. The funding levels for years 1 through 5 are estimates. Actual funding will depend upon the availability of funds and needs as reflected in the approved application.

First Year Funding: \$1.75 Million

Second Year Funding: \$1.75 Million

Third Year Funding: \$1.75 Million

Fourth Year Funding: \$1.75 Million

Fifth Year Funding: \$1.75 Million

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 1.

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

*Project Period:* Up to 60 months.

*Budget Period:* 12 months.

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

*Priority and Selection Criteria:* The priority and selection criteria in the notice of final priority, selection criteria and post-award requirements for this program, as published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register** apply to this competition.

*For Applications or Information Contact:* Beverly E. Coleman, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Avenue NW., Room 610F, Washington, D.C. 20208-5573. Telephone: (202) 219-2280; E-mail: bcoleman@inet.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 between 8 a.m. and 8

p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

Information about the Department's funding opportunities, including copies of application notices or discretionary grant competitions, can be viewed on the Department's electronic bulletin board (ED Board), telephone (202) 260-9950; or on the Internet Gopher Server at GOPHER.ED.GOV (under Announcements, Bulletins and Press Releases). However, the official application notice for a discretionary grant competition is the notice published in the **Federal Register**.

**Program Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 10204.

Dated: April 19, 1995.

**Sharon P. Robinson,**

*Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement.*

[FR Doc. 95-10103 Filed 4-24-95; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Education Program—National Research and Development Center**

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of final priority, selection criteria and post-award requirements for fiscal year 1995.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary announces a priority, selection criteria, and post-award requirements for fiscal year 1995. The Secretary takes this action to support a national research and development center to study the education of gifted and talented children and youth. The work of the center is intended to increase knowledge related to improving educational practices so that the nation's gifted and talented children and youth may better contribute to the national welfare. The priority is intended to increase knowledge related to improving educational practices for all students.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This notice of final priority, selection criteria and post-award requirements takes effect May 25, 1995.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Beverly E. Coleman, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Avenue, N.W., Room 610F, Washington, D.C. 20208-5573. Telephone: (202) 219-2280; E-mail: bcoleman@inet.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 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Secretary seeks to improve the education of gifted and talented children and youth and to use the methods and materials developed in gifted and talented education programs to improve education for all children. This is an integral part of advancing the National Education Goals and GOALS 2000, which require that all students attain high standards of academic excellence. Gifted and talented education programs and methods can contribute to systemic reform, in which schoolwide efforts are used to coordinate high standards, assessments, challenging curricula, and teacher preparation to improve the education of all students. The Secretary also believes that the educational needs of gifted and talented students from populations historically underserved by gifted education programs deserve particular attention.

Under the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act of 1994 (Javits Act) as authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as amended, the Secretary seeks to provide support for a national research and development center designed to conduct sound and coherent education research programs on methods and techniques for gifted and talented education. A deliberate, sustained, and coordinated initiative must be undertaken to carry out research and development activities related to improving the education of gifted and talented students.

The Secretary plans to make the award under this competition as a cooperative agreement. Applicants for the award must be institutions of higher education, State educational agencies, or a combination of these entities. The Secretary believes that this center can strengthen its capacity to accomplish the work of its mission by involving partners such as Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), tribal colleges, community colleges, or state and local education research organizations. As described in the Javits Act, the purpose of the center is to increase the understanding of how to improve the education of gifted and talented students, including those who may not be identified or served through traditional assessment methods and programs, such as economically disadvantaged individuals, individuals of limited-English proficiency, and individuals with disabilities. Furthermore, the Secretary believes that the experience and knowledge gained in developing and implementing programs for gifted and talented students can and should be used as a basis to develop

rich and challenging curricula for all students, and to design instructional strategies and other means to improve all students' education. Finally, the Secretary believes that educators should consider the schoolwide impact of gifted and talented programs.

In the course of developing this final priority, selection criteria and post-award requirements, the Secretary has followed legally mandated procedures for rulemaking. On January 12, 1995, the Secretary published a notice in the **Federal Register** (60 FR 2956) inviting written public comments to be submitted on or before February 27, 1995.

**Note:** This notice of final priority, selection criteria and post-award requirements does not solicit applications. A notice inviting applications under this competition is published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**.

### Analysis of Comments and Changes

In response to the Secretary's invitation in the notice of proposed priority, selection criteria, and post-award requirements, two parties submitted comments. An analysis of the comments follows.

**Comments:** One commenter wrote to endorse the current grantee. One commenter wrote to express concern that the proposed absolute priority requiring applicants to submit plans to establish a national research and development center that contributes to increasing the capacity of educational systems to provide all students with equal opportunities to learn to high standards and achieve educational success might shift the focus away from the needs of students with high abilities and unusual talents and undercut many reform efforts.

**Discussion:** Under the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act of 1994, Congress found and declared that, "(8) the experience and knowledge gained in developing and implementing programs for gifted and talented students can and should be used as a basis to—“(A) develop a rich and challenging curriculum for all students; and “(B) provide all students with important and challenging subject matter to study and encourage the habits of hard work.”

**Changes:** None.

**Comments:** The Department's review revealed an inadvertent omission in the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION listing of partners that might strengthen the center's capacity to accomplish its mission. Tribal colleges should have been included in the list.

**Discussion:** The Secretary believes that a partnership with tribal colleges

could strengthen the center's capacity to accomplish its mission and to better serve a special population of gifted and talented students who may not be identified and served through traditional assessment methods.

**Changes:** The list of partners has been revised to include tribal colleges.

### Absolute Priority

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) the Secretary gives an absolute preference to applications that meet the following priority. The Secretary funds under this competition only applications that meet this absolute priority:

Each project must propose plans to establish a national research and development center that—

- Conducts research and development activities concerning the educational needs of children and youth who give evidence of high performance capability in areas such as intellectual, creative, artistic, or leadership capacity, or in specific academic fields, and who require services or activities not ordinarily provided by the school in order to fully develop such capabilities;

- Contributes to increasing the capacity of educational systems to provide all students with equal opportunities to learn to high standards and achieve educational success;
- Uses research methods in at least some of its studies that involve advanced or innovative quantitative or qualitative techniques of sampling, data gathering, conceptualization and measurement of variables, data analyses, and interdisciplinary perspectives;

- Conducts one or more definitive research studies that have national implications and that will inform policy or practice across the nation; i.e., use large representative samples and rigorous scientific techniques that preclude biased results and support generalizable, replicable findings concerning the education of sizable populations of children or youth;

- Includes research and development activities related to the following topics:

- (a) Identifying, teaching, and serving gifted and talented students;

- (b) Improving the education of gifted and talented students who may not be identified and served through traditional assessment methods and programs, (including economically disadvantaged individuals, individuals of limited-English proficiency, and individuals with disabilities);

- (c) Using knowledge and experience gained in developing and implementing gifted and talented programs and methods to serve all students; and

- (d) Understanding the effects of gifted education programs on the educational

achievement of students schoolwide; and

- Documents, reports, and disseminates its research activities in ways that will allow others to use the research results.

### Selection Criteria

The Secretary will not use the selection criteria established in the Javits Gifted and Talented Program regulations, 34 CFR 791.21. The Secretary will use selection criteria consistent with the provisions for the Educational Research, Development, Dissemination and Improvement Act of 1994. The Secretary will use the following selection criteria to evaluate applications for the center award. The maximum score for all these criteria is 100 points. The maximum score for each criterion is indicated in parentheses:

- (a) *Research Mission and Technical Soundness.* (40 points) The Secretary reviews each application to determine the quality and significance of the center's overall research agenda, definitive study or studies, and other individual research projects, including—

- (1) The coherence, significance, and technical merits of the center's research projects and agenda, in the context of the current state of the field; and

- (2) The importance, quality of design and methodological rigor of the center's definitive study or studies.

- (b) *Personnel.* (30 points) The Secretary reviews each application to determine the qualifications and time commitments of the center's personnel, including—

- (1) The time commitment, experiences, and expertise of the primary researchers enabling them to achieve the center's mission; and

- (2) The qualifications of the Director and support staff, and whether they will commit at least a majority of their time to center activities.

- (c) *Institutional Arrangements.* (30 points) The Secretary reviews each application to evaluate the capacity of the center's institutional structure and arrangements to support the center's projects and objectives, including—

- (1) The center's ability to respond to and provide leadership for those who can use or benefit from the center's research;

- (2) The center's plans to support, monitor, and complete research projects that meet the highest standards of professional excellence; and

- (3) The center's ability to disseminate useful research findings and other information to appropriate audiences in

ways that will maximize the benefits of its work.

#### **Post-Award Requirements**

The Secretary will use the following post-award requirements to evaluate applications for the center award. The post-award requirements are consistent with the Educational Research, Development, Dissemination and Improvement Act of 1994. A grantee receiving a center award shall—

(a) Provide OERI with information about center projects and products and other appropriate research information so that OERI can monitor center progress and maintain its inventory of funded research projects. This information must be provided through

media that include an electronic network;

(b) Conduct and evaluate research projects in conformity to the highest professional standards of research practice; and

(c) Reserve five percent of each budget period's funds to support activities that fall within the center's mission, are designed and mutually agreed to by both the center and OERI, and enhance OERI's ability to carry out its mission. Such activities may include developing research agendas, conducting research projects, collaborating with other federally-supported entities, and engaging in leadership and dissemination activities.

The Secretary believes that use of the selection criteria will improve the quality of applications, and that the post-award requirements will enhance the quality of the center's research, development, and dissemination activities.

**Program Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 10204.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 84.206, Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program)

Dated: April 19, 1995.

**Sharon P. Robinson,**

*Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement.*

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