

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Office of the Secretary****Meeting of the Task Force on Defense Reform**

AGENCY: Department of Defense, Task Force on Defense Reform.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Task Force on Defense Reform will meet in closed sessions on August 19, 21, 26, 28, and September 4, 9, 11, 16, and 18, 23, and 25, 1997.

The Task Force on Defense Reform was recently established to make recommendations to the Secretary of Defense and Deputy Secretary of Defense on alternatives for organizational reforms, reductions in management overhead, and streamlined business practices in the Department of Defense (DoD), with emphasis on the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Defense Agencies and the DoD field activities, and the Military Departments.

In accordance with Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, as amended, 5 U.S.C., Appendix II, it has been determined that matters affecting national security, as covered by 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1)(1988), will be presented throughout the meetings, and that, accordingly, these meetings will be closed to the public.

Dated: July 28, 1997.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**Office of Postsecondary Education: Direct Grant Programs and Fellowship Programs**

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year 1998.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education invites applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 1998 under a number of the Department's direct grant and fellowship programs and announces deadline dates for the transmittal of applications under these programs. This combined notice also lists other programs and competitions of the Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE) under which application notices for new awards for FY 1998 will be published at a later date.

DATES: For each program and competition announced in this notice, the chart includes the following dates: the date on which applications will be available, the deadline for submission of applications, and—for programs subject to Executive Order (EO) 12372 (Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs)—the deadline date for transmittal of State Process Recommendations by State Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) and comments by other interested parties.

ADDRESSES: *For Applications or Further Information:* The address and telephone number for obtaining applications for, or further information about, an individual program are in the application notice for that program.

For Users of TDD or FIRS: Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the TDD number, if any, listed in the individual application notices. If a TDD number is not listed for a given program, individuals who use a 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.

For Intergovernmental Review: The address for transmitting recommendations and comments under Executive Order 12372 is in the appendix to this notice.

For Electronic Access to Information: Information about the Department's funding opportunities, including copies of application notices for discretionary grant competitions, can be viewed on the Department's electronic bulletin board (ED Board), telephone (202) 260-9950; or on the World Wide Web (at <http://gcs.ed.gov/>). However, the official application notice for a discretionary grant competition is the notice published in the **Federal Register**.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This combined application notice contains those application announcements that the Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education is able to publish at this time.

The Assistant Secretary has announced, or intends to announce, separately the following additional program competitions for the Office of Postsecondary Education under which the Department plans to make new awards for FY 1998:

- CFDA No. 84.031A. Strengthening Institutions Program.
- CFDA No. 84.031H. Designation as an Eligible Institution for the Strengthening Institutions and Endowment Challenge Grant Programs.
- CFDA No. 84.200. Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Program.

- CFDA No. 84.262. Programs to Encourage Minority Students to Become Teachers.

- CFDA No. 84.103. Training Program for Federal TRIO Programs

- CFDA No. 84.066. Educational Opportunity Centers Program

- CFDA No. 84.031G. Endowment Challenge Grant Program

- CFDA No. 84.044. Talent Search Program

- CFDA No. 84.116A&B. Comprehensive Program.

- CFDA No. 84.116J. European Community/United States of America Joint Consortia for Cooperation in Higher Education and Vocational Education.

- CFDA No. 84.116N. Program for North American Mobility in Higher Education.

- CFDA No. 84.116P. Disseminating Proven Reforms.

- CFDA No. 84.116R. Institutional Restructuring in Higher Education.

Available Funds

The Congress has not yet enacted a FY 1998 appropriation for the Department of Education. The Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education is publishing this notice in order to give potential applicants adequate time to prepare applications. The estimates of the amounts of funds that will be available for these programs are based on the President's FY 1998 budget request.

Potential applicants should note, however, that the Congress may increase, eliminate, or reduce funding in FY 1998 for some of the discretionary grant programs administered by the Department. Final action on the FY 1998 appropriation may require the Department to cancel some of the competitions announced in this notice, as well as some of those the notice indicates will be announced at a later date.

The Department of Education is not bound by any of the Estimates in this notice.

National Education Goals

In developing this combined application notice the Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education has sought to ensure that programs awarding grants during FY 1998 will further achieve the National Education Goals, as found in Pub. L. 103-227 (the Goals 2000: Educate America Act, enacted March 31, 1994). The Secretary encourages applicants under these programs to consider the National