

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.031]

Strengthening Institutions Program, American Indian Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities and Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions Programs; Notice inviting applications for new awards for Fiscal Year 1999.

Purpose of Programs: Provide grants to eligible institutions of higher education (IHEs) to enable them to improve their academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability, and to increase their self-sufficiency, and thereby support the elements of the National Education Goals relevant to these IHEs' unique missions.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: May 24, 1999.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: July 23, 1999.

Applications Available: April 22, 1999.

Available Funds: Approximately \$20,000,000 for the Strengthening Institutions Program; \$3,000,000 for the American Indian Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Program; and \$3,000,000 for the Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions Program.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$327,000—\$350,000 for development

grants under the Strengthening Institutions Program; \$30,000—\$35,000 for planning grants under the Strengthening Institutions Program; \$347,000—\$395,000 for development grants under the American Indian Tribally Controlled Colleges Universities Program; and \$347,000—\$395,000 for development grants under the Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions Program.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$341,000 for development grants under the Strengthening Institutions Program; \$32,500 for planning grants under the Strengthening Institutions Program; \$371,000 for development grants under the American Indian Tribally Controlled Colleges Universities Program; and \$371,000 for development grants under the Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions Program.

Estimated Number of Awards: 56 development grants under the Strengthening Institutions Program; 14 planning grants under the Strengthening Institutions Program; 8 development grants under the American Indian Tribally Controlled Colleges Universities Program; and 8 development grants under the Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions Program.

Project Period: 60 months for development grants under the

Strengthening Institutions Program, American Indian Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Program, and Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions Program; and 12 months for planning grants under the Strengthening Institutions Program.

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

Special Funding Considerations: In tie breaking situations, described in 34 CFR 607.23 of the Strengthening Institutions Program regulations, the Secretary awards one additional point to an applicant institution that has an endowment fund for which the 1996–1997 market value per full-time equivalent (FTE) student was less than the comparable average per FTE student at similar type institutions. The Secretary also awards one additional point to an applicant institution that had 1996–1997 expenditures for library materials per FTE student that were less than the comparable average per FTE student at similar type institutions.

For the purpose of these funding considerations, an applicant must demonstrate that the market value of its endowment fund per FTE student, and library expenditures per FTE student, were less than the following national averages for 1996–1997:

	Average market value of endowment fund per FTE students	Average library materials expenditures per FTE students
Two-Year Public Institutions	\$ 1,332	\$ 45
Two-Year Non-profit Private Institutions	11,556	121
Four-Year Public Institutions	2,829	165
Four-Year Non-profit Private Institutions	42,579	245

If a tie remains, after applying the additional point or points, the Secretary determines that an institution will receive a grant according to a combined ranking of two-year and four-year institutions. This ranking is established by combining endowment values per FTE student and library expenditures per FTE student. The institutions with the lowest combined library expenditures per FTE student and endowment values per FTE student are ranked higher in strict numerical order.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Department of Education General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR Parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 82, 85, and 86; and (b) the regulations for this program in 34 CFR Part 607, except those regulatory sections that have been superseded by the Higher Education

Amendments of 1998 (Public Law 105–244).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Higher Education Amendments of 1998 amended Part A of Title III of the HEA in several material respects. The Amendments made significant changes to the Strengthening Institutions Program, and created the American Indian Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities, and Alaska Native and Hawaiian-Serving Institution Programs. New key statutory provisions include:

(a) *General Provisions.* As amended, section 313(d) of the HEA provides that an institution that earlier received a 5-year individual Strengthening Institutions Program development grant is not eligible to receive a Strengthening Institutions Program, American Indian Tribally Controlled Colleges and

Universities Program, or Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions Program grant until two years after the date on which the 5-year grant period terminates. For example, an institution that had a 5-year individual Strengthening Institutions Program development grant that ended on September 30, 1998 would not be eligible to receive another Title III, Part A grant until October 1, 2000.

(b) *Strengthening Institutions Program.* As amended, section 311(c) of the HEA authorizes the use of grant funds for the following activities—

- (1) Purchase, rental, or lease of scientific or laboratory equipment for educational purposes, including instructional and research purposes;
- (2) Construction, maintenance, renovation, and improvement in

classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and other instructional facilities, including the integration of computer technology into institutional facilities to create smart buildings;

(3) Support of faculty exchanges, faculty development, and faculty fellowships to assist in attaining advanced degrees in the field of instruction of the faculty;

(4) Development and improvement of academic programs;

(5) Purchase of library books, periodicals, and other educational materials, including

telecommunications program material;

(6) Tutoring, counseling, and student service programs designed to improve academic success;

(7) Funds management, administrative management, and acquisition of equipment for use in strengthening funds management;

(8) Joint use of facilities, such as laboratories and libraries;

(9) Establishing or improving a development office to strengthen or improve contributions from alumni and the private sector;

(10) Establishing or improving an endowment fund;

(11) Creating or improving facilities for Internet or other distance learning academic instruction capabilities, including purchase or rental of telecommunications technology equipment or services; and

(12) Other activities proposed in the application that contribute to carrying out the purposes of the Strengthening Institutions Program and are approved by the Secretary as part of the review and acceptance of an application.

As amended, section 311(d) of the HEA provides that grantees under the Strengthening Institutions Program may use up to 20 percent of grant funds to establish or increase an endowment fund. However, the grantee institution must provide matching funds from non-Federal sources in an amount equal to or greater than the grant funds used for the endowment fund.

(c) *American Indian Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Program.* As amended, section 316(b) of the HEA defines a tribal college or university as having the meaning given in section 2 of the Tribally Controlled College or University Assistance Act of 1978, and includes an institution listed in the Equity in Educational Land Grant Status Act of 1994. In addition to meeting the definitions contained in Section 316 of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998, a tribal college or university must also submit, as part of its application for a grant under the Tribally Controlled Colleges and

Universities Program, a 5-year plan for improving the assistance provided by the applicant institution to Indian students, increasing the rates at which Indian secondary school students enroll in higher education, and increasing overall postsecondary retention rates for Indian students. As amended, section 316(c) of the HEA authorizes the use of grant funds to enable institutions to improve and expand their capacities to serve American Indian students, and allows the use of grant funds for the following activities:

(1) Purchase, rental, or lease of scientific or laboratory equipment for educational purposes, including instructional and research purposes;

(2) Construction, maintenance, renovation, and improvement in classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and other instructional facilities, including purchase or rental of telecommunications technology equipment or services;

(3) Support of faculty exchanges, faculty development, and faculty fellowships to assist in attaining advanced degrees in the faculty's field of instruction;

(4) Academic instruction in disciplines in which Indians are underrepresented;

(5) Purchase of library books, periodicals, and other educational materials, including telecommunications program material;

(6) Tutoring, counseling, and student service programs designed to improve academic success;

(7) Funds management, administrative management, and acquisition of equipment for use in strengthening funds management;

(8) Joint use of facilities, such as laboratories and libraries;

(9) Establishing or improving a development office to strengthen or improve contributions from alumni and the private sector;

(10) Establishing or enhancing a program of teacher education designed to qualify students to teach in elementary schools or secondary schools, with a particular emphasis on teaching Indian children and youth, that must include, as part of that program, preparation for teacher certification;

(11) Establishing community outreach programs that encourage Indian elementary school and secondary school students to develop the academic skills and the interest to pursue postsecondary education; and

(12) Other activities proposed in the application that contribute to carrying out the activities listed in (1)–(11), above, and are approved by the

Secretary as part of the review and acceptance of an application.

Grantees under the Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Program may use up to 20 percent of grant funds to establish or increase an endowment fund. However, the grantee institution must provide matching funds in an amount equal to than the grant funds used for the endowment fund.

(d) *Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions.* As amended, section 317(b) of the HEA defines an Alaska Native Serving Institution as an institution of higher education that, at the time of application, has an undergraduate student enrollment that is at least 20 percent Alaska Native students. As amended, section 317(b) also defines a Native Hawaiian-Serving Institution as an institution of higher education that, at the time of application, has an enrollment of undergraduate students that is at least 10 percent Native Hawaiian students. In addition to meeting the definitions contained in Section 317 of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998, an Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving institution must also submit, as part of its application for a grant under the Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions Program, a 5-year plan for improving the assistance provided by the applicant institution to Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian students. As amended, section 317(c) of the HEA authorizes the use of grant funds to enable the institutions to improve and expand their capacity to serve Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian students, and allows the expenditure of grant funds for the following activities—

(1) Purchase, rental, or lease of scientific or laboratory equipment for educational purposes, including instructional and research purposes;

(2) Renovation and improvement in classroom, library, laboratory, and other instructional facilities;

(3) Support of faculty exchanges, and faculty development, and faculty fellowships to assist in attaining advanced degrees in the faculty's field of instruction;

(4) Curriculum development and academic instruction;

(5) Purchase of library books, periodicals, microfilm, and other educational materials;

(6) Funds and administrative management, and acquisition of equipment for use in strengthening funds management;

(7) Joint use of facilities, such as laboratories and libraries; and

(8) Academic tutoring and counseling programs and student support.

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David A. Longanecker,

Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

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