

organizations, community groups, social service agencies, and other public or private entities to enhance the program and promote school-linked services integration; describe collaborative efforts with institutions of higher education which specifically seek to enhance or improve graduate programs specializing in the preparation of elementary school counselors, school psychologists, and school social workers; and

(2) Document that the applicant has the personnel qualified to develop, implement, and administer the program.

(6) *Adequacy of resources.* (10 points) Applicants must describe the resources committed to the proposed project.

In determining the adequacy of resources for the proposed project, the following factors are considered:

(A) The relevance and demonstrated commitment of each partner in the proposed project to the implementation and success of the project.

(B) The extent to which the costs are reasonable in relation to the number of persons to be served and to the anticipated results and benefits.

(C) The potential for the incorporation of the project purposes, activities, or benefits into the ongoing program of the agency or organization at the end of Federal funding.

Waiver of Proposed Rulemaking

It is the Assistant Secretary's practice, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553), to offer interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed rules. Section 437(d)(1) of the General Education Provision Act (GEPA), however, exempts from this requirement rules that apply to the first competition under a new or substantially revised program. This is the first competition under the Elementary School Counseling Demonstration Program since that program was authorized as part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as amended by the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994.

Intergovernmental Review

This program is subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR Part 79. One of the objectives of the Executive Order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism. The Executive Order relies on processes developed by State and local government for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

This document provides early notification of our specific plans and actions for this program.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 8002

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To use the PDF you must have the Adobe Acrobat Reader Program with Search, which is available free at either of the previous sites. If you have questions about using the PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office, toll free, at 1-888-293-6498, or in the Washington, DC area at (202) 512-1530.

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(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 84.215E, Elementary School Counseling Demonstration Program)

Dated: April 14, 2000.

Michael Cohen,

Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education.

[FR Doc. 00-9781 Filed 4-14-00; 1:52 pm]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No.: 84.215E]

Elementary School Counseling Demonstration Program

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice inviting applications for new awards for Fiscal Year 2000.

Purpose of Program: To assist local educational agencies to establish or expand elementary school counseling programs.

Absolute Priority: Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) and Title X, Section 10102 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Assistant Secretary gives an absolute preference to applications that meet the following priority. The Assistant Secretary funds under this competition *only* applications that meet this absolute priority.

Under the absolute funding priority for this grant competition, LEA projects must establish or expand elementary school counseling programs at schools

with at least one grade below fifth and no grade higher than eighth.

Eligible Applicants: Local educational agencies.

Applications Available: April 18, 2000.

Deadline for Receipt of Applications: June 9, 2000.

Note: We must receive all applications no later than 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time on the deadline date. Applications received after that date and time will not be read. Postmarked dates will not be accepted. This requirement takes exception to 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, this exception to EDGAR makes procedural changes only and does not establish new substantive policy. Therefore, under 5 U.S.C. 553 (b)(A), the Assistant Secretary for OESE has determined that proposed rulemaking is not required. Applications by mail should be sent to: U.S. Department of Education, Application Control Center, Attention: CFDA #84.215E, Room 3633, ROB #3, Washington, D.C. 20202-4725. The address for applications delivered by hand is: U.S. Department of Education, Application Control Center, Attention: CFDA #84.215E, Regional Office Building #3, Room 3633, 7th and D Streets, SW, Washington, DC 20202-4725.

Deadline For Intergovernmental Review: June 19, 2000.

Available Funds: \$20,000,000.

Maximum Grant: \$400,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$250,000-\$400,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$325,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 60.

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

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR Parts 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, 97, 98, 99; and (b) the Notice of Final Priority and Selection Criteria for FY 2000 published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**.

FOR APPLICATIONS OR INFORMATION

CONTACT: Loretta Riggans, Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 3E220, Washington, DC 20202-6123. Telephone: (202) 260-2661. The e-mail address is:

loretta—riggans@ed.gov.

Internet: www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SDFS.

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Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 8002.

Michael Cohen,

Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education.

[FR Doc. 00-9782 Filed 4-14-00; 1:52 pm]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P