

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education; Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities National Programs; Federal Activities; Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Models on College Campuses Grant Competition

AGENCY: Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of final priority, eligible applicants, and selection criteria.

SUMMARY: The Secretary announces a final priority, eligible applicants, and selection criteria for fiscal year (FY) 2000 under the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities National Programs—Federal Activities—Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Models on College Campuses Grant Competition. The Secretary may use this priority, eligible applicants, and selection criteria for competitions in FY 2001 and later years. The Secretary takes this action to use Federal financial assistance to identify and disseminate models of alcohol and other drug (AOD) prevention at institutions of higher education (IHEs).

EFFECTIVE DATE: This priority, eligible applicants, and selection criteria are effective May 8, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kimberly Light, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW—Room 3E222, Washington, DC 20202—6123. Telephone: (202) 260-2647. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at (800) 877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternate format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed in the preceding paragraph.

Note: This notice of final priorities does not solicit applications. A notice inviting applications under this competition is published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**. The notice inviting applications will specify the date and time by which applications for this competition must be received by the Department. Applications received after that time will not be eligible for funding. Postmarked dates will not be accepted.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary published a notice of proposed priority, eligible applicants, and selection criteria for this competition in the **Federal Register** on February 14, 2000 (65 FR 7370-7372). Except for minor editorial revisions, there are no differences between the

notice of proposed priority, eligible applicants, and selection criteria and this notice of final priority, eligible applicants, and selection criteria.

Analysis of Comments and Changes

In response to the Secretary's invitation in the notice of proposed priority, two parties submitted comments on the proposed priority. An analysis of the comments follows. Comments that propose changes the law does not authorize the Secretary to make under the applicable statutory authority are not addressed.

Eligible Applicants

Comments: One commenter recommended that eligible applicants include park and recreation sites adjacent to campuses.

Discussion: In the original authorization for this program (Section 120(f) of the Higher Education Act, as amended), Congress clearly intended the recipients of grant awards to be IHEs. Although the current grant program is being administered under the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities National Programs, the Secretary plans to follow as closely as possible the original intent of Congress to award funds to IHEs.

Changes: None.

Absolute Priority

Comments: One commenter suggested that student assistance programs be among the models emphasized under the priority.

Discussion: The priority language is broad enough to include a wide range of alcohol and other drug programs, which may include student assistance programs. It is not necessary to emphasize any particular type of program within the priority.

Changes: None.

General

In making awards under this grant program, the Secretary may take into consideration the geographic distribution of the projects and the diversity of activities addressed by the projects in addition to the rank order of applicants.

Contingent upon availability of funds, the Secretary may make additional awards in FY 2001 from the rank-ordered list of nonfunded applications from this competition.

Priority: Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) and the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1994, the Secretary gives an absolute preference to applications that meet the following priority, and funds under this

competition *only* those applications that meet the following absolute priority:

Under this priority, an IHE that wishes to be considered for an award for a model program must identify, propose to maintain, improve, or further evaluate, and propose to disseminate information about an effective alcohol or other drug prevention program currently being used on its campus. Applications must:

(1) Describe an alcohol or other drug prevention program that has been implemented for at least one full academic year on the applicant's campus;

(2) Provide evidence of the effectiveness of the program;

(3) Provide a plan to maintain, improve, or further evaluate the program during the year following award; and

(4) Provide a plan to disseminate information to assist other IHEs in implementing a similar program.

Eligible Applicants: Institutions of higher education (IHEs) are the eligible applicants under this competition. To be eligible, an IHE must not have received an award under this competition (under either CFDA 84.116X or 84.184N) during the previous two (2) fiscal years.

Selection Criteria: The Assistant Secretary uses the following selection criteria to evaluate applications for new grants under this competition. The maximum score for all of these criteria is 100 points. The maximum score for each criterion or factor under that criterion is indicated in parentheses.

(1) *Significance.* (25 points)

In determining the significance of the model, the following factors are considered:

(a) The extent to which the program involves the development or demonstration of innovative strategies that build on, or are alternatives to, existing strategies. (15 points)

(b) The potential replicability of the program, including, as appropriate, the potential for implementation in a variety of settings. (5 points)

(c) The extent to which the results of the program are to be disseminated in ways that will enable others to use the information or strategies. (5 points)

(2) *Quality of the program design.* (40 points)

In determining the quality of the design of the program, the following factors are considered:

(a) The extent to which the design of the program reflects up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice. (20 points)

(b) The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the program

are clearly specified and measurable. (5 points)

(c) The extent to which the design of the program is appropriate to, and successfully addresses, the needs of the target population or other identified needs. (10 points)

(d) The quality of the plan to maintain, improve, or further evaluate the program. (5 points)

In applying the above criteria, the following information is considered:

(1) The quality of the needs assessment and how well this assessment relates to the goals and objectives of the program.

(2) How well the program is integrated within a comprehensive alcohol and other drug prevention effort.

(3) The level of institutional commitment, leadership and support for alcohol and other drug prevention efforts.

(4) The clarity and strength of the institution's alcohol or other drug policies and the extent to which those policies are broadly disseminated and consistently enforced.

(5) The extent to which students and employees are involved in the program design and implementation process.

(6) The extent to which the institution has joined with community leaders to address AOD issues.

(7) If applying to be considered as an alcohol prevention model, what steps the institution is taking to limit alcoholic beverage sponsorship, advertising, and marketing on campus; and what steps are being taken to establish or expand upon alcohol-free living arrangements for students.

(3) *Quality of the project evaluation.* (35 points)

In determining the quality of the evaluation, the following factors are considered:

(a) The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives and outcomes of the program. (10 points)

(b) The extent to which the evaluation data provide evidence of the effectiveness of the program in reducing either alcohol or other drug use, in reducing the problems resulting from either alcohol or other drug use, or in meeting outcome objectives that are associated with reductions in alcohol or other drug use or resulting problems. (25 points)

In applying the above criteria, the following information is considered:

(1) The quality of the evaluation methodology and evaluation instruments.

(2) Whether both process (formative) and outcome (summative) data are included for each year that the program has been implemented, including data collected both before and after initiation of the program.

(3) How evaluation information has been used for continuous improvement of the program.

Intergovernmental Review: This program is subject to 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 governments 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. 7131.

Electronic Access to This Document

You may view this document, as well as all other Department of Education documents published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at either of the following sites:

<http://ocfo.ed.gov/fedreg.htm>

<http://www.ed.gov/news.html>

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 (GPO) toll free at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC area at (202) 512-1530.

Note: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at:

<http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html>

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 84.184N Office of Elementary and Secondary Education—Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities National Programs—Federal Activities—Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Models on College Campuses Grant Competition)

Dated: March 31, 2000.

Michael Cohen,

Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education.

[FR Doc. 00-8453 Filed 4-5-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-U