

National Institute for Literacy

§ 1100.12

and applied research, planning, surveys, assessments, evaluations, investigations, experiments, development and demonstrations.

§ 1100.6 What priorities may the Director establish?

The Director may, through a notice published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, select annually one or more priorities for funding. These priorities may be chosen from the areas of greatest immediate concern to the Institute and may include, but are not limited to, the following areas:

(a) *Developing leadership in adult learners.* Because adult learners are the true experts on literacy, they are an important resource for the field. Their firsthand experience as “customers” of the literacy system can be invaluable in assisting the field in moving forward, particularly in terms of raising public awareness and understanding about literacy.

(b) *Expanding the use of technology in literacy programs.* One of the Institute’s major projects is the Literacy Information aNd Communication System (LINCS), an Internet-based information system that provides timely information and abundant resources to the literacy community. Keeping the literacy community up to date in the Information Age is vital.

(c) *Improving accountability for literacy programs.* Literacy programs must develop accountability systems that demonstrate their effectiveness in helping adult learners contribute more fully in the workplace, family and community. There is growing interest in results-oriented literacy practice, especially as related to the Equipped for the Future (EFF) framework.

(d) *Raising public awareness about literacy.* The Institute is leading a national effort to raise public awareness that literacy is part of the solution to many social concerns, including health, welfare, the economy, and the well-being of children. Projects that enhance this effort will be given priority consideration.

Subpart B—How Does an Individual Apply for a Fellowship?

§ 1100.10 What categories of fellowships does the Institute award?

The Institute awards two categories of Literacy Leadership Fellowships:

- (a) Literacy Worker Fellowships; and
- (b) Adult Learner Fellowships.

§ 1100.11 How does an individual apply for a fellowship?

An individual shall apply to the Director for a fellowship award in response to an application notice published by the Director in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The application must describe a plan for one or more of the activities stated in § 1100.3 that the applicant proposes to conduct under the fellowship. The application must indicate which category of fellowship, as described in § 1100.10, most accurately describes the applicant. Applicants must also submit for letters for recommendation and certain forms, assurances and certifications, including the certification required under 34 CFR 75.61. For applicants who propose to conduct the fellowship project on a part-time basis while undertaking other paid employment, one of the four required letters of recommendation must be from the applicant’s employer, and must include a statement that the applicant’s workload will not exceed 100 percent of time.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under OMB Control Number 3430-0003, Expiration Date 6/30/2000)

§ 1100.12 What applications are not evaluated for funding?

The Director does not evaluate an application if—

- (a) The applicant is not eligible under § 1100.2;
- (b) The applicant does not comply with all of the procedural rules that govern the submission of applications for Literacy Leader Fellowship funds;
- (c) The application does not contain the information required by the Institute;
- (d) The application proposes a project for which a fellow may not use the fellowship funds, as described in § 1100.3(b).

§ 1100.20

(e) The application is not submitted by the deadline stated in the application notice.

Subpart C—How Does the Director Award a Fellowship?

§ 1100.20 How is a fellow selected?

(a) The Director selects applications for fellowships on the basis of the selection criteria in § 1100.21 and any priorities that have been published in the FEDERAL REGISTER and are applicable to the selection of applications.

(b)(1) The Director may use experts from the literacy field to rank applications according to the selection criteria in § 1100.21, and then provide the top-ranked applications to the Institute's Advisory Board.

(2) The Institute's Advisory Board evaluates these applications based on the selection criteria in § 1100.21 and makes funding recommendations to the Director.

(3) The Director then determines the number of awards to be made in each fellowship category and the order in which applications will be selected for fellowships, based on the initial rank order, recommendations by the board, and any other information relevant to any of the selection criteria, applicable priorities, or the purposes of the Literacy Leader Fellowship Program, including whether the selection of an application would increase the diversity of fellowship projects under this program.

§ 1100.21 What selection criteria does the Director use to rate an applicant?

The Director uses the following criteria in evaluating each applicant for a fellowship:

(a) *Quality of plan.* (45 points) The Director uses the following criteria to evaluate the quality of the proposed project:

(1) The proposed project deals with an issue of major concern to the literacy field.

(2) The design of the project is strong and feasible.

(3) The project addresses critical issues in an innovative way.

(4) The plan demonstrates a knowledge of similar programs and an inten-

34 CFR Ch. XI (7–1–14 Edition)

tion, where appropriate, to coordinate with them.

(5) The applicant describes adequate support and resources for the project.

(6) The plan includes evaluation methods to determine the effectiveness of the project.

(7) The project results are likely to contribute to the knowledge base in literacy or adult education, and to federal policy initiatives in these or related areas.

(8) The project will enhance literacy or adult education practice.

(9) The project builds research capacity or improves practice within the field.

(b) *Qualifications of applicant.* (25 points) The Director uses the following criteria to evaluate the qualifications of the applicant:

(1) The applicant has a strong background in the adult or family literacy field. (Include all relevant experience, which many include experience as a volunteer or an adult learner.)

(2) The applicant has expertise in the proposed area of the project.

(3) The applicant has demonstrated the ability to complete a quality project or has shown leadership in this area.

(4) The applicant provides letters of recommendation that show strong knowledge by others in the literacy field of the applicant's background and past work.

(c) *Relevance to the Institute.* (10 points) The Director uses the following criteria to evaluate the relevance of the applicant's proposal to the Institute:

(1) The project significantly relates to the purposes and work of the Institute.

(2) The applicant proposes a minimum of four visits to the Institute for quarterly meetings (this may be adjusted according to the number of months to be served in the fellowship) and, if necessary, depending on the nature and scope of the proposed project, to spend an additional portion of the project time at the Institute.

(d) *Dissemination plan.* (10 points) The Director uses the following criteria to evaluate the quality of the dissemination plan;