

loans; and to capture quarterly data from a lender's loan portfolio for financial and budgetary projections.

[FR Doc. 95-7280 Filed 3-23-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-M

### Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed information collection requests.

**SUMMARY:** The Director, Information Resources Group, invites comments on proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980.

**DATES:** An expedited review has been requested in accordance with the Act, since allowing for the normal review period would adversely affect the public interest. Approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has been requested by March 24, 1995.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Dan Chenok, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street NW., Room 3208, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503. Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Patrick J. Sherrill, (202) 708-9915. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (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.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 3517 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 3517) requires that the Director of OMB provide interested Federal agencies and persons an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations.

The Director, Information Resources Group, publishes this notice with the attached proposed information collection request prior to submission of

this request to OMB. This notice contains the following information: (1) Type of review requested, e.g., expedited; (2) Title; (3) Abstract; (4) Additional Information; (5) Frequency of collection; (6) Affected public; and (7) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. Because an expedited review is requested, a description of the information to be collected is also included as an attachment to this notice.

Dated: March 20, 1995.

**Gloria Parker,**

*Director, Information Resources Group.*

### Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

*Type of Review:* Expedited.

*Title:* Urban/Rural Local Reform Initiative.

*Frequency:* Annually.

*Affected Public:* State, Local or Tribal Governments.

*Reporting Burden:*

*Responses:* 100.

*Burden Hours:* 5,000.

*Recordkeeping Burden:*

*Recordkeepers:* 0.

*Burden Hours:* 0.

*Abstract:* The Secretary requests applications for local reform grants to be awarded under the National Leadership provisions of the Goals 2000: Education America Act. The Department will use the information to determine which applicants are best qualified to receive Federal funds under the law.

*Additional Information:* Clearance for this information collection is requested for March 24, 1995. An expedited review is requested in order to quickly distribute the application notice to potential applicants.

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### [CFDA No. 84.116P]

### Fund for Improvement of Postsecondary Education Special Focus Competition: Disseminating Proven Reforms; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 1995

*Purpose of Program:* To provide grants or enter into cooperative agreements to improve postsecondary education opportunities.

*Eligible Applicants:* Institutions of higher education or combinations of such institutions and other public and private nonprofit educational institutions and agencies.

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* May 25, 1995.

*Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:* July 24, 1995.

*Applications Available:* March 24, 1995.

*Available Funds:* \$1,000,000.

*Estimated Range of Awards:* \$60,000-\$90,000 for two years.

*Estimated Average size of Awards:* \$85,000 for two years.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 12.

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

*Project Period:* Up to 24 months.

*Applicable Regulations:* (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR Parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 82, 85, and 86; and (b) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR Part 630, with the exception noted in 34 CFR 630.4a(2).

### Priorities

#### Absolute Priority

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), 34 CFR 630.12 and 34 CFR 630.11(a), the Secretary gives an absolute preference to applications that meet the following priority. The Secretary funds under this competition only applications that meet this absolute priority:

Projects that respond to immediate problems or issues and that seek to improve postsecondary education opportunities.

#### Invitational Priorities

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1) and 34 CFR 630.11(b)(1), the Secretary is particularly interested in applications that meet the following invitational priority. However, an application that meets this invitational priority does not receive competitive or absolute preference over other applications.

Institutions with innovative postsecondary projects that became integrated into the administrative structure of the institution between 1988 and 1994 and that are expected to continue into the foreseeable future, are invited to apply for funds to disseminate their practices to other campuses.

### Selection Criteria

In evaluating applications for grants under this program competition, the Secretary uses the following selection criteria chosen from those listed in 34 CFR 630.32:

(a) *Significance for Postsecondary Education.* The Secretary reviews each proposed project for its significance in improving postsecondary education by determining the extent to which it would—

(1) Achieve the purposes of the particular program competition as referenced in 34 CFR 630.11;

(2) Address the program priorities for the particular program competition;

(3) Address an important problem or need;

(4) Represent an improvement upon, or important departure from, existing practice;

(5) Involve learner-centered improvements;

(6) Achieve far-reaching impact through improvements that will be useful in a variety of ways and in a variety of settings; and

(7) Increase the cost-effectiveness of services.

(b) *Feasibility.* The Secretary reviews each proposed project for its feasibility by determining the extent to which—

(1) The proposed project represents an appropriate response to the problem or need addressed;

(2) The applicant is capable of carrying out the proposed project, as evidenced by, for example—

(i) The applicant's understanding of the problem or need;

(ii) The quality of the project design, including objectives, approaches, and evaluation plan;

(iii) The adequacy of resources, including money, personnel, facilities, equipment, and supplies;

(iv) The qualifications of key personnel who would conduct the project; and

(v) The applicant's relevant prior experience;

(3) The applicant and any other participating organizations are committed to the success of the proposed project, as evidence by, for example—

(i) Contribution of resources by the applicant and by participating organizations;

(ii) Their prior work in the area; and

(iii) The potential for continuation of the proposed project beyond the period of funding (unless the project would be self-terminating); and

(4) The proposed project demonstrates potential for dissemination to or adaptation by other organizations, and shows evidence of interest by potential users.

(c) *Appropriateness of funding projects.* The Secretary reviews each application to determine whether support of the proposed project by the Secretary is appropriate in terms of availability of other funding sources for the proposed activities.

In accordance with 630.32, the Secretary announces the methods that will be used in applying the selection criteria.

The Secretary gives equal weight to the selection criteria on significance, feasibility, and appropriateness. Within

each of these criteria, the Secretary gives equal weight to each of the subcriteria listed above. In applying the criteria, the Secretary first analyzes a preapplication or application in terms of each individual criterion and subscription. The Secretary then bases the final judgment of an application on an overall assessment of the degree to which the applicant addresses all selection criteria.

#### For Applications or Information Contact

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 3100, ROB-3, Washington, DC 20202-5175. Telephone: (202) 708-5750 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday, to order applications or for information. Individuals may request applications by submitting their name and postal mailing address to the e-mail address #FIPSE@ED.GOV. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (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.

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 Internet Gopher Server at GOPHER.ED.GOV (under Announcements, Bulletins, and Press Releases). However, the official application notice for a discretionary grant competition is the notice published in the **Federal Register**.

**Program Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 1135-1135a-3.

Dated: March 20, 1995.

**David A. Longanecker,**  
Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

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#### Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI); Presolicitation Conference on Draft Statement of Work for the Regional Educational Laboratories Program

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of presolicitation conference on draft statement of work for the Regional Educational Laboratories Program.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Educational Research and Improvement will conduct

a pre-proposal conference to discuss a draft of the proposed statement of work to guide the activities of the regional educational laboratories during the 1995-2000 contract period. At this time the Office of Educational Research and Improvement wishes to offer both potential sources and parties interested in the work of the regional educational laboratories an opportunity to review a draft of the proposed statement of work and to attend a meeting to discuss the content of that statement of work prior to issuance of a Request for Proposal.

**MEETING INFORMATION:** The conference will be held on April 12, 1995, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the auditorium of the General Services Administration Regional Office Building, Seventh and D Streets SW., Washington DC (entrance on the D Street side). Persons unable to attend the conference who wish to provide comments on the draft statement of work may submit those comments by telefax or mail no later than April 26 to the contact listed below.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On March 31, 1994 President Clinton signed Pub. L. 103-227, Goals 2000: Educate America Act. Title IX of that legislation, known as the Educational Research, Development, Dissemination, and Improvement Act of 1994, includes new authorizing legislation for the Regional Educational Laboratory program which will be implemented through the recompetition of the regional educational laboratories. The laboratory competition will be announced later this fiscal year, with awards to be made in fiscal year 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Laverne Reddick, U.S. Department of Education, Grants and Contracts Service, 7th and D Streets SW., GSA Building, ROB-3, Room 3660, Washington, DC 20202-4724. Telephone: (202) 708-8222. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (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.

The draft document is available on bulletin board at (202) 260-9950 which is an 8 data, 1 stop, no parity bulletin board. The document will be listed under the "OERI Regional Educational Laboratories" menu. Questions regarding only the electronic bulletin board should be telephoned to George Wagner at (202) 708-7811. Those who cannot interact electronically or telefax (202) 260-0525 for a copy of this document should write to the U.S. Department of Education, Grants and