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TITLE 34--EDUCATION

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Subpart D_How Grants Are Made

Sec. 75.210 General selection criteria.

In determining the selection criteria to be used in each grant competition, the Secretary may select one or more of the following criteria and may select from among the list of optional factors under each criterion. However, paragraphs (d)(2) and (e)(2) of this section are mandatory factors under their respective criteria:

(a) Need for project.

- (1) The Secretary considers the need for the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the need for the proposed project, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
 - (i) The magnitude or severity of the problem to be addressed by the proposed project.
 - (ii) The magnitude of the need for the services to be provided or the activities to be carried out by the proposed project.
 - (iii) The extent to which the proposed project will provide services or otherwise address the needs of students at risk of educational failure.
 - (iv) The extent to which the proposed project will focus on serving or otherwise addressing the needs of disadvantaged individuals.
 - (v) The extent to which specific gaps or weaknesses in services, infrastructure, or opportunities have been identified and will be addressed by the proposed project, including the nature and magnitude of those gaps or weaknesses.
 - (vi) The extent to which the proposed project will prepare personnel for fields in which shortages have been demonstrated.

(b) Significance.

- (1) The Secretary considers the significance of the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the significance of the proposed project, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
 - (i) The national significance of the proposed project.
 - (ii) The significance of the problem or issue to be addressed by the proposed project.
 - (iii) The potential contribution of the proposed project to increased knowledge or understanding of educational problems, issues, or effective strategies.
 - (iv) The potential contribution of the proposed project to increased knowledge or understanding of rehabilitation problems, issues, or effective strategies.
 - (v) The likelihood that the proposed project will result in system change or improvement.
 - (vi) The potential contribution of the proposed project to the development and advancement of theory, knowledge, and practices in the field of study.
 - (vii) The potential for generalizing from the findings or results of the proposed project.
 - (viii) The extent to which the proposed project is likely to yield findings that may be utilized by other appropriate agencies and organizations.
 - (ix) The extent to which the proposed project is likely to build local capacity to provide, improve, or expand services that address the needs of the target population.

- (x) The extent to which the proposed project involves the development or demonstration of promising new strategies that build on, or are alternatives to, existing strategies.
- (xi) The likely utility of the products (such as information, materials, processes, or techniques) that will result from the proposed project, including the potential for their being used effectively in a variety of other settings.
- (xii) The extent to which the results of the proposed project are to be disseminated in ways that will enable others to use the information or strategies.
- (xiii) The potential replicability of the proposed project or strategies, including, as appropriate, the potential for implementation in a variety of settings.
- (xiv) The importance or magnitude of the results or outcomes likely to be attained by the proposed project, especially improvements in teaching and student achievement.
- (xv) The importance or magnitude of the results or outcomes likely to be attained by the proposed project, especially improvements in employment, independent living services, or both, as appropriate.
- (xvi) The importance or magnitude of the results or outcomes likely to be attained by the proposed project.

(c) Quality of the project design.

- (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the design of the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
 - (i) The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the proposed project are clearly specified and measurable.
 - (ii) The extent to which the design of the proposed project is appropriate to, and will successfully address, the needs of the target population or other identified needs.
 - (iii) The extent to which there is a conceptual framework underlying the proposed research or demonstration activities and the quality of that framework.
 - (iv) The extent to which the proposed activities constitute a coherent, sustained program of research and development in the field, including, as appropriate, a substantial addition to an ongoing line of inquiry.
 - (v) The extent to which the proposed activities constitute a coherent, sustained program of training in the field.
 - (vi) The extent to which the proposed project is based upon a specific research design, and the quality and appropriateness of that design, including the scientific rigor of the studies involved.
 - (vii) The extent to which the proposed research design includes a thorough, high-quality review of the relevant literature, a high-quality plan for research activities, and the use of appropriate theoretical and methodological tools, including those of a variety of disciplines, if appropriate.
 - (viii) The extent to which the design of the proposed project includes a thorough, high-quality review of the relevant literature, a high-quality plan for project implementation, and the use of appropriate methodological tools to ensure successful achievement of project objectives.
 - (ix) The quality of the proposed demonstration design and procedures for documenting project activities and results.
 - (x) The extent to which the design for implementing and evaluating the proposed project will result in information to guide possible replication of project activities or strategies, including information about the effectiveness of the approach or strategies employed by the project.
 - (xi) The extent to which the proposed development efforts include adequate quality controls and, as appropriate, repeated testing of products.
 - (xii) The extent to which the proposed project is designed to build capacity and yield results that will extend beyond the period of Federal financial assistance.
 - (xiii) The extent to which the design of the proposed project reflects up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice.
 - (xiv) The extent to which the proposed project represents an exceptional approach for meeting statutory purposes and requirements.
 - (xv) The extent to which the proposed project represents an exceptional approach to the priority or priorities established for the competition.

- (xvi) The extent to which the proposed project will be coordinated with similar or related efforts, and with other appropriate community, State, and Federal resources.
- (xvii) The extent to which the proposed project will establish linkages with other appropriate agencies and organizations providing services to the target population.
- (xviii) The extent to which the proposed project is part of a comprehensive effort to improve teaching and learning and support rigorous academic standards for students.
- (xix) The extent to which the proposed project encourages parental involvement.
- (xx) The extent to which the proposed project encourages consumer involvement.
- (xxi) The extent to which performance feedback and continuous improvement are integral to the design of the proposed project.
- (xxii) The quality of the methodology to be employed in the proposed project.
- (xxiii) The extent to which fellowship recipients or other project participants are to be selected on the basis of academic excellence.

(d) Quality of project services.

- (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project, the Secretary considers the quality and sufficiency of strategies for ensuring equal access and treatment for eligible project participants who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.
- (3) In addition, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
 - (i) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project are appropriate to the needs of the intended recipients or beneficiaries of those services.
 - (ii) The extent to which entities that are to be served by the proposed technical assistance project demonstrate support for the project.
 - (iii) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project reflect up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice.
 - (iv) The likely impact of the services to be provided by the proposed project on the intended recipients of those services.
 - (v) The extent to which the training or professional development services to be provided by the proposed project are of sufficient quality, intensity, and duration to lead to improvements in practice among the recipients of those services.
 - (vi) The extent to which the training or professional development services to be provided by the proposed project are likely to alleviate the personnel shortages that have been identified or are the focus of the proposed project.
 - (vii) The likelihood that the services to be provided by the proposed project will lead to improvements in the achievement of students as measured against rigorous academic standards.
 - (viii) The likelihood that the services to be provided by the proposed project will lead to improvements in the skills necessary to gain employment or build capacity for independent living.
 - (ix) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project involve the collaboration of appropriate partners for maximizing the effectiveness of project services.
 - (x) The extent to which the technical assistance services to be provided by the proposed project involve the use of efficient strategies, including the use of technology, as appropriate, and the leveraging of non-project resources.
 - (xi) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project are focused on those with greatest needs.
 - (xii) The quality of plans for providing an opportunity for participation in the proposed project of students enrolled in private schools.

(e) Quality of project personnel.

- (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the quality of project personnel, the Secretary considers the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.
- (3) In addition, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:

- (i) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of the project director or principal investigator.
- (ii) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel.
- (iii) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of project consultants or subcontractors.

(f) Adequacy of resources.

- (1) The Secretary considers the adequacy of resources for the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the adequacy of resources for the proposed project, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
 - (i) The adequacy of support, including facilities, equipment, supplies, and other resources, from the applicant organization or the lead applicant organization.
 - (ii) The relevance and demonstrated commitment of each partner in the proposed project to the implementation and success of the project.
 - (iii) The extent to which the budget is adequate to support the proposed project.
 - (iv) The extent to which the costs are reasonable in relation to the objectives, design, and potential significance of the proposed project.
 - (v) 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.
 - (vi) The potential for continued support of the project after Federal funding ends, including, as appropriate, the demonstrated commitment of appropriate entities to such support.
 - (vii) The potential for the incorporation of project purposes, activities, or benefits into the ongoing program of the agency or organization at the end of Federal funding.

(g) Quality of the management plan.

- (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
 - (i) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.
 - (ii) The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project.
 - (iii) The adequacy of mechanisms for ensuring high-quality products and services from the proposed project.
 - (iv) The extent to which the time commitments of the project director and principal investigator and other key project personnel are appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives of the proposed project.
 - (v) How the applicant will ensure that a diversity of perspectives are brought to bear in the operation of the proposed project, including those of parents, teachers, the business community, a variety of disciplinary and professional fields, recipients or beneficiaries of services, or others, as appropriate.

(h) Quality of the project evaluation.

- (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the evaluation to be conducted of the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the quality of the evaluation, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
 - (i) The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the proposed project.
 - (ii) The extent to which the methods of evaluation are appropriate to the context within which the project operates.
 - (iii) The extent to which the methods of evaluation provide for examining the effectiveness of project implementation strategies.
 - (iv) The extent to which the methods of evaluation include the use of objective performance measures that are clearly related to the intended outcomes of the project and will produce quantitative and qualitative data to the extent possible.
 - (v) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide timely guidance for quality assurance.

- (vi) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes.
- (vii) The extent to which the evaluation will provide guidance about effective strategies suitable for replication or testing in other settings.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1875-0102)

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