



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

28 November 2023

Notice: Approval –Waiver Request Date: 28 November 2023

The Department of Education is issuing the following Nonavailability Waiver from Louisiana College effective 28 November 2023. This Nonavailability waiver is issued 28 November 2023 and for a duration of the entire period of performance of the grant in which the infrastructure project(s) will occur. (includes a No Cost Extension period up to 12 months) for certain manufactured products to allow the recipient Louisiana College (DBA Louisiana Christian University) in Pineville, Louisiana, to upgrade their IT infrastructure by replacing and adding switches, SFP's (fiber connectors), interconnectors, core switches, fiber patch cables, and access points as well as upgrading servers to increase storage and capacity for more online instruction and student support.

In accordance with the requirements of the Build America Buy America Act (BABA), the U.S. Department of Education published the following Nonavailability waiver request from Louisiana College for public comment for fifteen days after receiving clearance to publish from the Office of Management and Budget's Made in America Office. The public comment period closed on September 16, 2023. No comments were received from the public and therefore no substantive changes were made in response. Minor changes were made to clarify the manufactured products waived within the text of the waiver.

Approved:

Name Dr. Nasser Paydar, Assistant Secretary of the Office of Postsecondary Education

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

*The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.*

## Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA) Domestic Sourcing Requirements Waiver United States Department of Education BABAA Waiver Request Form

**Directions:** This form is to be completed only when the grantee believes it can adequately demonstrate to the U.S. Department of Education (Department), informed by public input, that a waiver of the BABAA domestic sourcing requirements is reasonable and necessary. To submit this waiver request, email the signed request to the Education Program Contact identified in box 3 of your Grant Award Notification (GAN).

### Before Applying for a Waiver:

- **BABAA Grant Program:** Is the grant program you are applying for a waiver subject to the BABAA domestic sourcing requirements? (please see the list here [ED Infrastructure Programs](#)) If the grant program is not on this list, your grant is not subject to the BABAA domestic sourcing requirements and you do not need to complete this form.
- **De Minimis, Small Grants, or Small Components Waivers:** Is the project entitled to a De Minimis, Small Grant, or Small Components waiver established by the Department? (please see these waivers here [Build America Buy America Waivers](#)). If so, you do not need to complete this form.
- **Infrastructure Product Definitions:** Are you aware of the items considered to be a “manufactured” or “construction” product? (please see the list of those items and their definitions in [M 22-11, Office of Management and Budget Memorandum Initial Implementation Guidance on Application of Buy America Preference in Federal Financial Assistance Programs for Infrastructure](#)).
- **More Help:** For more information, please see the Department’s [Build America Buy America Waivers](#) website.

**Section 1: Grantee Information:** Please provide the following grant information and a contact person who can answer questions regarding your BABAA domestic sourcing requirements waiver request:

**Entity Name:**

Louisiana College

**Entity UEI:**

FCGGQ8S8HE75

**Grant Program Name:**

Strengthening Institutions Program

**Grant Program Assistance Listing Number (ALN):**

84.031A

**Grant PR/Award Number (if applicable):**

P031A190065 - 22

**Total Grant Award Amount:**

\$449,982

**Waiver Request Contact Person Name:**

██████████ ██████████ {redacted}

**Waiver Request Contact Person Title:**

Project Director

**Waiver Request Contact Person Email:**

██████████ {redacted}

**Waiver Request Contact Person Phone:**

██████████ {redacted}

**Total Cost of Infrastructure Project(s):**

\$65,910.08

**Amount of Costs Supported by this Grant:**

\$65,910.08

**Section 2: Brief Description of infrastructure Project(s):** In 2-3 sentences, please provide a brief description and location of the infrastructure project(s):

To upgrade the IT infrastructure at Louisiana College (DBA Louisiana Christian University) in Pineville, Louisiana, the institution is replacing and adding switches, SFP's (fiber connectors), interconnectors, core switches, fiber patch cables, and access points as well as upgrading servers to increase storage and capacity for more online instruction and student support.

**Section 3: Other Federal Sources Identification:** Will the project(s) covered under this waiver be funded by any other Federal financial assistance?

No       Yes

If yes, please identify the sources of other Federal financial assistance by program name and ALN Number below:

**Section 4: Type of Waiver Requested:** Please check only **one** of the following boxes.

*We request a waiver of the BABAA domestic sourcing requirements because:*

- Public Interest Waiver:** Applying the domestic content procurement preference would be inconsistent with the public interest (a “public interest waiver”).
- Nonavailability Waiver:** Types of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality (a “nonavailability waiver”).
- Unreasonable Cost Waiver:** The inclusion of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent (an “unreasonable cost waiver”).

**Section 5: Waiver Scope:** As applicable, please provide the scope of the proposed waiver:

- We request the waiver to apply to all (100%) of the iron, steel, manufactured products, and/or construction materials to be used in the project(s).

**OR**

- We are requesting only certain identified items be granted a waiver from the domestic sourcing requirements (please check **all that apply** and identify all products by name and PSC or NAICS codes below; if more space is needed, please provide under Section 8, Waiver Supporting Documentation, below):

Iron

<b>Iron Product</b>	<b>Country of Origin</b>	<b>PSC<sup>1</sup> or NAICS<sup>2</sup> Code</b>
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Steel

<b>Steel Product</b>	<b>Country of Origin</b>	<b>PSC or NAICS Code</b>
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Manufactured Products

<b>Manufactured Product</b>	<b>Country of Origin</b>	<b>PSC or NAICS Code</b>
HPE Server		7B22
Extreme Networks ExtremeSwitching 5320-48P-8XE - Switch		7G21
Extreme Networks 1GB and 10GB		

Construction Materials

<b>Construction Material</b>	<b>Country of Origin</b>	<b>PSC or NAICS Code</b>
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**Section 6: Waiver Timeline:** Please provide a length of time you are requesting the waiver of the BABAA domestic sourcing requirements:

For the entire period of performance of the grant in which the infrastructure project(s) will occur.

**OR**

For a limited time during the period of performance of the grant. We request a waiver of the identified BABAA domestic sourcing requirements from \_\_\_\_\_ only until \_\_\_\_\_ date.

**Section 7: Wavier Justification Narrative:** Please provide a justification for the waiver requested above, including any anticipated impact if the waiver request is disapproved.

<sup>1</sup>PSC codes describe products, services, and research and development purchased by the Federal government. PSC codes can be found in the Product Service Code sections of the [Product and Service Code Manual](#) on [Acquisition.GOV at Product and Service Code Manual | Acquisition.GOV.](#)

<sup>2</sup> The NAICS codes are used by Federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments for the purpose of collecting, analyzing, and publishing statistical data related to the U.S. business economy. NAICS codes classify businesses based on the particular product or service supplied. A business will generally have a primary NAICS code, but it can also have multiple NAICS codes if it sells multiple products and services. NAICS codes can be found by conducting a keyword search in the NAICS search fields at [U.S. Census Bureau](#) or by accessing the NAICS code lists under the Reference File tab on U.S. Census Bureau.

In order to help the Department in making a determination, please include the following information based on the type of the waiver requested in Section 4:

- **Public Interest Waiver:** Describe why your specific circumstances may be in the public interest to grant a waiver from the BABAA domestic sourcing requirements.
- **Nonavailability Waiver:** Describe why identified domestic iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction products are unavailable, and the steps you have taken to determine their unavailability.
- **Unreasonable Cost Waiver:** Describe how you have determined that the cost of domestic iron, steel, manufactured and construction products will increase the cost of the overall project(s) by more than 25 percent and the market research and/or industry outreach you have performed to make this determination.

July 2023, the IT Department at Louisiana College conducted market research on the following manufactured products required for an IT infrastructure project: servers, access points, switches, fiber connectors, interconnectors, and core switches. An important factor regarding the manufacture products is compatibility with the college’s existing network equipment. While working to procure the products, the IT Department learned that no USA brands were compatible with the existing network. In addition, they surveyed their vendor and other partners in the IT community, who confirmed their findings.

**Paperwork Burden Statement**

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1894-New. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is *required to obtain or retain benefit* (with section 70914 of the Build America Buy America Act (Pub. L. No. 117-58 §§ 70901-70953)). If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate, suggestions for improving this individual collection, or if you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual form, application or survey, please contact your assigned program officer directly.

**Submission of Proprietary Information**

FOIA exempts from mandatory disclosure any “trade secrets or commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential.” 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4) (Exemption 4). In accordance with Exemption 4, the Department will maintain as confidential any documents submitted by you, or prepared by the applicant or grantee, that are both customarily and actually treated as private by the applicant or grantee, or closely held and not publicly disseminated. If you feel that some or all of this submission falls within the scope of Exemption 4 and is entitled to confidential treatment, you must indicate the specific information the applicant or grantee considers proprietary in a cover attachment to this form. Please note that your designations of exempt material are not binding on the Department.

**Public Posting of Waiver Request Information**

The BABAA domestic sourcing requirements waiver authority generally requires the Department to post this waiver information for a period of public comment and review. The Department will not publicly post information considered to be personally identifiable information (PII), including signatures and specific contact information such as an email address and phone number. However, all other information contained in this form, along with any supporting documentation, may be publicly posted so that the public has adequate information to comment on your requested waiver of the BABAA domestic sourcing requirements. If you feel that some of the information contained in this waiver request is “proprietary information” and do not want this information disclosed, please follow the instructions in “Submission of Proprietary Information”, below. Please note that your designations of exempt material are not binding on the Department.