



# Fiscal Year 2012 Competition Highlights for the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Program

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# Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Program

## Background and Focus

Prior to a competition the Department consults, per statutory requirement section 712 (b), with federal and nonprofit agencies and organizations such as the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, the National Academy of Sciences, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics to determine the areas of national need.

The Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) Program provides fellowships through academic departments and programs at Institutions of Higher Education (IHE). The fellowships assist graduate students with excellent academic records who demonstrate financial need. Students must also plan to pursue the highest degree available in their course of study at the institution in a field designated as an area of national need. Because awards are made to departments at IHEs, many departments at a school or college may apply. However, in an application period, an academic department may not submit more than one application for new awards per GAANN regulation 648.20 (c).

Each department at an IHE that is awarded a GAANN grant is awarded funds for a number of fellowships based on the rank order of applications. The department that is awarded a GAANN grant selects eligible students based on GAANN regulation 648.40. Each GAANN fellowship is comprised of a stipend and an institutional payment. The stipend is adjusted based on a fellow's need using Title IV, part f (Free Application for Federal Student Aid-FAFSA) in consultation with the institution's financial aid office. Because of the need component, departments will generally fund more fellowships than were originally awarded, as many students do not qualify for the maximum amount of stipend funding.

## Funding History

Beginning with the fiscal year (FY) 2012 competition, successful GAANN applicants have a three-year grant cycle. The previous GAANN competition was conducted in 2010.

### Fiscal Year 2010

Total funding for new awards in FY 2010: \$9,188,550

Total new awards in FY 2010: 64 new grants

Total new fellowships in FY 2010: 210 fellowships

Total funding for non-competing continuation awards: \$21,571,215

Total non-competing continuation awards in FY 2010: 112 grants

Total fellowships: 493 fellowships

## Fiscal Year 2012

Total funding for new awards in FY 2012: \$21,278,138

Total new awards in FY 2012: 136 new grants

Total number of fellowships awarded: 479 fellowships

Total funding for non-competing continuation awards: \$9,328,620

Total non-competing continuation awards in FY 2012: 64 grants

Total fellowships: 210 fellowships

## Fiscal Year 2012 Awards Facts

The Department received 263 applications of which 240 were deemed eligible and were reviewed. The Department made 136 new awards totaling \$21,278,138 to fund 479 fellowships. While current GAANN grantees may apply for additional awards, each award is treated as a new grant.

- In FY 2012 GAANN fellowship stipends of up to \$30,000 were awarded, based on need. The institutional payment was \$14,422.
- In FY 2012 the areas of national need GAANN funded were: area studies; biological sciences/life sciences; chemistry; computer and information sciences; engineering; foreign languages and literatures; mathematics; nursing; physics; and educational evaluation, research, and statistics.
- Because FY 2012 funds were not appropriated for the Jacob K. Javits (Javits) Fellowship Program, the Department introduced two new fields previously funded under Javits: area studies and foreign languages and literatures. These were introduced to focus on the preparation of teachers and/or researchers at the Master's or PhD level.
- In the final FY 2012 slate of new awards, one department at an IHE was awarded a grant in the field of area studies, and three departments were awarded grants in the fields of foreign languages and literatures.

## Competition Overview

The range of scores for new grants awarded in the FY 2012 competition was 93.5 to a maximum of 100 total points. After determining the number of awards that could be funded, there was funding available to support additional institutions. Because of a tie in the applications that received a score of 93 and the amount of funding remaining, two institutions were eligible for funding. The Department used the statutory requirements in Section 711(b) of the HEA, which requires that in making GAANN awards, the Secretary must promote an equitable geographic distribution among eligible public and

private institutions of higher education. Based on this requirement, it was determined that the Western geographic region received fewer new awards than the other regions. As a result, two institutions were awarded GAANN funding: one was the University of California, Los Angeles, and the other was the University of New Mexico, a Hispanic Serving Institution. Both of these institutions were awarded funding for three fellowships.

## Supplemental slate

A few days before the end of FY 2012, it was determined that an additional \$80,820 was available in the GAANN account as a result of savings from the application review process. Due to this cost savings, the Department was able to award an additional fellowship to an institution which had been successful under the competition with a score of 100, but had requested more fellows than the number the Department was able to award. Although other successful applicants received the maximum score of 100, the University of California, San Diego was the only one of these applicants that requested more fellowships than were awarded on the slate of new awards. Thus a supplemental award was made to the University of California, San Diego which funds one additional student at \$44,422, which is the maximum fellowship amount in FY 2012.

## Status of current Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Grantees

In FY 2012 there were 64 grants currently in their last year of their previous award. Of these departments, eight applied for new grants under the FY 2012 GAANN competition and were awarded new grants.

The 136 new grants awarded in FY 2012 were in the following fields:

Discipline	Number of Applications Submitted	Number of Awards	Number of Fellowships	Level of Recommended Funding
Area Studies	3	1	3	\$133,266
Biological Sciences/Life Sciences	22	15	53	\$2,354,366
Chemistry	29	18	78	\$3,331,650
Computer and Information Sciences	17	9	34	\$1,510,348
Educational Evaluation, Research and Statistics	4	2	6	\$399,798
Engineering	66	35	115	\$5,108,530
Foreign Languages and Literatures	4	3	10	\$444,220
Interdisciplinary*	37	19	63	\$2,931,852
Mathematics	29	24	84	\$3,598,182
Multidisciplinary**	2	0	0	\$0
Nursing	5	4	15	\$666,330
Physics	22	6	18	\$799,596
<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>\$21,278,138</b>

\*Applicants that submit an "Interdisciplinary" application combine courses of study that involve academic fields in two or more disciplines.

\*\* Applicants that submit a "Multidisciplinary" application request fellowships for more than a single academic department in the designated areas of national need.

## Appendices

## Profile of Grantee Institutions

The top of the table below shows the institutional type and control of the 136 grantees for FY 2012. The bottom of the table shows the number of grants awarded to minority serving institutions.

Applicant Type	
Public	104
Private	32
Minority Serving Institutions	
HBCU	1
HSI	3

## Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Awards and Fellowships by State

Below is a list of FY 2012 GAANN awards and fellowships by state.

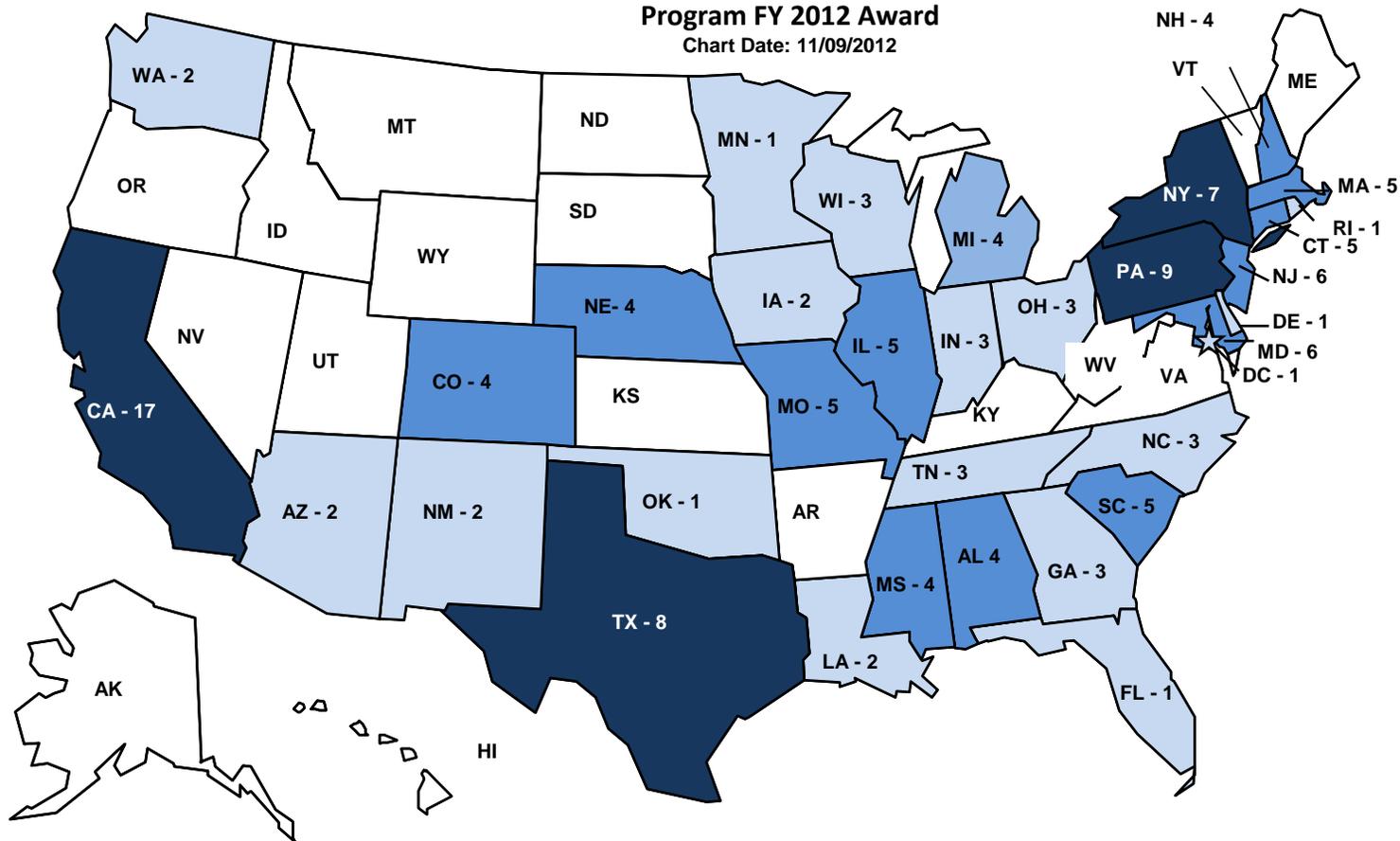
FY 2012 GAANN Awards by State					
State	Number of Awards	Number of Fellowships	State	Number of Awards	Number of Fellowships
AL	4	14	MO	5	17
AZ	2	6	MS	4	14
CA	17	67	NC	3	10
CO	4	14	NE	4	14
CT	5	16	NH	4	17
DC	1	3	NJ	6	19
DE	1	3	NM	2	6
FL	1	3	NY	7	25
GA	3	15	OH	3	9
IA	2	6	OK	1	3
IL	5	20	PA	9	31
IN	3	12	RI	1	3
LA	2	7	SC	5	18
MA	5	18	TN	3	10
MD	6	22	TX	8	27
MI	4	12	WA	2	6
MN	1	3	WI	3	9
			<b>Total</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>479</b>

## Grant Recipient by State

### Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need

#### Program FY 2012 Award

Chart Date: 11/09/2012



**Others Not on the Map**  
 Puerto Rico – 0 awards    Guam – 0 awards  
 Federated States of Micronesia – 0 awards  
 Palau – 0 awards

