



**COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR STATE
ASSESSMENTS PROGRAM
2019 COMPETITION**

**PRE-APPLICATION WEBINAR
FEBRUARY 28, 2019**

AGENDA

- Overview of Grant
- Eligibility Requirements
- Priorities
- Budget Narratives
- Grantee Responsibilities
- Criteria and Scoring
- Documents to include in application
- Applying to grants.gov
- Resources – FAQs, NIA, and grant weblinks
- Timeline Reminders
- Q & A



PRESENTERS

- Denise M. Joseph, CGSA Competition Manager, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE)
- Don Peasley, OESE
- Patrick Rooney, OESE
- Rachel Peternith, Office of the General Counsel (OGC)



CGSA Overview

Deadline: March 29, 2019, 4:30 pm EST

CGSA COMPETITION

PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to enhance the quality of assessment instruments and assessment systems used by States for measuring the academic achievement of elementary and secondary school students. It is authorized by section 1203(b)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA).

Type of Award: Discretionary grants

Estimated Available Funds: \$17,622,000

Estimated Range of Awards: \$1,000,000 to \$4,000,000 total over a 48-month project period

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$2,500,000

Estimated Number of Awards: 4-8



OVERVIEW OF COMPETITION

CONTINUED

Eligible Applicants: State educational agencies (SEAs), as defined in section 8101(49) of the ESEA, of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and consortia of such SEAs.

Note About Award Size: The Department will not make an award for less than the amount specified in section 1203(b)(1)(C) of the ESEA.



AWARD SIZE

Minimum award sizes, based on the FYs 2018 and 2019 appropriations and FY 2018 SEA school-age child counts, are located on pages 7-8 of the CGSA grant application

State	Amount	State	Amount	State	Amount
ALABAMA	\$263,238	LOUISIANA	\$261,414	OKLAHOMA	\$228,320
ALASKA	\$42,952	MAINE	\$61,756	OREGON	\$209,316
ARIZONA	\$392,674	MARYLAND	\$322,062	PENNSYLVANIA	\$641,972
ARKANSAS	\$168,760	MASSACHUSETTS	\$331,334	RHODE ISLAND	\$50,082
CALIFORNIA	\$2,162,780	MICHIGAN	\$526,320	SOUTH CAROLINA	\$266,226
COLORADO	\$303,846	MINNESOTA	\$309,688	SOUTH DAKOTA	\$50,256
CONNECTICUT	\$183,992	MISSISSIPPI	\$172,792	TENNESSEE	\$360,710
DELAWARE	\$49,072	MISSOURI	\$331,048	TEXAS	\$1,751,074
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	\$26,082	MONTANA	\$54,360	UTAH	\$220,426
FLORIDA	\$1,005,752	NEBRASKA	\$56,243	VERMONT	\$28,490
GEORGIA	\$608,720	NEVADA	\$82,004	VIRGINIA	\$445,614
HAWAII	\$70,784	NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$31,889	WASHINGTON	\$389,842
IDAHO	\$107,260	NEW JERSEY	\$478,372	WEST VIRGINIA	\$89,036
ILLINOIS	\$697,268	NEW MEXICO	\$118,156	WISCONSIN	\$310,782
INDIANA	\$378,232	NEW YORK	\$981,526	WYOMING	\$32,646
IOWA	\$174,946	NORTH CAROLINA	\$555,624	PUERTO RICO	\$167,028
KANSAS	\$170,498	NORTH DAKOTA	\$39,958		
KENTUCKY	\$240,830	OHIO	\$625,812		



CONSORTIA

CRITERIA

If a consortium of SEAs applies for a grant, the members of the consortium must either designate one member to apply for the grant on behalf of the consortium or establish a separate, eligible legal entity to apply for the grant. See [34 CFR 75.128\(a\)](#).

- The consortium must consist of only SEAs or consortia of SEAs.
- IHEs, research institutions, or other organizations may partner with the consortium, so long as they comply with any applicable State procurement laws and consortium governance rules; however, these institutions and organizations may not be members of the applicant consortium.



CGSA VS. EAG

- This program is similar to the Enhanced Assessment Grant (EAG) program authorized under the ESEA as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act, but there are some important differences between the CGSA and EAG. Most importantly, the CGSA has a different set of absolute priorities.

ABSOLUTE PRIORITIES

- This competition includes six absolute priorities and two invitational priorities. The absolute priorities are from section 1203(b)(1) of the ESEA. The invitational priorities are from the Department's Supplemental Priorities.
- Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) **we consider only applications that meet one or more** of the absolute priorities. Eligible applicants must specify which absolute priority(ies) they are applying under.



CGSA ABSOLUTE PRIORITIES

AN ELIGIBLE APPLICANT AWARDED A GRANT UNDER THIS PROGRAM MUST PROPOSE ACTIVITIES THAT FIT **ONE OR MORE** OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

- **Absolute Priority 1**: Developing or improving assessments for English learners, including assessments of English language proficiency as required under section 1111(b)(2)(G) of the ESEA and academic assessments in languages other than English to meet the State's obligations under section 1111(b)(2)(F) of the ESEA.
- **Absolute Priority 2**: Developing or improving models to measure and assess student progress or student growth on State assessments under section 1111(b)(2) of the ESEA and other assessments not required under section 1111(b)(2) of the ESEA.
- **Absolute Priority 3**: Developing or improving assessments for children with disabilities, including alternate assessments aligned to alternate academic achievement standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities described in section 1111(b)(2)(D) of the ESEA, and using the principles of universal design for learning.



CGSA ABSOLUTE PRIORITIES

CONTINUED

- **Absolute Priority 4**: Allowing for collaboration with institutions of higher education, other research institutions, or other organizations to improve the quality, validity, and reliability of State academic assessments beyond the requirements for such assessments described in section 1111(b)(2) of the ESEA.
- **Absolute Priority 5**: Measuring student academic achievement using multiple measures of student academic achievement from multiple sources.
- **Absolute Priority 6**: Evaluating student academic achievement through the development of comprehensive academic assessment instruments (such as performance and technology-based academic assessments, computer adaptive assessments, projects, or extended performance task assessments) that emphasize the mastery of standards and aligned competencies in a competency-based education model.



CGSA INVITATIONAL PRIORITIES

Invitational priorities signal areas of particular interest to ED; applicants may choose to address one or both invitational priorities; however, applicants who meet an invitational priority do not earn extra points and are not given a competitive or absolute preference over other applicants. The two invitational priorities are published in the NIA and come from the Secretary's Supplemental Priorities.

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1), we do not give an application that meets an invitational priority a competitive or absolute preference over other applications.

- **Promoting Literacy**: Projects that are designed to address facilitating the accurate and timely use of data by educators to improve reading instruction and make informed decisions about how to help children or students build literacy skills while protecting student and family privacy.
- **Promoting Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math (STEM) Education, With a Particular Focus on Computer Science**: Projects designed to improve student achievement or other educational outcomes in one or more of the following areas: Science, technology, engineering, math, or computer science (as defined in the NIA).



CRITERIA AND SCORING

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR PROGRAM NARRATIVE

- The selection criteria for this competition are from the NIA for this competition. We will award up to 105 points to an application under the selection criteria.
- There are 7 categories for consideration with the total possible points for each selection criterion are noted in the next slide and on pages 39-40 on the CGSA application.



CGSA SCORING RUBRIC

Scoring Rubric				
	Maximum Points	Weak	Adequate	Strong
A. Need for Project	10	0-3	4-7	8-10
B. Significance	10	0-3	4-7	8-10
C. Quality of the Project Design	20	0-6	7-14	15-20
D. Quality of Project Services	25	0-8	9-16	17-25
E. Adequacy of resources	10	0-3	4-7	8-10
F. Quality of the management plan	20	0-6	7-14	15-20
G. Quality of the Project Evaluation	10	0-3	4-7	8-10
Total Score	105	0-32	33-78	79-105



BUDGET NARRATIVE

SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR THE BUDGET NARRATIVE

In accordance with 34 CFR 75.232, Department of Education staff perform a cost analysis of the each recommended project to ensure that costs relate to the activities and objectives of the project, are reasonable, allowable and allocable. We may delete or reduce costs from the budget during this review.



BUDGET NARRATIVE

Each applicant should include the following information for each year of the project:

1. Personnel
2. Fringe Benefits
3. Travel
4. Equipment
5. Supplies
6. Contractual
7. Construction
8. Other - major type or category, include cost per item, purpose & estimates
9. Total Direct Costs
10. Indirect Costs – look at the application for more information (ED524)
11. Training Stipends
12. Total Costs



BUDGET NARRATIVE

CONTINUED

Each application must also provide a Budget Narrative (which serves to meet the requirements of ED Form 524, Section C) for requested Federal funds. The Budget Narrative for requested Federal funds should provide a justification of how the money requested for each budget item will be spent.

- Requires an **itemized budget breakdown** for each project year.
- Include the **basis for estimating the costs** of personnel salaries, benefits, project staff travel, materials and supplies, consultants and subcontracts, indirect costs and any other projected expenditures.
- Be sure to complete an itemized budget breakdown and narrative for each year of the proposed project (up to 48 months).



BUDGET NARRATIVE

CONTINUED

- The Budget Narrative provides an opportunity for the applicant to identify the nature and amount of the proposed expenditures.
- The applicant should provide sufficient detail to enable reviewers and project staff to understand how requested funds will be used, how much will be expended, and the relationship between the requested funds and project activities and outcomes.
- The budget should include only costs that are allowable, reasonable, and necessary for carrying out the objectives of the CGSA project. Rules about allowable costs are set out in 2 CFR Part 200, as adopted by the Department at 2 CFR Part 3474.



INDIRECT COSTS

Remember to provide a copy of the most recent approved indirect cost agreement in the Other Attachments form section of the application.

- For this grant competition, you may charge indirect costs using the State's unrestricted cost rate. Be sure to include evidence of a federally negotiated indirect cost rate.
- If you budget for contractual services, please note that indirect costs may be applied only to the first \$25,000 of each contract for each year of the project.
- For more information about indirect cost rates, visit <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/intro.html>.



CONTRACTORS NOTE

RULES MUST GRANTEES FOLLOW REGARDING PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING FOR SERVICES

- All procurement and contracting for services by grantees must follow the government-wide standards for procurement in [2 CFR 200.317](#).
- Under those requirements, an SEA must follow the same policies and procedures used for its procurement from non-Federal funds.
- Because grantees must use appropriate procurement procedures to select contractors, applicants should generally not include information in their grant applications about specific contractors that they may be considering to use to provide services or goods for a proposed project if a grant is awarded.



GRANTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Successful Applicants with multi-year grants must submit an **annual performance report** demonstrating their progress in meeting approved project objectives. Grantees must also provide the most current financial and performance measure data for each year of the project. At the end of the project period, applicants will also be required to submit a **final performance report**.
- Grantees will be expected to include in their interim and final performance reports information about the accomplishments of their projects.
- For specific requirements on grantee reporting, please go to the ED Performance Report Form 524B at <http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html>.



DOCUMENTS FOR APPLICATION

We recommend for attached files, that your file names be less than 50 characters and We recommend that you limit the application narrative to no more than 65 pages using the standards outlined in the NIA.

- **Project Abstract**
- **Project Narrative**
 - Table of Contents
 - Application Narrative
 - We will award up to 105 points
 - 7 categories (from Slide 24 and on pages 39-40 on the CGSA application)
- **Other Attachment Forms** (*not included in recommended 65 page limit*)
 - Individual Resumes for Project Directors and Key Personnel
 - We encouraged you to limit each resume to five pages
 - Executive Order 12372
 - Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
 - Memoranda of Understanding
 - References/bibliography
- **Assurances and Certifications**



HUMAN SUBJECT RESEARCH

THE PROCESS

- The 2019 CGSA application package includes specific instructions for completing the ED Supplemental Information for SF 424 Form. On the SF 424 Form applicants must indicate whether research activities involving human subjects are planned at any time during the project period. If human subjects research activities are planned, the applicant must indicate whether it believes that the activities are exempt or covered (nonexempt), and provide detailed information about research activities. ED will make the final determination regarding whether a CGSA project selected for funding requires IRB review.
- The project will also need to be reviewed by an Institutional Review Board (IRB) before beginning nonexempt activities. To check if a State agency has an FWA or IRB, go to: <http://ohrp.cit.nih.gov/search/FwaDtl.aspx>. FWAs are issued by the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Additional information about human research subjects and the need for IRB approval is available on ED's protection of human subjects Web site at: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/humansub.html>.



OPEN LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

- Unless an exception applies, if you are awarded a grant under this competition, you will be required to openly license to the public grant deliverables created in whole, or in part, with Department grant funds.
- When the deliverable consists of modifications to pre-existing works, the license extends only to those modifications that can be separately identified and only to the extent that open licensing is permitted under the terms of any licenses or other legal restrictions on the use of pre-existing works.
- Additionally, any applicants that are awarded competitive grant funds must have a plan to disseminate these public grant deliverables. For additional information on the open licensing requirements please refer to [2 CFR 3474.20](#).



APPLYING TO GRANTS.GOV

RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE

Online Resources

Workspace is Grants.gov's shared, online environment to collaboratively complete and submit federal grant applications which consists of step-by-step explanations of particular applicant tasks to help applicants get started using Grants.gov. It provides access to online training resources and the video series to help you with the grant application process.

- [Link](#) to Grants.gov page on the grant application process
- [Link](#) to Grants.gov video series
- [Manage Workspace](#) help articles
- [Latest Blog Posts about Workspace](#) at Blog.Grants.gov



APPLYING TO GRANTS.GOV

RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE

- For Technical Difficulties

Grants.gov Customer Support at 1-800-518-4726 or email at: support@grants.gov or access the Grants.gov Self-Service Knowledge Base web portal at: <https://grants-portal.psc.gov/Welcome.aspx?pt=Grants>

- You must obtain a Grants.gov Help Desk Case Number and keep track of your progress to resolve the issue.
- Additional submission instructions are found in the CGSA Application Package.



GRANTS.GOV SUBMISSION TIPS

REGISTER EARLY for Grant.gov and SAM!

- Do It **TODAY!** This process may take DAYS to WEEKS to complete.

SUMBIT EARLY

- Depending on the size of the file, transmittal may take SEVERAL MINUTES to HOURS.
- Don't wait until the deadline date to submit. The system will be slow due to last minute submissions.

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE READ!

- Applications that are time/date stamped after 4:30:00 p.m. Eastern Time on deadline date will be marked late and will not be read.



RESOURCES

- CGSA Application [link](#)
- CGSA Federal Register [link](#)
- CGSA FAQs link – **Coming Soon!!!**
- For Technical difficulties with Grants.gov contact:
 - Grants.gov Customer Support at 1-800-518-4726 or email at: support@grants.gov or access the Grants.gov Self-Service Knowledge Base web portal at:
<https://grants-portal.psc.gov/Welcome.aspx?pt=Grants>
- Government Performance and Results Act (GPR) [link](#)
 - Performance indicators and reporting information



INFORMATION TO KNOW

TIMELINES

- **CGSA Intent to apply was yesterday – February 27, 2019**
 - Not mandatory but preferred
 - Can still let us know if they are consider applying after the deadline
- **CGSA Submission deadline – March 29, 2019, 4:30pm EST**
 - If you are awarded a CGSA grant, you will receive information in July for a post-Award webinar
- **Post Award webinar/conference call in July/Early August**
- **Announcements as early as possible**
 - Expected announcements: Mid-July – late July
 - Expect funds to be awarded: Early August – mid-August



QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU AND BEST WISHES TO YOU ON YOUR APPLICATION PROCESS...



For additional information or questions contact:

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