



Supporting Effective Educator Development

FY 2015 Competition Overview

Note: These slides are intended as guidance only. Please refer to the official Notice published in the *Federal Register*.

SEED PROGRAM REMINDERS

Q&A WEBINAR

- SEED Competition Q&A Webinar on March 10th at 2 PM Eastern.
 - Program staff will be available to answer applicants' questions.
 - Applicants are expected to have viewed this presentation and read the NIA prior to the Q&A session.
 - See the SEED Website for access information:

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/edseed/index.html>



AGENDA

- Program Overview
- 2015 Competition Updates
- Eligibility Requirements
- Priorities
- Selection Criteria
- Application Process



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Purpose

To provide competitive grants for projects with a proven track record of success in preparing or providing professional enhancement activities to teachers, principals, or both.

Funding

\$24 million (est.) is available for new 36 month projects.

Applicants

Eligible applicants are:

- 1) National not-for-profit organizations that propose--
- 2) Projects supported by moderate evidence of effectiveness

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

EVIDENCE STANDARDS

	Moderate Evidence of Effectiveness		Strong Evidence of Effectiveness	
Evidence Category	<u>Option 1</u>	<u>Option 2</u>	<u>Option 1</u>	<u>Option 2</u>
Number of Studies	At least one		At least one	At least two
WWC Standards*	Meets without reservations	Meets with reservations	Meets without reservations	Meets with reservations
Statistical Significance	Statistically significant positive impact on a Relevant Outcome (with no unfavorable impacts)		Statistically significant positive impact on a Relevant Outcome (with no unfavorable impacts)	
Similarity of Population	Overlaps with proposed populations or settings		Overlaps with proposed populations or settings	
Sample Size		Large Sample	Large Sample	
Number of Study Sites		Multi-site Sample	Multi-site Sample	

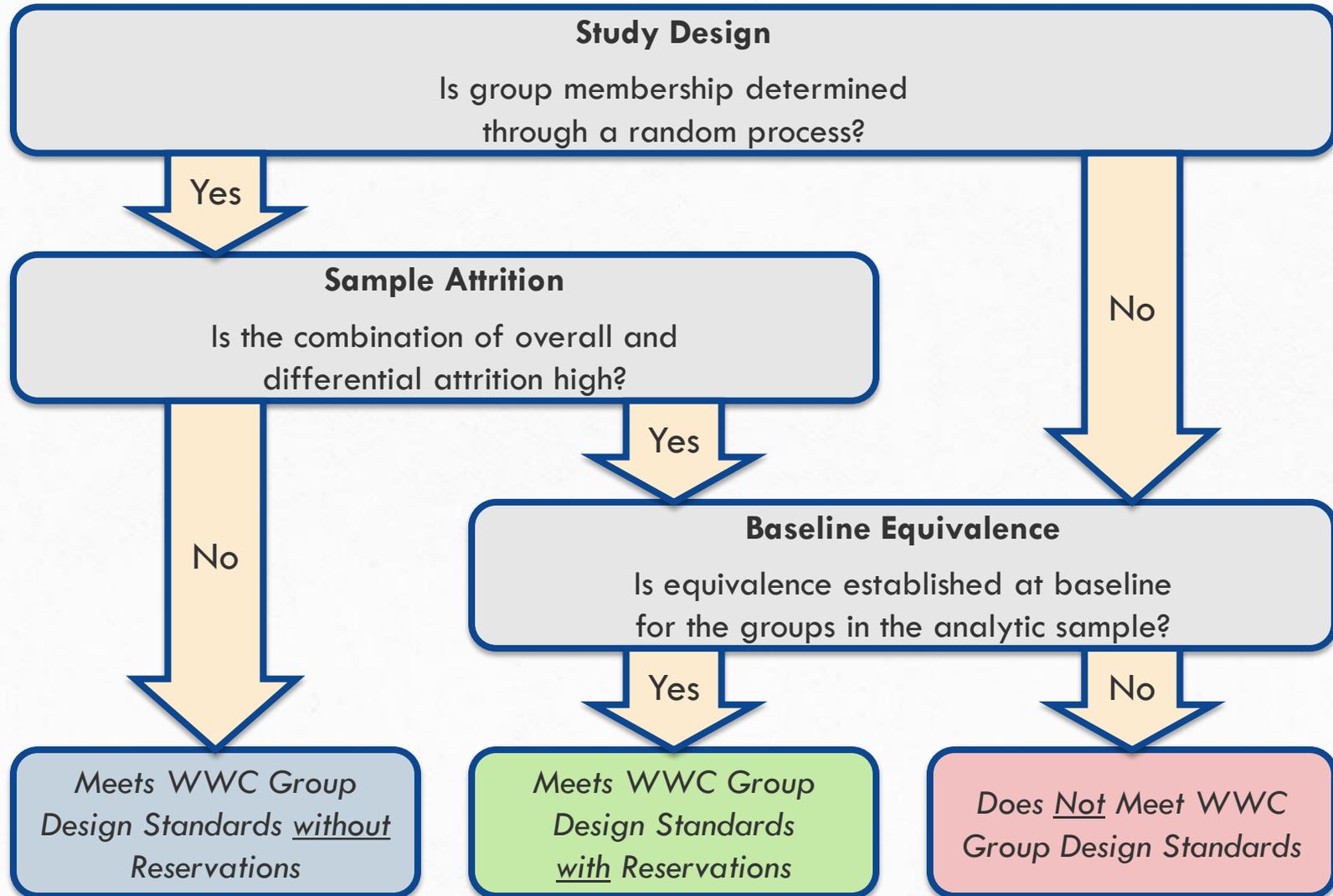
* See the WWC Handbook v3.0 for more information: <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/DocumentSum.aspx?sid=19>.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

EVIDENCE STANDARDS

Source: WWC Procedures and Standards Handbook v3.0, page 9.



AGENDA

- Program Overview
- 2015 Competition Updates
- Eligibility Requirements
- Priorities
- Selection Criteria
- Application Process



2015 COMPETITION UPDATES

WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR?

- Moderate Evidence of Effectiveness threshold is now Absolute Priority 1.
 - Applicants must apply for AP1 and one of AP 2 through 4.
- *Absolute Priority 3: Professional Development for Teachers of Academic Subjects* can now focus on any subject or content area, not just writing and literacy.
- Competitive Preference Priority 4: Supporting High-Need Students added to emphasize the focus on the neediest students.
- Selection Criteria have a couple changes to the factors and point values
 - Added evaluation factor to emphasize creation of evidence that meets the WWC standards during the project period.



AGENDA

- Program Overview
- 2015 Competition Updates
- Eligibility Requirements
- Priorities
- Selection Criteria
- Application Process



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- National Not-for-Profit Organizations are the only type of eligible applicant.

National not-for-profit organization means an entity that meets the definition of “nonprofit” under [34 CFR 77.1\(c\)](#) and is of national scope, meaning that the entity *provides services in multiple States to a significant number or percentage of recipients and is supported by staff or affiliates in multiple States.*

- Applicants should provide an explanation of how they meet this definition in their application

AGENDA

- Program Overview
- 2015 Competition Updates
- Eligibility Requirements
- **Priorities**
- Selection Criteria
- Application Process

PRIORITIES

Absolute Priorities

AP 1: Supporting Practices and Strategies for Which There Is Moderate Evidence of Effectiveness

AP 2: Teacher or Principal Recruitment, Selection, and Preparation

AP 3: Professional Development for Teachers of Academic Subjects

AP 4: Advanced Certification and Advanced Credentialing

Must address AP1 and one of AP 2-4.

Competitive Priorities

CPP 1: Supporting Practices and Strategies for Which There Is Strong Evidence of Effectiveness

CPP 2: Improving Efficiency (Cost-Effectiveness)

CPP 3: Promoting STEM Education

CPP 4: Supporting High-Need Students

May address all four CPPs.



PRIORITIES

ABSOLUTE PRIORITIES

- Applicants must respond to Absolute Priority 1 and at least one of Absolute Priorities 2 through 4.
 - No competitive advantage by responding to more than one of Absolute Priorities 2 through 4.
- Applicants should clearly identify the priorities for which they are applying.
- Applicants' approaches to the absolute priorities will be reviewed and receive points based on the selection criteria.
- Specific wording for priorities may be found in the NIA on the SEED website:

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/edseed/applicant.html>



PRIORITIES

ABSOLUTE PRIORITY 1: MODERATE EVIDENCE OF EFFECTIVENESS

This priority funds projects that are supported by Moderate Evidence of Effectiveness.

- All applicants must apply for AP 1. Applicants who do not meet AP 1 will not be considered for funding.
- Priority documentation will be reviewed by IES.



PRIORITIES

ABSOLUTE PRIORITY 2: TEACHER OR PRINCIPAL PREPARATION

Focus on Schools
w/ High-Need
Students

“...recruiting, selecting, and preparing talented individuals to work in schools with high concentrations of High-need Students.”

Preparation of
Teachers,
Principals, or
Both

“...creating or expanding high-performing teacher preparation programs, principal preparation programs, or both.”

Rigorous
Selection of
Candidates

“...demonstrating a rigorous, competitive selection process to determine which aspiring teachers or principals participate.”

PRIORITIES

ABSOLUTE PRIORITY 3: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS

Selecting
Subjects to Meet
District and
Teacher Needs

“...describe need of the proposed districts to be served for teacher professional development in the selected high-need academic subjects and to demonstrate alignment of the proposed projects with State standards.”

Determining
Effectiveness

“...measure the impact the professional development has on the effectiveness of teachers served by their projects.”

Note on
Allowable
Subjects

“The list of subjects provided in this priority is illustrative. Applicants may propose to address other academic subjects or areas...”



PRIORITIES

ABSOLUTE PRIORITY 4: ADVANCED CERTIFICATION

Advanced
Credential for
Teachers,
Principals, or Both

“...encouraging and supporting teachers, principals, or both, who seek a nationally recognized, standards-based advanced certificate or advanced credential...”

Measuring
Effectiveness of
Participants

“...effectiveness of teachers or principals who receive advanced certification or credentialing must be determined through a rigorous, transparent, and fair evaluation...”

Rigorous
Selection of
Candidates

“...demonstrating a rigorous, competitive selection process to determine which teachers or principals participate.”



PRIORITIES

COMPETITIVE PREFERENCE PRIORITIES

- Four optional priorities that applicants may choose to include in their projects.
- Applicants may respond to as many CPPs as they wish.
- Applicants should clearly identify the priorities for which they are applying.
- Applicants may receive additional points based on how well they address these priorities, at the discretion of reviewers.
- Specific wording for priorities may be found in the NIA on the SEED website:

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/edseed/applicant.html>



PRIORITIES

CPP 1: STRONG EVIDENCE OF EFFECTIVENESS

This priority funds projects that are supported by Strong Evidence of Effectiveness.

- Applicants will receive either 5 points or 0 points.
- Priority documentation will be reviewed by IES.
- Applicants should review the WWC Handbook Version 3.0 to ensure the studies they submit meet the WWC Standards.

<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/DocumentSum.aspx?sid=19>



PRIORITIES

CPP 2: IMPROVING EFFICIENCY (COST-EFFECTIVENESS)

This priority funds projects that identify strategies for providing cost-effective, high-quality services at the State, regional, or local level by making better use of available resources. Such projects may include innovative and sustainable uses of technology, modification of school schedules and teacher compensation systems, use of Open Educational Resources, or other strategies.

- Applicants will receive 0 or 1 point.
- Priority documentation will be reviewed by peer reviewers.

PRIORITIES

CPP 3: PROMOTING STEM EDUCATION

This priority funds projects that address one or both of the following priority areas:

- (a) Increasing the opportunities for high-quality preparation of, or professional development for, teachers of STEM subjects.
- (b) Increasing the number of individuals from groups traditionally underrepresented in STEM, including minorities, individuals with disabilities, and women, who are teachers of STEM subjects and have increased opportunities for high-quality preparation or professional development.

In addition, applicants must describe how they plan to measure the impact the proposed project activities have on teacher effectiveness. Applicants must determine teacher effectiveness through a rigorous, transparent, and fair evaluation in which performance is differentiated using multiple measures of effectiveness and based in significant part on Student Growth.

- Applicants will receive 0 or 2 points.
- Priority documentation will be reviewed by peer reviewers.



PRIORITIES

CPP 4: SUPPORTING HIGH-NEED STUDENTS

This priority funds projects that are designed to improve:

- (a) Academic outcomes;
- (b) Learning environments; or
- (c) Both,

For one or more of the following groups of students:

- (i) Students served by Rural Local Educational Agencies.
- (ii) Students with disabilities.
- (iii) English learners.
- (iv) Students in Lowest-performing Schools.
- (v) Students who are living in poverty and are served by schools with high concentrations of students living in poverty.
- (vi) Disconnected Youth or migrant youth.
- (vii) Students who are members of federally recognized Indian tribes.

- Applicants will receive 0 to 4 points.
- Priority documentation will be reviewed by peer reviewers.



AGENDA

- Program Overview
- 2015 Competition Updates
- Eligibility Requirements
- Priorities
- Selection Criteria
- Application Process



SELECTION CRITERIA

OVERVIEW

- All selection criteria will be scored by peer reviewers.
 - Significance: 10 points
 - Quality of the Project Design and Services: 35 points
 - Quality of the Management Plan and Personnel: 20 points
 - Sustainability: 15 points
 - Quality of the Project Evaluation: 20 points
- Grantees selected based on peer reviewer scores.
- Specific wording for each selection criterion may be found in the NIA at the SEED website:

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/edseed/applicant.html>



SELECTION CRITERIA

SIGNIFICANCE (10 POINTS)

National Impact

“The significance of the proposed project on a national level (as defined).”

Advancing Field of Teacher and Leader Development

“The potential contribution...to the development and advancement of teacher and school leadership theory, knowledge, and practices.”

Improving Student and Teacher Outcomes

“The importance or magnitude of the results or outcomes likely to be attained..., especially improvements in teaching and student achievement.”



SELECTION CRITERIA

QUALITY OF THE PROJECT DESIGN AND SERVICES (35 POINTS)

Clear &
Measureable
Goals

“...the goals, objectives, and outcomes... are clearly specified, aligned, and measurable.”

Part of Broader
Improvement
Effort

“...part of a comprehensive effort to improve teaching and learning and support rigorous academic standards for students.”

Sufficient
Services to Lead
to Improvement

“...the training or professional development services to be provided...will be of sufficient quality, intensity, and duration to lead to improvements in practice among the recipients of those services.”



SELECTION CRITERIA

PROJECT DESIGN CONT. (35 POINTS)

Addressing Shortage Areas

“The extent to which the proposed project will prepare personnel for fields in which shortages have been demonstrated.”

Addressing Needs of Disadvantaged Individuals

“The extent to which the proposed project will focus on serving or otherwise addressing the needs of disadvantaged individuals.”

SELECTION CRITERIA

QUALITY OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND PERSONNEL (20 POINTS)

Qualified Personnel

“The qualifications...of the project director, key project personnel, and project consultants or subcontractors.”

Clear Plan to Keep Project on Track

“...plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones...”

Sufficient Resources

“...sufficient and reasonable resources to effectively carry out the proposed project, including the project evaluation.”



SELECTION CRITERIA

SUSTAINABILITY (15 POINTS)

Impact Beyond
Grant Period

“...designed to build capacity and yield results that will extend beyond the period of Federal financial assistance.”

Impact Beyond
Grantee
Organization

“...likely to yield findings and products (such as information, materials, processes, or techniques) that may be used by other agencies and organizations.”

Dissemination of
Outcomes

“The extent to which the applicant will disseminate information about results and outcomes of the proposed project in ways that will enable others, including the public, to use the information or strategies.”



SELECTION CRITERIA

QUALITY OF THE PROJECT EVALUATION (20 POINTS)

Appropriate Methods

“...methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the proposed project.”

Quantitative and Qualitative Data

“...includes the use of objective performance measures that are clearly related to the intended outcomes of the project and will produce quantitative and qualitative data.”

Formative Data

“...evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes.”

Produce Rigorous Evidence

“...methods of evaluation will, if well-implemented, produce evidence about the project's effectiveness that would meet What Works Clearinghouse Evidence Standards without reservations.”



AGENDA

- Program Overview
- 2015 Competition Updates
- Eligibility Requirements
- Priorities
- Selection Criteria
- Application Process



APPLICATION PROCESS

SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

- Applications for the SEED competition must be submitted electronically using the Grants.gov site (www.Grants.gov).
- To submit an application in Grants.gov, your organization must have an active System for Award Management (SAM) registration.
 - Please verify that your SAM registration is still active

APPLICATION PROCESS

REGISTERING IN GRANTS.GOV

- In order to apply for a SEED grant, you must complete the Grants.gov registration process.
 - Go to the “Get Registered” link on the left side of the Grants.gov homepage.
 - Tutorial on this page instructs applicants how to complete the registration process.
- The registration process can take 3-5 business days (or up to 4 weeks if all steps are completed promptly)

So please register early!



APPLICATION PROCESS

APPLYING FOR A SEED GRANT

- To apply for a SEED grant, go to the “Apply for Grants” link on the left side of the Grants.gov homepage.
- Next, follow the step-by-step application instructions. The CFDA number you will enter for Step 1 is 84.367.
- Contact the Grants.gov helpdesk if you experience problems submitting your application.
 - Phone: 1-800-518-4726
 - Email: support@grants.gov

NOTE: You can download the application package without registering, but you cannot submit the application until registering.



APPLICATION PROCESS

CAUTIONS FROM PREVIOUS COMPETITIONS

- Upload PDFs
 - All files uploaded into Grants.gov must be in PDF format; all other file formats may not convert properly.

- Submit Early
 - Applications submitted after the April 13th (4:30:00 PM Washington, DC time) deadline will be rejected.

READ THE NOTICES and FAQs, UNDERSTAND THE REQUIREMENTS, AND PLAN AHEAD



APPLICATION PROCESS

APPLICATION TIMELINE

Date	Event
3/10/15	Pre-Application Q&A Webinar @ 2 PM
3/12/15	Intent to Apply Email Due
4/13/15	SEED Application Due

- See the SEED website for information about the Q&A Webinar
<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/edseed/index.html>
- Intent to apply is not required.
- Applications time stamped after 4:30:00 PM DC Time will not be reviewed.



IMPORTANT RESOURCES

- SEED Website:

(<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/edseed/index.html>)

- Notice Inviting Applications
- Application Package (sample)
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Applications from 2012 and 2013 Winners

All questions about SEED may be sent to SEED@ed.gov