

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)

FY 2011 Competition

Pre-Application Technical Assistance Workshop



Disclaimer

This document is a brief summary of the program regulations and application requirements. Do not rely solely on the information in this document. Please refer to the Notice Inviting Applications and the program regulations published in the Federal Register for additional information, as these are the official documents governing the competition.

Workshop Overview

- I. GEAR UP Overview
- II. GEAR UP Legislation and Regulations
- III. State Applications
- IV. Partnership Applications
- V. Matching Requirements
- VI. Budget
- VII. Selection Criteria
- VIII. Submission Logistics

I. GEAR UP Overview

Mission and Objectives

Mission: The GEAR UP program is a discretionary grant program which encourages applicants to provide support and maintain a commitment to eligible low-income students, including students with disabilities, to assist the students in obtaining a secondary school diploma and to prepare for and succeed in postsecondary education.

Objective 1: Increase the academic performance and preparation for post-secondary education for GEAR UP students.

Objective 2: Increase the rate of high school graduation and participation in post-secondary education for GEAR UP students.

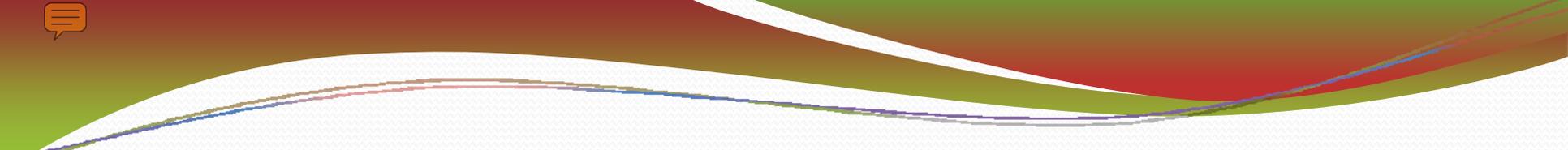
Objective 3: Increase GEAR UP students' and their families' knowledge of post-secondary education options, preparation and financing.

Outlook

The President has requested \$323,212,000 million for FY 2011.

Approximately \$90.1 million will be available for new state grants.

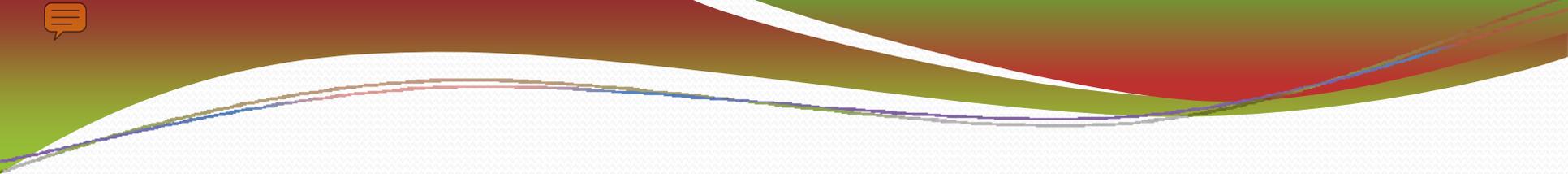
Approximately \$106,800,00 million will be available for new partnership grants.



Timeline

- Enactment of Higher Education Opportunity Act which amended the Higher Education Act of 1965 (August 2008)
- Negotiated rulemaking (February – April 2009)
- Publication of Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (March 2010)
- Publication of GEAR UP Federal program regulations (October 2010)
- Expected publication date of Notice Inviting Applications (Mid to Late May 2011)
- Tentative deadline date for submission of GEAR UP applications (mid- late June 2011)
- Announcement of awards (Summer/Fall 2011)

II. GEAR UP Legislation and Regulations



GEAR UP Legislation Highlights

**Title IV – Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended by the
Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA)
Federal GEAR UP Program
Section 404A – 404H**

- Six or Seven-Year Grants
- Match Waiver Requests
- Scholarship Requirements
- Seventh year follow students through first-year of college
- New and Revised Definitions
- Required Services and Permissible Services

Types of GEAR UP Grants

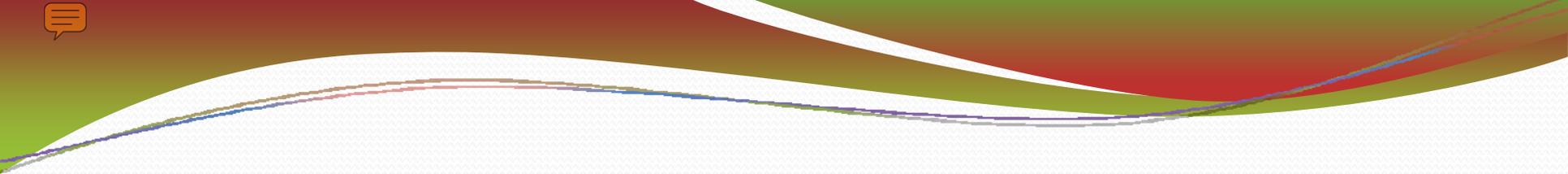
STATE GRANTS

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

GEAR UP provides six or seven-year grants to States and partnerships to provide services at high poverty middle and high schools.

GEAR UP AT-A-GLANCE

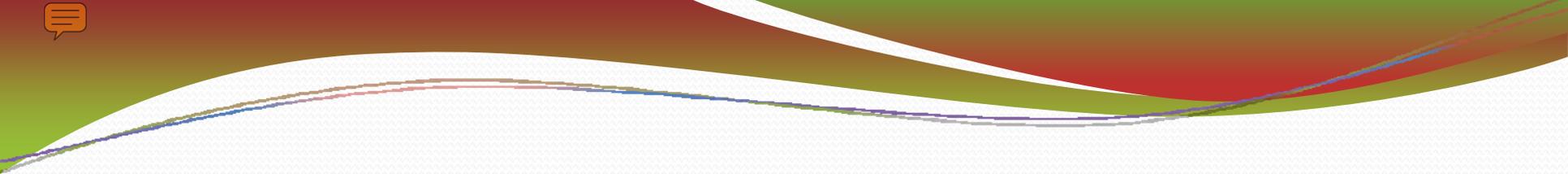
State	Partnership
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Designated by Governor2. \$5,000,000 maximum per year3. 8% cap on indirect costs4. Dollar-for-dollar match5. At least 50 percent of funds for required activities6. At least 50 percent of funds for scholarships, unless there is a waiver7. Cohort, Priority Students, and Public Housing Models	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. LEA or IHE2. \$800 per student maximum per year3. 8% cap on indirect costs4. Dollar-for-dollar match (unless there is waiver)5. Four partners: LEA, IHE and at least two community-based organizations6. Cohort or Public Housing Models



State Awards

- Range of Awards: \$1,000,000–\$5,000,000
- Average Size of Awards: \$4,750,000
- Maximum Award: \$5,000,000 per year

We will reject any state grant application that proposes an increase in its budget after the first 12-month budget period.



Partnership Awards

- Estimated Available Funds: \$109,525,000
- Estimated Range of Awards: \$100,000-\$7,000,000
- Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$1,140,885
- Maximum cost per student must not exceed **\$800** per participant. We will reject any application for a partnership grant that proposes a budget exceeding \$800 per student for a single budget period of 12 months.
- We also will reject any partnership grant application that proposes an increase in its budget after the first 12-month budget period.

III. State Applications

State Applicants



Eligible Applicant

- The governor of a state **must** designate in writing which state agency is the applicant and will administer the GEAR UP State grant.
- Each applicant must include a letter on official state letterhead, signed by the Governor, designating the state's applicant agency.
- However, the state may opt to have more than one entity to deliver the services.

Scholarships Requirements for State Applicants

All state grantees **MUST** establish or maintain a financial assistance program that awards scholarships to students.



The Secretary may waive this percentage requirement if the applicant demonstrates that it has another means of providing financial assistance to students.



State Applicants

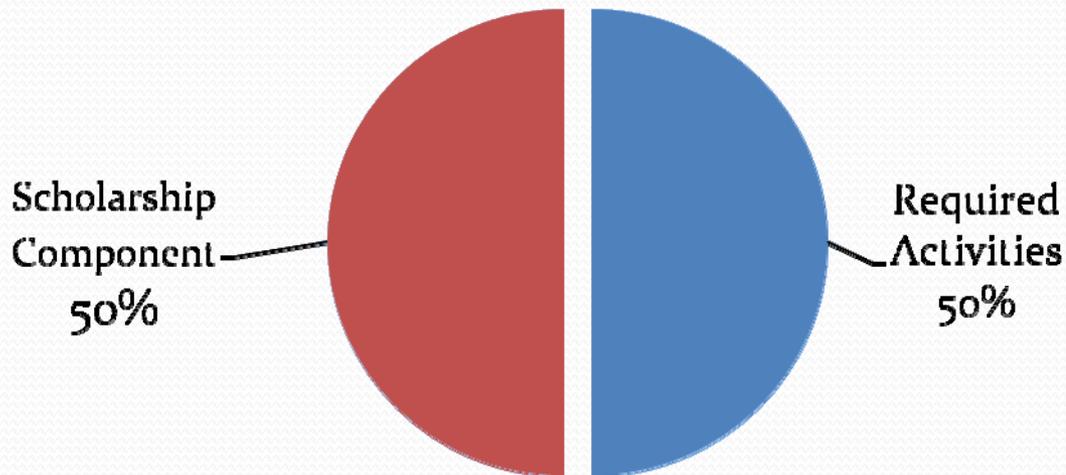
State grantees that have not received a waiver must hold in reserve scholarship funds of at least:

the minimum scholarship amount multiplied by the estimated number of eligible students

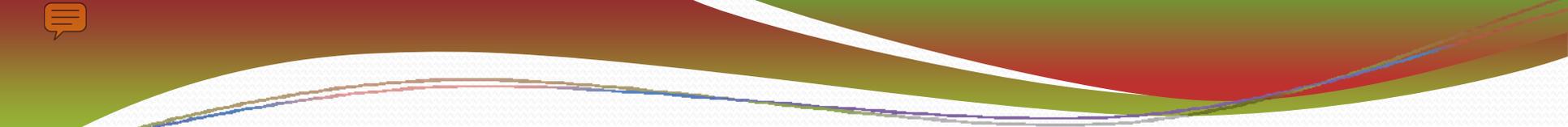
The regulations clarify that states using a priority approach may award scholarships directly rather than holding funds in reserve, if applicable.

State Applicants

GEAR UP STATE GRANTS



Note: The U.S. Dept of Education Secretary may waive this percentage requirement if the grantee demonstrates that it has another means of providing financial assistance to students.



State Applicants

Old Scholarship Statute:

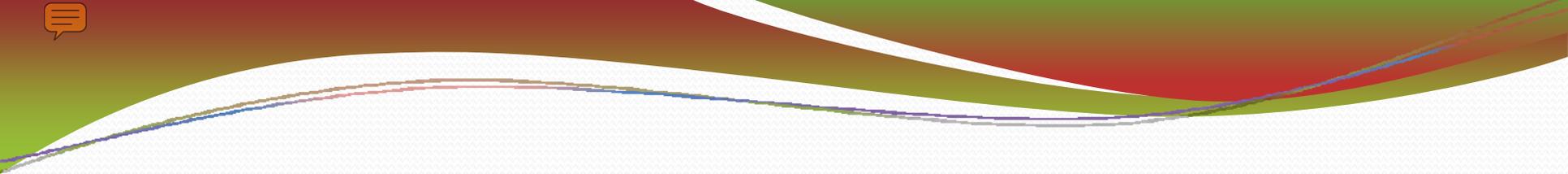
- Minimum award = Maximum Pell
- Could limit the numbers of students receiving awards by establishing specific criteria

New Scholarship Statute:

- Minimum award = Minimum Pell
- Must award scholarships to ***all*** eligible students

Eligible students are:

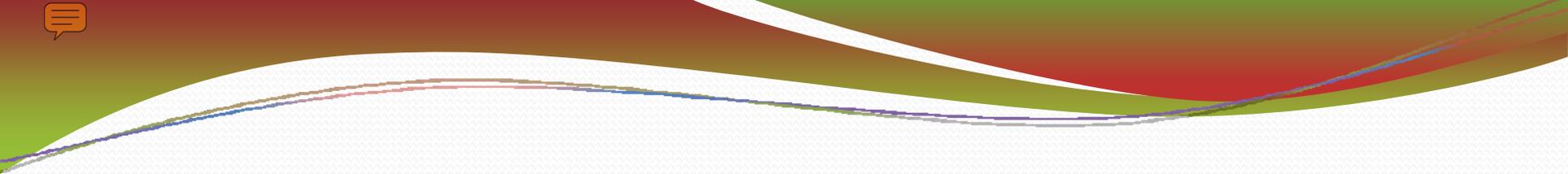
- GEAR UP students
- Less than 22 years of age
- With a high school diploma or recognized equivalent
- Who are enrolled or accepted for enrollment at Institutions of Higher Education (IHE).



State Applicants

Required Activities Component

- Provide information regarding financial aid for postsecondary education for participating students
- Encourage student enrollment in rigorous or challenging curricula, in order to reduce the need for remedial coursework at the postsecondary level
- Improve the number of participating students who obtain a secondary school diploma and complete application to enroll in a program of postsecondary education



State Applicants (cont'd)

Additional Permissible Activities

Some examples of permissible activities are:

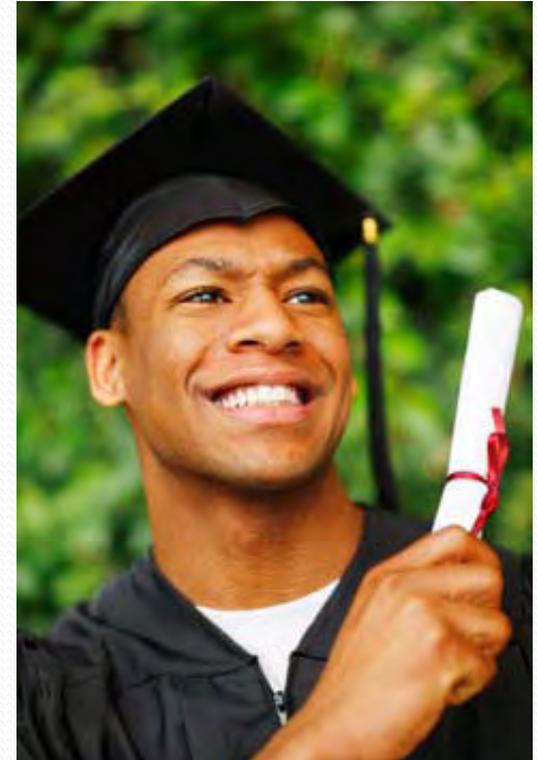
- Provide technical assistance to secondary schools that are located within the state or GEAR UP partnerships that are located within the state
- Provide professional development opportunities for individuals working with eligible students
- Provide strategies and activities that align efforts in the state to prepare eligible students to attend and succeed in postsecondary education

State Applicants

Permissible Activities

Some examples of permissible activities are:

- Providing tutors and mentors
- Providing outreach activities to recruit priority students
- Providing supportive services to eligible students
- Providing intensive extended school day, school year or summer programs
- Enable eligible students to enroll in Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate

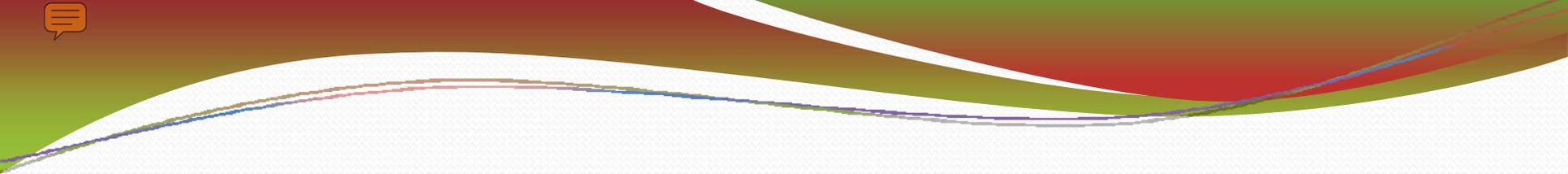


State Applicants

States may choose to serve:

- A cohort of students (whole-grade model)
- Priority students
- Public housing model





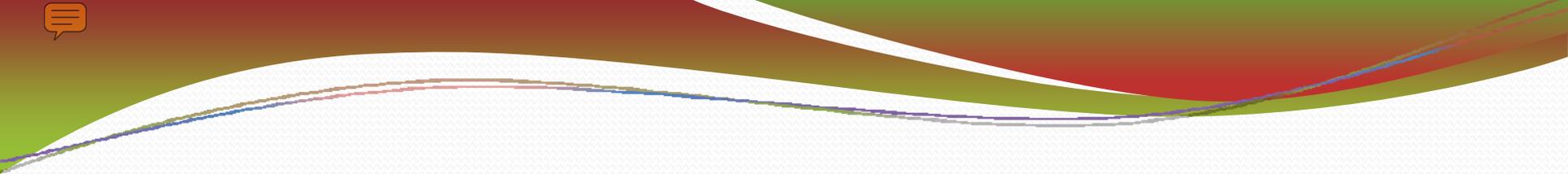
State Applicants

A Cohort of Students

(Whole-Grade Model)

The whole-grade model requires that services must be provided to all students in a participating grade level or cohort until that grade level moves on to the next school.

Once the cohort moves to another school, a GEAR UP project must continue to provide services to at least those students in the cohort who attend participating secondary schools that enroll a substantial majority of the students in the cohort.



State Applicants

Priority Students Model

Students in secondary schools through 12th grade who are eligible:

- (1) To be counted under section 1124(c) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Title I); (Free or Reduced Lunch)
- (2) Is eligible for assistance under a state program funded under Part A or E of Title IV of the Social Security Act
- (3) Eligible for assistance under subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act or
- (4) Otherwise considered to be a disconnected student

State Applicants

Public Housing Model

- An entire grade level of students, beginning no later than the 7th grade who reside in public housing as defined by the U.S. Housing Act of 1937.
- The Public Housing Agency in your area is the best source for obtaining information regarding which publicly assisted housing facilities are eligible under the GEAR UP program.
- Names and addresses of Public Housing Authorities can be obtained by calling the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) local offices or through the HUD website at <http://www.hud.gov>.

IV. Partnership Applications

Partnership Applicants

Eligible Applicant

- The fiscal agent/applicant must be either a Local Educational Agency (LEA) or an Institution of Higher Education (IHE).
- However, any member of the partnership may take the lead in identifying the partners, gaining their commitment, and organizing the effort.



Partnership Applicants

Partnership grants:

- May **NOT** use funds from a new GEAR UP grant to serve students originally served under a previous grant;
- May provide scholarships to students, but are not required to do so. (*Priority Points will not be given to partnership applications, which include a scholarship component.*)
- May implement either a cohort model or a public housing model--or a combination of both. However, they are not allowed to implement the priority model, only state projects.



Partnership Applicants

A partnership application must be submitted on behalf of a partnership between:

- One or more Local Educational Agencies (LEA);
- One or more degree-granting Institution of Higher Education (IHE); and
- Not less than **two other** community organizations or entities such as businesses, professional organizations, state agencies, faith-based organizations, family organizations, etc.

Partnership Applicants

Required Activities

- Provide information regarding financial aid for postsecondary education for participating students.
- Encourage student enrollment in rigorous or challenging curricula, in order to reduce the need for remedial coursework at the postsecondary level.
- Improve the number of participating students who obtain a secondary school diploma and complete an application to enroll in a program of postsecondary education.





Partnership Applicants

Permissible Activities

Some examples of permissible activities are:

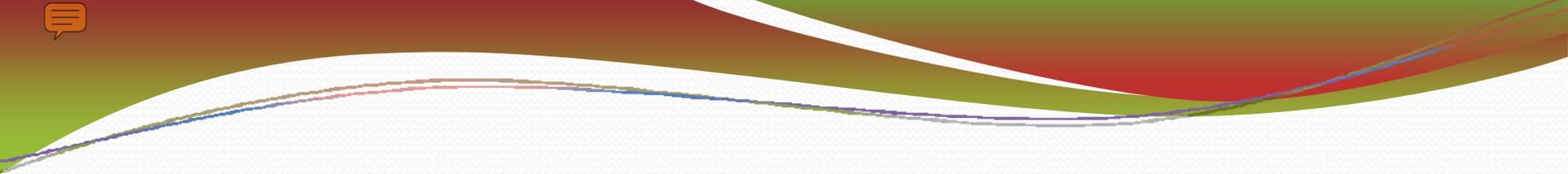
- Providing tutors and mentors
- Providing supportive services to eligible students
- Providing intensive extended school day, school year or summer programs
- Enable eligible students to enroll in Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate.



21st Century Scholar Certificate

- Both **State and Partnership** grants must provide all GEAR UP students a 21st Century Scholar Certificate.
- The reverse side of the certificate must include a summary of how much Federal aid may be available to students based on income.
- The grantees may use GEAR UP funds to design and print the certificates.

V. Matching Requirements



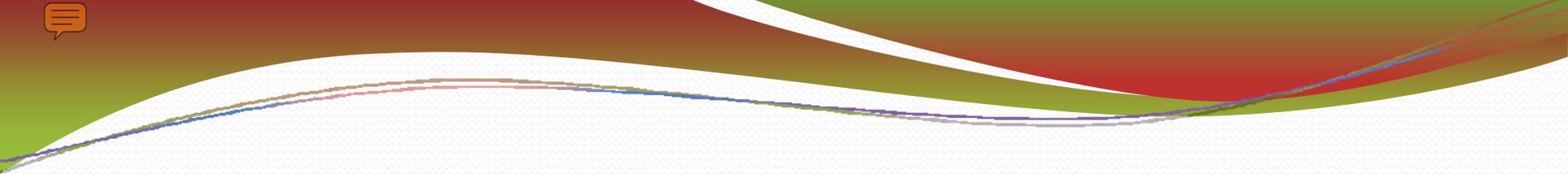
Matching Requirements

- Successful applicants are required to match the federal contribution **dollar-for-dollar**. Specifically, the non-Federal contribution must equal at least **50 percent of the total project costs**.
- Matching may be provided in-cash or in-kind and may be accrued over the full duration of the grant award period.
- However, applicants must make substantial progress towards meeting the matching requirement in each year of the grant.



Matching Requirements (con't)

- The applicant is the fiscal agent and is responsible for documenting all matching contributions for the entire grant period.
- Matching contributions must be made from any non-Federal source and must be documented.
- Documentation of matching contributions must contain adequate documentation for the claimed cost sharing and provide clear valuation of in-kind matching.



States and Matching

States **ARE NOT** eligible to waive any portion of the matching component.

Reduced Match Waiver Partnerships Only



Reduced Match Waiver Options

Partnerships Only:

- Reduced Match - 75 percent 
- Reduced Match - 50 percent 
- Reduced Match - 100 percent 
- Reduced Match - Scholarship 
- Reduced Match - 70 percent



Reduced Match Waiver Options

If you are requesting a match waiver, the budget in the application should reflect the reduced match for all six or seven requested years in the Federal Project Budget Summary Form.

Additionally, the application must include a **Match Waiver Request statement.**



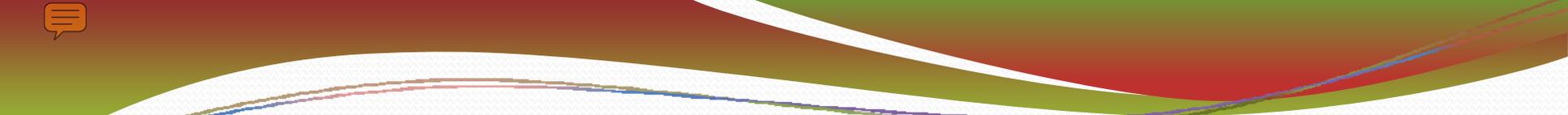
Reduced Match - Up to 75%

The Secretary may approve an applicant's request for a waiver of **up to 75 percent** of the matching requirement for up to two years if the applicant demonstrates in its application a significant economic hardship that stems from a specific exceptional or uncontrollable event such as, a natural disaster that has a devastating effect on the members of the partnership and the community in which the project would operate.



Reduced Match - Up to 50%

The Secretary may approve a partnership applicant's request for a waiver of up to **50 percent** of the matching requirement for up to two years if the applicant demonstrates in its application a pre-existing and an on-going significant economic hardship that precludes the applicant from meeting its matching requirement.



Reduced Match - Up to 50%

(cont'd)

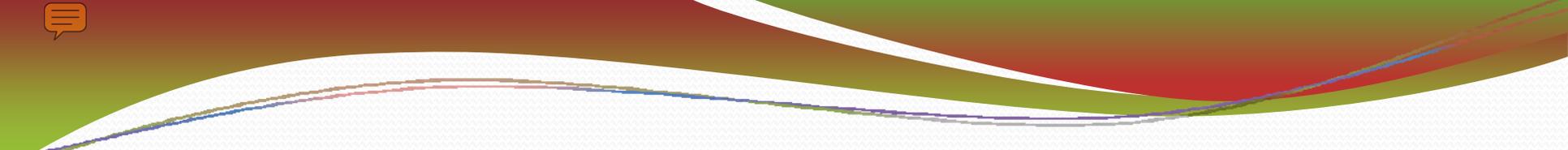
In determining whether an applicant is experiencing an on-going economic hardship that is significant enough to justify a waiver under this paragraph, the Secretary considers documentation of such factors as:

- severe distress in the local economy of the community to be served by the grant (few employers in the local area)
- local unemployment rates that are higher than the national average
- low or decreasing revenues for State and County governments in the area to be served by the grant



Reduced Match - Up to 50% (cont'd)

- Significant reductions in the budgets of institutions of higher education that are participating in the grant
- Other data that reflect a significant economic hardship for the geographic area served by the applicant



Reduced Match – 100% Waiver

At the time of application, the Secretary may provide tentative approval of the applicant's request for a waiver of the match for all remaining years of the project period. Grantees that receive tentative approval of a waiver for more than two years must submit to the Secretary every two years documentation that demonstrates that:

- The significant economic hardship upon which the waiver was granted still exists; and
- The grantee tried diligently but unsuccessfully to obtain contributions needed to meet the matching requirement.



Reduced Match - Scholarships

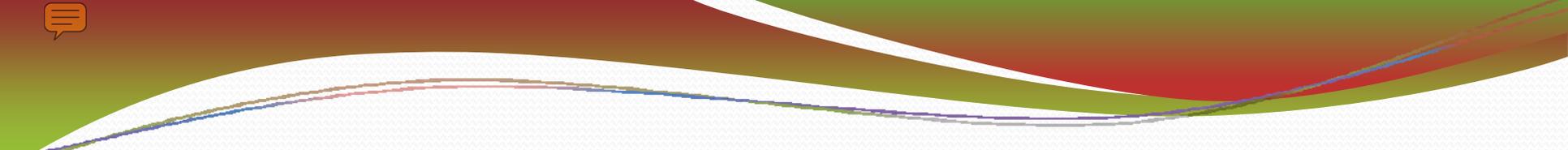
The Secretary may approve a partnership applicant's request in its application to match its contributions to its scholarship fund on the basis of two non-Federal dollars for every one Federal dollar of GEAR UP funds.



Reduced Match - Up to 70%

The Secretary may approve a request by a partnership applicant of up to 70 percent of the matching requirement. The applicant must meet all of the following four criteria:

- The partnership has three or fewer institutions of higher education as members.
- A fiscal agent that is eligible to receive funds under Title V, or part B of Title III

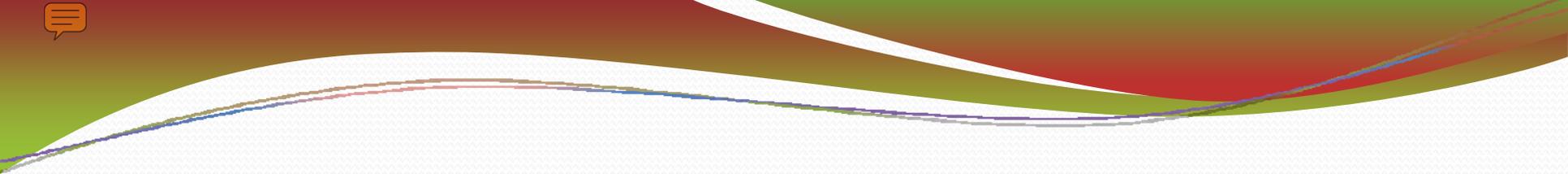


Reduced Match - Up to 70%

(cont'd)

- Only participating schools with a 7th grade cohort which at least 75 percent students are eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch
- Only local educational agencies in which at least 50 percent of the students enrolled are eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch

VI. Budget



Budget

- Provides a budget summary and within the budget narrative section, a detailed line-by-line description of all costs for the *first year only*.
- Must be reasonable, allocable and allowable.
- Must be cost-effective and adequate in relation to the objectives and number of target schools.

Budget

Indirect Costs:

- All grant recipients are limited to a maximum indirect cost rate of eight (8) percent of a modified total direct cost base or the amount permitted by its negotiated indirect cost rate agreement, whichever is less.
- Unrecovered indirect costs cannot be used to fulfill non-Federal matching requirements.



Budget

Each application must include a budget narrative for each budget line item for year one, which explains:

- The basis for estimating the costs of professional personnel salaries, benefits, project staff travel, materials and supplies, consultants and subcontracts, indirect costs, and any projected expenditures;
- How the major cost items relate to the proposed activities;
- The costs of evaluation; and
- A detailed description explaining the matching resources provided by members of the partnership.

Budget

- Applicants should plan and budget to attend one annual conference and one annual workshop sponsored/co-sponsored by GEAR UP.
- Applicants should also budget for participation in state-wide GEAR UP conferences.

STUDENTS TO BE SERVED FORM

For all State and Partnerships Grants using a cohort approach:

	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	YEAR 7
Kindergarten							
1 st							
2 nd							
3 rd							
4 th							
5 th							
6 th							
7 th	1000						
8 th		1000					
9 th			1000				
10 th				1000			
11 th					1000		
12 th						1000	
First Year IHE							500
Total Students Served	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	500

For all Partnerships Grants using a Cohort Approach:

Target School(s)	Grades levels offered in the school(s)
Martin Luther King Jr Middle School	6-8
Somerset High School	9-12

For those State Grants not using the cohort approach:

	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	YEAR 7
Total Students Served	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	1500

For Partnerships using a *school-based* cohort approach:

At least 50% of all the students in the participating school(s) from which the cohort(s) is drawn are *eligible* for free or reduced-priced lunch under the National School Lunch Act. ____ Yes ____ No

PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY FORM

FEDERAL FUNDS REQUESTED FROM THE GEAR UP GRANT PROGRAM

Direct Costs:	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	YEAR 7	TOTAL
1. Salaries and Wages								
2. Employee Benefits								
3. Travel								
4. Materials and Supplies								
5. Consultants & Contracts								
6. Other								
A. Total Direct Costs: <i>(Sum of lines 1-6)</i>								
B. Total Indirect Costs*: <i>(cannot be greater than 8% of Total Direct Costs)</i>								
C. Equipment								
D. Scholarships/ Tuition Assistance								
E. TOTAL REQUESTED <i>A + B+ C+D (Enter these figures in Item 7 of the Title Page)</i>								

All items must be addressed in the detailed budget justification

***Indirect Cost Information (To Be Completed by Your Business Office):**

If you are requesting reimbursement for indirect costs on line B, please answer the following questions:

(1) Do you have an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement approved by the Federal government? ___ Yes ___ No

(2) If yes, please provide the following information:

Period Covered by the Indirect Cost Rate Agreement:

From: ___/___/_____ To: ___/___/_____ (mm/dd/yyyy)

Approving Federal agency: ___ ED ___ Other (please specify): _____

(3) For Restricted Rate Programs (check one) -- Are you using a restricted indirect cost rate that: ___ Is included in your approved Indirect Cost Rate Agreement? or ___ Complies with 34 CFR 76.564(c)(2)?



MATCHING FUNDS PROVIDED BY NON-FEDERAL SOURCES

Direct Costs:	YEAR	TOTAL						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1. Salaries and Wages								
2. Employee Benefits								
3. Travel								
4. Materials and Supplies								
5. Consultants & Contracts								
6. Other								
A. Total Direct Costs: <i>(Sum of lines 1-6)</i>								
B. Total Indirect Costs: <i>(cannot be greater than 8% of Total Direct Costs)</i>								
C. Equipment								
A. Scholarships/ Tuition Assistance								
B. TOTAL MATCHING FUNDS FROM NON-FEDERAL SOURCES								

All items must be addressed in the detailed budget justification

VII. Selection Criteria

Selection Criteria

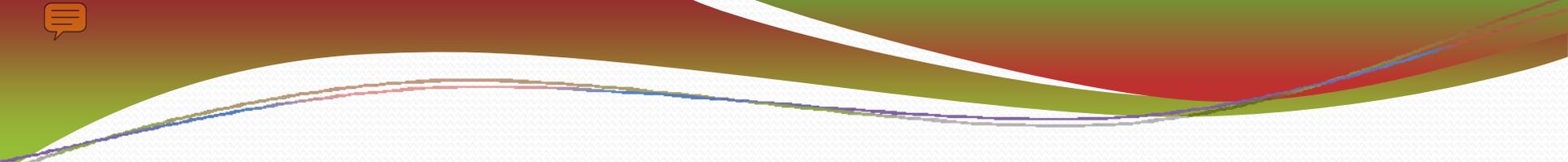
<u>Section</u>	<u>Maximum Points</u>
Need	15
Quality of Project Design	15
Quality of Project Services	15
Quality of Project Personnel	10
Quality of the Management Plan	10
Quality of Project Evaluation	20
Adequacy of Resources	15
Total	100

Additional Points

Competitive Preference Priorities (States Only)	12
Competitive Preference Priorities (Partnerships Only)	6

Need for the Project

Maximum Points: 15



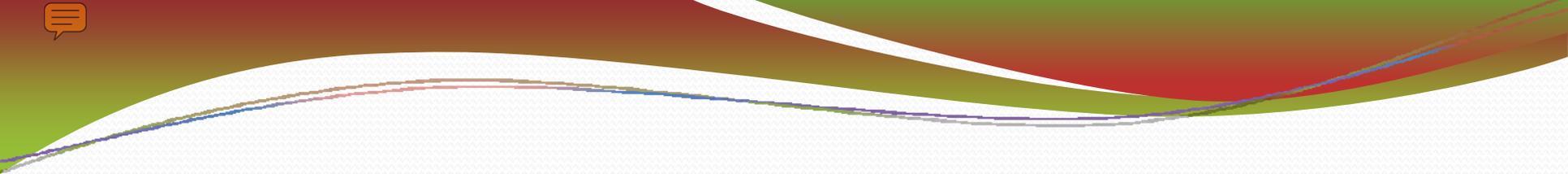
Need (15 points):

In determining the need for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

- The magnitude or severity of the problem to be addressed by the proposed project; and
- 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.

Quality of Project Design

Maximum Points: 15



Quality of Project Design(15 points)

In determining the quality of project design, the Secretary considers the following factors:

- The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the proposed project are clearly specified and measurable;
- The extent to which the project design reflects up-to-date research and the replication of effective practices; and
- The extent to which the project supports systemic changes from which future cohorts of students will benefit.

Quality of Project Services

Maximum Points: 15

Quality of Project Services (15 Points):

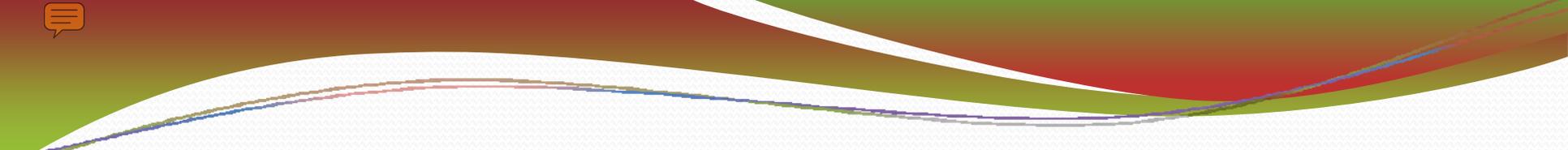
- In determining the quality of project services provided by the proposed project, the Secretary considers the quality and sufficiency of strategies for ensuring equal access and treatment for eligible project participants who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.

Quality Of Project Services (cont'd)

(15 POINTS):

In addition, the Secretary considers the following factors:

- The extent to which the project services are likely to increase the percentage of students taking rigorous courses that reflect challenging academic standards and reduce the need for remedial education at the postsecondary level;
- Increase the percentage of secondary school completion; increase students knowledge of and access to financial assistance for postsecondary education;



Quality Of Project Services (cont'd)

(15 POINTS):

- Increase the percentage of students enrolling and succeeding in postsecondary education; and appropriate to the needs of the intended recipients or beneficiaries of those services; and
- 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.

Quality of Project Personnel

Maximum Points: 10

Quality Of Project Personnel (10 Points):

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. In addition, the Secretary considers the following factors:

- The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of the project director or principal investigator, and
- The qualifications, including relevant training and experience of key personnel.



Quality of Management Plan

Maximum Points: 10

Quality Of The Management Plan (10 Points):

In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

- 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;
- The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project;

Quality Of The Management Plan (10 Points):

- The extent to which the time commitments of the project director and other key project personnel are appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives of the proposed project; and
- 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.



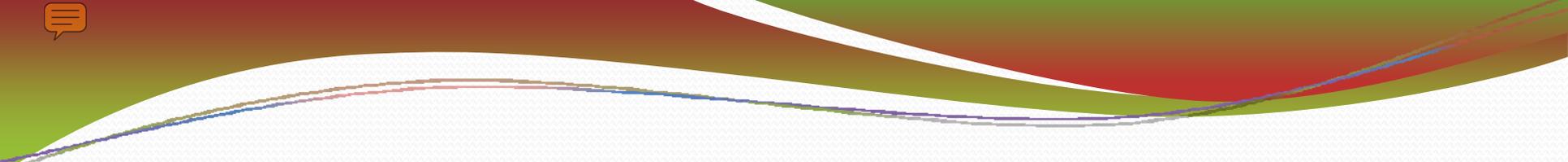
Quality of the Project Evaluation

Maximum Points: 20

Quality Of The Project Evaluation (20 Points):

In determining the quality of the project evaluation, the Secretary considers the following factors:

- The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the proposed project.
- 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;



Quality Of The Project Evaluation (20 Points):

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

Adequacy of Resources

Maximum Points: 15

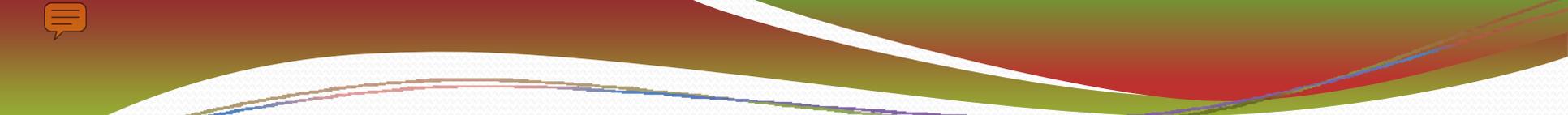
Adequacy Of Resources (15 Points):

In determining the adequacy of resources for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

- The adequacy of support, including facilities, equipment, supplies and other resources, from the applicant organization or the lead applicant organization;
- The relevance and demonstrated commitment of each partner in the proposed project to the implementation and success of the project;
- The extent to which the costs are reasonable in relation to the number of persons to be served and the anticipated results and benefits; and
- The potential for continued support of the project after Federal funding ends, including, as appropriate, the demonstrated commitment of appropriate entities to such support.

Competitive Preference Priorities (States Only)

Maximum Points: 12



Competitive Preference Priority #1

(2 Points) States Only

The Secretary may award up to 2 points for this priority depending upon how well the applicant meets the following factors:

- Has carried out a successful State GEAR UP grant prior to August 14, 2008, determined on the basis of data (including outcome data) submitted by the applicant as part of its annual and final performance reports, and the applicant's history of compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements; and **(1 point)**
- Has a prior, demonstrated commitment to early intervention leading to college access through collaboration and replication of successful strategies. **(1 point)**

Competitive Preference Priority #2 (3 Points):

The Secretary may award up to 3 points for this priority depending upon how well the applicant meets the following factors:

- The extent of improving student achievement in persistently lowest-achieving schools.
- The extent of increasing graduation rates and college enrollment rates for students in persistently lowest-achieving schools.



Competitive Preference Priority #3

(3 Points):

The Secretary may award up to 3 points for this priority depending upon how well the applicant meets the following factors:

- The extent of improving instructional practices, policies and student outcomes in elementary and secondary schools.
- The extent of improving postsecondary student outcomes relating to enrollment, persistence, and completion and leading to career success.
- The extent of providing reliable and comprehensive information on the implementation of Department of Education programs, and participant outcomes in these programs, especially by developing strategies with appropriate State agencies to use data from State longitudinal data systems or by obtaining data from reliable third-party sources.

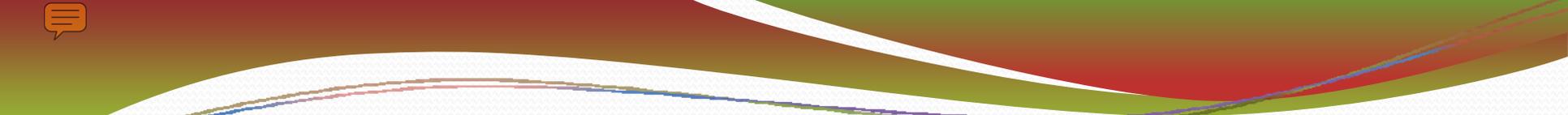
Competitive Preference Priority #4 (4 Points):

The Secretary may award up to 4 points for this priority depending upon how well the applicant meets the following factors:

- The development or implementation of curriculum or instructional materials aligned with those standards.
- The development or implementation of professional development or preparation programs aligned with those standards.
- Strategies that translate the standards into classroom practice.

Competitive Preference Priorities (Partnerships Only)

Maximum Points: 6



Competitive Preference Priority #1

(3 Points)

Partnerships ONLY

The Secretary may award up to 3 points for this priority depending upon how well the applicant meets the following factors:

- The extent of improving student achievement in persistently lowest-achieving schools
- The extent of increasing graduation rates and college enrollment rates in persistently lowest-achieving schools.
- The extent of providing services to students enrolled in persistently lowest-achieving schools.



Competitive Preference Priority #2 (3 Points)

Partnerships ONLY

The Secretary may award up to 3 points for this priority depending upon how well the applicant meets the following factors:

- The extent of improving instructional practices, policies and student outcomes in elementary and secondary schools.
- The extent of improving postsecondary student outcomes relating to enrollment, persistence, and completion and leading to career success.
- The extent of providing reliable and comprehensive information on the implementation of Department of Education programs and participant outcomes in these programs, especially by developing strategies with appropriate State agencies to use data from State longitudinal data systems or by obtaining data from reliable third-party sources.

Invitational Priority

Invitational Priority

States and Partnerships (No Points)

Financial Access and Financial Saving Accounts

The Secretary invites applications that propose, as part of their strategy for ensuring secondary school completion and post secondary enrollment of participating students, financial and economic literacy activities that include:

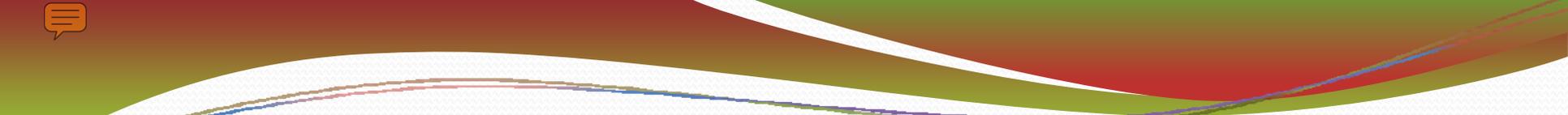
- Creation or enhancement of partnerships with financial institutions and/or other stakeholders that would (1) provide students with safe and affordable deposit accounts at Federally-insured banks or credit unions, or other safe, affordable, and appropriate financial services, and (2) evaluate the success of these partnerships in meeting this objective ; and
- Creation of financial or other incentives to increase savings of GEAR UP students and families of participating GEAR UP students.

VIII. Submission Logistics

Grant Writing Reminders

- Applicants cannot use Federal funds to prepare an application.
- Applicants cannot use Federal funds to attend pre-application workshops.
- Federal funds may not be used to lobby.





Additional Documents

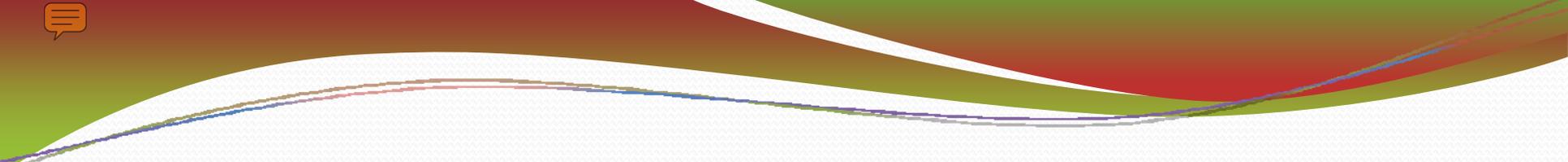
- Narrative section is limited to 40 pages
- Additional documents that *Do Not* count toward page limit:
 - Application Face Sheet (SF-424)
 - Table of Contents
 - Abstract (one page only)
 - GEAR UP Partner Identification Forms
 - Student Eligibility for Free or Reduced- Price Lunch
 - Federal Budget Forms
 - Budget Waiver Request (if applicable)
 - Competitive Preference and Invitational Priorities
 - Assurances, certifications, and survey forms

Note: Do not submit any appendices



Formatting

- **Double space** (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, captions, and all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.
- Use a font that is either **12 point** or larger
- No smaller than **10 pitch** (characters per inch)
- Use only **Times New Roman, Courier, Courier New or Arial.**



Application Process

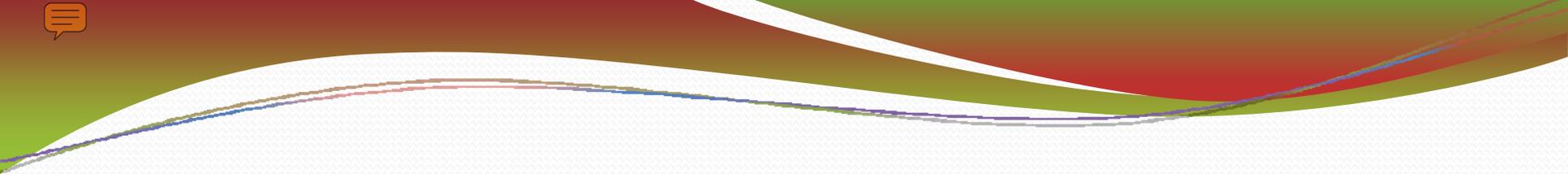
- Submit application via www.Grants.gov
- A panel of three peer reviewers, who are not federal employees, will review the application.
- The panel will prepare an evaluation of the application and assign points to each selection criterion.
- The highest score an application may receive is 100.
(not including competitive preference priority points)
- Scores from the three reviewers will be averaged together to determine one numeric score for the application.

Application Process (cont'd)

- Final scores are ranked in order, highest to lowest.
- All successful applicants will receive a six or seven year grant award.

Grants.gov

- Grants.gov is an electronic portal that all applicants **MUST** use to submit applications.
- Be sure to read all instructions carefully and refer all technical questions to the Grants.gov Help Desk.
-  New this year: *only .PDF* file types will be accepted.



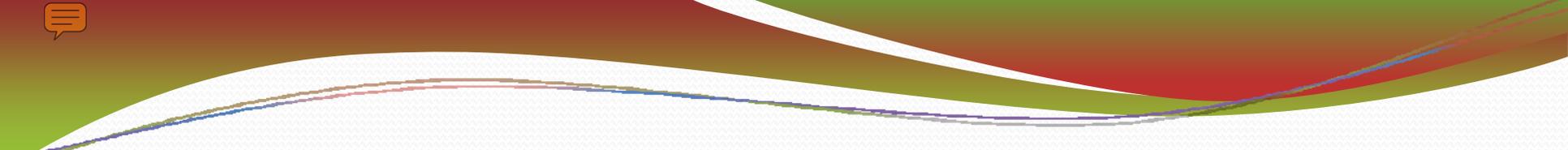
Applications will be **REJECTED** if:

- A complete application is not submitted by the established date and time.
- 40-page limit is exceeded.
- Incorrect formatting is used.
- A paper copy is submitted without an approved waiver of electronic submission.
- Budget exceeds the maximum amount. (States Only)
- Applicant proposes a budget that exceeds the maximum cost per student of \$800. (Partnerships Only)

Tips to Submit Successfully

- Carefully Review Application Notices & Instructions
- **REGISTER EARLY** with www.grants.gov.
- **SUBMIT EARLY**
 - **Important: If you start uploading your application before 4:30pm (Washington, D.C. time) on the application deadline date, and you do not finish uploading until after 4:30pm, your application will be marked late and will not be read.**
- Verify your application is submitted completely
- Save and keep your own copy
- Receive Email Confirmation
- **Only .PDF** file types will be accepted





Important Reminder

Keep in mind that information about this competition contained in the Federal Register Notice is the definitive information about the program's requirements. This includes, but is not limited to, eligibility requirements, selection criteria, application submissions, waiver requests, grounds for exclusion from the competition, page limits and font sizes. If there is any conflict between information provided here today, contained in the application package, or otherwise conveyed to you verbally and in writing, the criteria in the Notice Inviting Applications published in the Federal Register **ALWAYS** takes precedence.



Questions and Answers