





# Before You Begin

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- Read the Federal Register Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) to ensure that your prospective application is consistent with the overall purpose of Title VI international education programs and the specific purpose of the International Research and Studies (IRS) program



# Before You Begin

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**CLOSING DATE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2020**

**11:59:59 P.M.**

**Federal Funding Opportunity Number:**

**ED-GRANTS-080620-001**



# IRS PROGRAM PURPOSE

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The IRS program provides grants to institutions, public and private agencies, organizations, and individuals to conduct research and studies to improve and strengthen instruction in modern foreign languages, area studies, and other international fields.



# IRS PROGRAM PURPOSE

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The research and studies may include, but are not limited to—

- (a) Studies and surveys to determine needs for increased or improved instruction in modern foreign languages, area studies, or other international fields, including the demand for foreign language, area, or other international specialists in government, education, and the private sector;
- (b) Research on more effective methods of providing instruction and achieving competency in foreign languages, area studies, or other international fields;



# IRS PROGRAM PURPOSE

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(c) Research on applying performance tests and standards across all areas of foreign language instruction and classroom use;

(d) Developing and publishing specialized materials for use in foreign language, area studies, and other international fields or for training foreign language, area, and other international specialists;



# IRS PROGRAM PURPOSE

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(e) Studies and surveys to assess the use of graduates of programs supported under title VI of the HEA by governmental, educational, and private-sector organizations and other studies assessing the outcomes and effectiveness of supported programs;

(f) Comparative studies of the effectiveness of strategies to provide international capabilities at institutions of higher education;



# IRS PROGRAM PURPOSE

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(g) Evaluation of the extent to which programs assisted under title VI of the HEA that address national needs would not otherwise be offered;

(h) Studies and surveys of the use of technologies in foreign language, area studies, and international studies programs;



# IRS PROGRAM PURPOSE

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- (i) Studies and evaluations of effective practices in the dissemination of international information, materials, research, teaching strategies, and testing techniques throughout the educational community, including elementary and secondary schools;
  
- (j) Evaluations of the extent to which programs assisted under title VI of the HEA reflect diverse perspectives and a wide range of views and generate debate on world regions and international affairs, as described in the grantee's application;



# IRS PROGRAM PURPOSE

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(k) Systematic collection, analysis, and dissemination of data that contribute to achieving the purposes of title VI, part A of the HEA; and

(l) Support for programs or activities to make data collected, analyzed, or disseminated under 20 U.S.C. 1125 publicly available and easy to understand.



# IRS COMPETITIVE PREFERENCE PRIORITIES

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The Department invites applicants to submit an application to request support for *either* a **Research, Studies, and Surveys project** or a **Specialized Instructional Materials** project. Applicants must provide in section 15 of the SF 424 Application for Federal Assistance, a description that clearly identifies the type of IRS project for which funding is requested.



# IRS COMPETITIVE PREFERENCE PRIORITIES

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## Competitive Preference Priority 1. (5 points)

Research on more effective methods of providing instruction and achieving competency in modern foreign languages, area studies, or other international fields.



# IRS COMPETITIVE PREFERENCE PRIORITIES

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## Competitive Preference Priority 2. (5 points)

Studies and surveys to assess the use of graduates of programs supported under title VI of the HEA by governmental, educational, and private-sector organizations and other studies assessing the outcomes and effectiveness of supported programs.



# IRS COMPETITIVE PREFERENCE PRIORITIES

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## Competitive Preference Priority 3. (5 points)

Developing and publishing specialized materials for use in foreign language, area studies, and other international fields or for training foreign language, area, and other international specialists.



# IRS SELECTION CRITERIA

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The Secretary uses the following criteria to evaluate applications for **a research project, study, or a survey**:

(a) Plan of operation (up to 10 points).

The Secretary reviews each application for information that shows the quality of the plan of operation for the project.

The Secretary looks for information that shows—

- (i) High quality in the design of the project;
- (ii) An effective plan of management that ensures proper and efficient administration of the project;
- (iii) A clear description of how the objectives of the project relate to the purposes of the program;



# IRS SELECTION CRITERIA

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(iv) The way the applicant plans to use its resources and personnel to achieve each objective; and

(v) A clear description of how the applicant will provide equal access and treatment for eligible project participants who are members of groups that have been traditionally underrepresented, such as members of racial or ethnic minority groups, women, and handicapped persons.



# IRS SELECTION CRITERIA

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## a research project, study, or a survey (cont.):

### (b) Quality of key personnel (up to 10 points).

(1) The Secretary reviews each application for information that shows the quality of the key personnel the applicant plans to use on the project.

(2) The Secretary looks for information that shows—

(i) The qualifications of the project director (if one is to be used);

(ii) The qualifications of each of the other key personnel to be used in the project. In the case of faculty, the qualifications of the faculty and the degree to which that faculty is directly involved in the actual teaching and supervision of students;



# IRS SELECTION CRITERIA

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## a research project, study, or a survey (cont.):

- (iii) The time that each person referred to in paragraphs (b)(2)(i) and (ii) of this section plans to commit to the project; and
- (iv) The extent to which the applicant, as part of its nondiscriminatory employment practices, encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have been traditionally underrepresented, such as members of racial or ethnic minority groups, women, handicapped persons, and the elderly.



# IRS SELECTION CRITERIA

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## a research project, study, or a survey (cont.):

(3) To determine the qualifications of a person, the Secretary considers evidence of past experience and training, in fields related to the objectives of the project, as well as other information that the applicant provides.



# IRS SELECTION CRITERIA

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## a research project, study, or a survey (cont.):

### (c) Budget and cost effectiveness (up to 5 points).

(1) The Secretary reviews each application for information that shows that the project has an adequate budget and is cost effective.

(2) The Secretary looks for information that shows—

(i) The budget for the project is adequate to support the project activities; and

(ii) Costs are reasonable in relation to the objectives of the project.



# IRS SELECTION CRITERIA

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## a research project, study, or a survey (cont.):

(d) Evaluation plan (up to 10 points).

(1) The Secretary reviews each application for information that shows the quality of the evaluation plan for the project.

(2) The Secretary looks for information that shows methods of evaluation that are appropriate for the project and, to the extent possible, are objective and produce data that are quantifiable.



# IRS SELECTION CRITERIA

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## a research project, study, or a survey (cont.):

### (e) Adequacy of resources (up to 5 points).

(1) The Secretary reviews each application for information that shows that the applicant plans to devote adequate resources to the project.

(2) The Secretary looks for information that shows—

(i) Other than library, facilities that the applicant plans to use are adequate (language laboratory, museums, etc.); and



# IRS SELECTION CRITERIA

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## a research project, study, or a survey (cont.):

(ii) The equipment and supplies that the applicant plans to use are adequate.

(f) Need for the project (up to 10 points).

The Secretary reviews each application for information that shows—

(1) A need for the proposed project in the field of study on which the project focuses; and



# IRS SELECTION CRITERIA

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## a research project, study, or a survey (cont.):

(2) That the proposed project will provide information about the present and future needs of the United States for study in foreign language and other international fields.

(g) Usefulness of expected results (up to 10 points).

The Secretary reviews each application for information that shows the extent to which the results of the proposed project are likely to be used by other research projects or programs with similar objectives.



# IRS SELECTION CRITERIA

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## a research project, study, or a survey (cont.):

(h) Development of new knowledge (up to 10 points).

The Secretary reviews each application for information that shows that the extent to which the proposed project is likely to develop new knowledge that will contribute to the purposes of the International Education Program authorized by part A of title VI of the HEA.



# IRS SELECTION CRITERIA

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## a research project, study, or a survey (cont.):

(i) Formulation of problems and knowledge of related research (up to 10 points).

The Secretary reviews each application for information that shows that problems, questions, or hypotheses to be dealt with by the applicant—

- (1) Are well formulated; and
- (2) Reflect adequate knowledge of related research.



# IRS SELECTION CRITERIA

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## a research project, study, or a survey (cont.):

(j) Specificity of statement of procedures (up to 5 points).

The Secretary reviews each application for the specificity and completeness of the statement of procedures to be followed, including a discussion of such components as sampling techniques, controls, data to be gathered, and statistical and other analyses to be undertaken.



# IRS SELECTION CRITERIA

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## a research project, study, or a survey (cont.):

statistical and other analyses to be undertaken.

(k) Adequacy of methodology and scope of project (up to 10 points).

The Secretary reviews each application for information that shows—

- (1) The adequacy of the proposed teaching, testing, and research methodology; and
- (2) The size, scope, and duration of the proposed project.



# IRS SELECTION CRITERIA

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The Secretary uses the following criteria to evaluate applications **for development of specialized instructional materials:**

**NOTE: The following criteria previously discussed are applicable to specialized instructional materials projects:**

- (a) Plan of operation
- (b) Key Personnel
- (c) Budget and cost effectiveness
- (d) Evaluation plan
- (e) Adequacy of resources



# IRS SELECTION CRITERIA

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The Secretary uses the following criteria to evaluate applications **for development of specialized instructional material**

(f) Need for the project (up to 10 points).

(1) The Secretary reviews each application for information that shows that—

The proposed materials are needed in the educational field of study on which the project focuses; and

(2) The language or languages, the area, region, or country, or the issues or studies for which the materials are to be developed, are of sufficient priority and significance to the national interest to warrant financial support by the Federal Government.



# IRS SELECTION CRITERIA

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## development of specialized instructional material (cont.)

(g) Potential for the use of materials in other programs (up to 10 points).

The Secretary reviews each application for information that shows the extent to which the proposed materials may be used elsewhere in the United States.



# IRS SELECTION CRITERIA

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## development of specialized instructional material (cont.)

(h) Account of related materials (up to 5 points).

(1) The Secretary reviews each application for information that shows that—

All existing related or similar materials have been accounted for and the critical commentary on their adequacy is appropriate and accurate; and

(2) The proposed materials will not duplicate any existing adequate materials.



# IRS SELECTION CRITERIA

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## development of specialized instructional material (cont.)

(i) Likelihood of achieving results (up to 10 points).

The Secretary reviews each application for information that shows that the outlined methods and procedures for preparing the materials are practicable and can be expected to produce the anticipated results.



# IRS SELECTION CRITERIA

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## development of specialized instructional material (cont.)

(j) Expected contribution to other programs (up to 10 points).  
The Secretary reviews each application for information that shows the extent to which the proposed work may contribute significantly to strengthening, expanding, or improving programs of foreign language studies, area studies, or international studies in the United States.



# IRS SELECTION CRITERIA

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## development of specialized instructional material (cont.)

(k) Description of final form of materials (up to 5 points).

The Secretary reviews each application for information that shows a high degree of specificity in the description of the contents and final form of the proposed materials.



# IRS SELECTION CRITERIA

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## development of specialized instructional material (cont.)

(I) Provisions for pretesting and revision (up to 5 points).

The Secretary reviews each application for information that shows that adequate provision has been made for—

(1) Pretesting the proposed materials; and

(2) If necessary, revising the proposed materials before publication.



# Project Abstract

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- ***Project Abstract:*** The project abstract introduces the peer reviewers to the project that you are proposing for FYs 2020-2022. It should clearly describe how the IRS proposed activities are consistent with the program purpose. It should also include information about the Competitive Preference Priority that the application addresses, the proposed project methodology, and the project's anticipated outcomes and impact.
- The project abstract is not included in the suggested 30 pages.
- The suggested page length for the abstract is one page.
- The project abstract may be single-spaced.



# Project Narrative

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- The application/project narrative is Part III of the application where you provide the responses to the selection criteria that I have discussed.



# Budget Line Items (ED 524)

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- Personnel
- Fringe Benefits
- Travel (COVID-19 impacts)
- Supplies
- Contractual
- Other
- Total Direct Costs
- Indirect Costs (unrestricted)
- Total Costs



# FY 2020 IRS Allocation

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The ***estimated*** amounts for the FY 2020 competition are below.

Estimated available funds: \$900,000

Estimated range of awards: \$36,000-\$60,000 for each 12-month budget period

Estimated average size of awards: \$48,000

Estimated number of awards: 18

*Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.*

Project Period: Up to 36 months.



# FY 2020-2022 IRS Grant Cycle

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Project Period: Up to 36 months.

- YEAR 1: October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021
- YEAR 2: October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022
- YEAR 3: October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023



# Technical Assistance Tips

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- Provide comprehensive information, but at the same time be as succinct as possible
- Provide information in the place where it is requested
- Prepare reasonable budgets
- Proofread for consistency in information



# IRS Application Appendices

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- Curriculum Vitae
- Letters of support
- Project timeline
- Information to demonstrate compliance with Section 427 of GEPA
- Certification of Eligibility (ED 80-0016) (required for *individual* applicants only)



# The Peer Review

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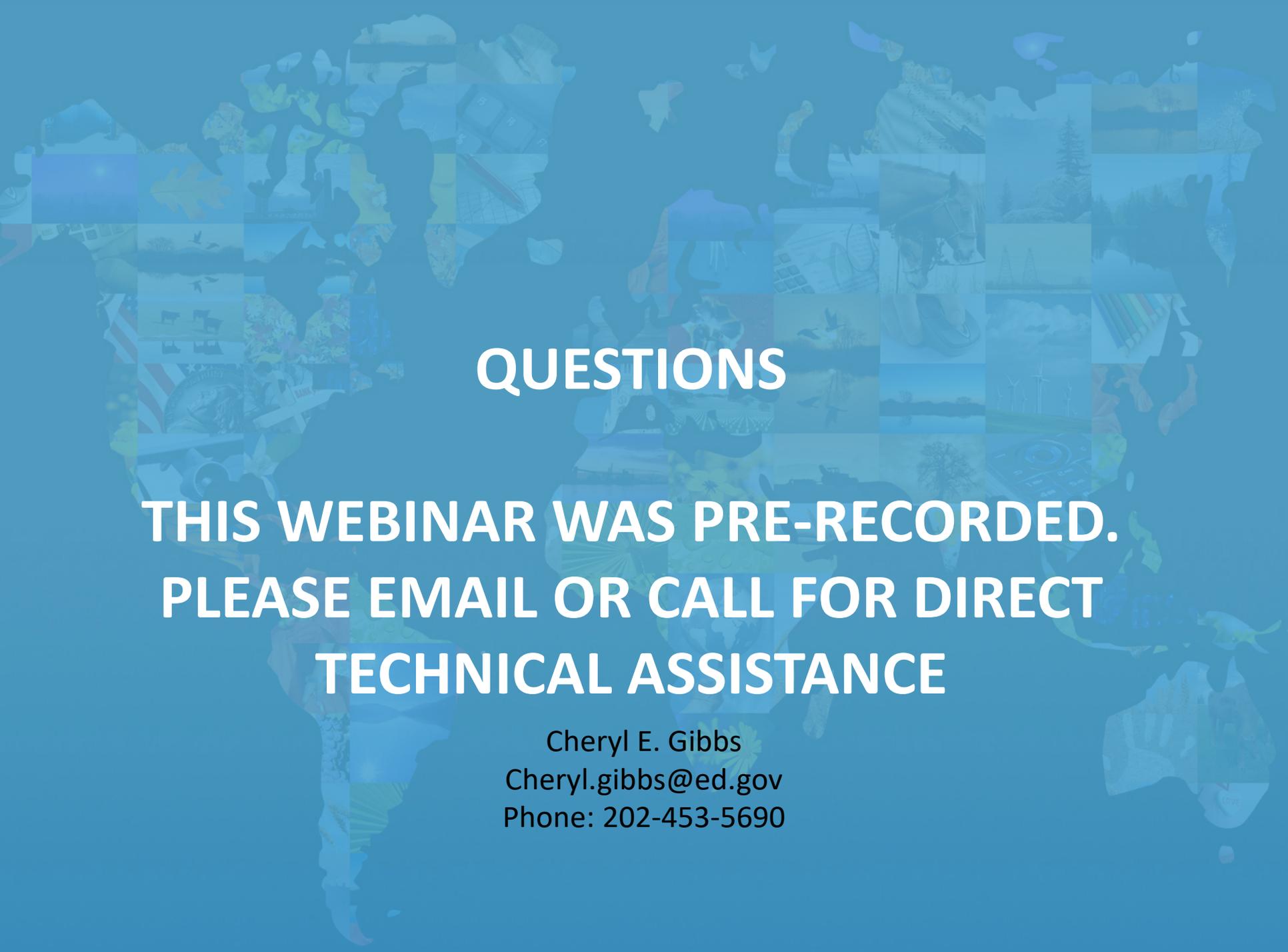
- Peer reviewers will provide comments about the strengths and/or weaknesses of the proposal.
- Use the full range of the scoring rubrics when assigning scores. If points are deducted, they must explain.
- Provide comments for perfect scores--applicants appreciate knowing what aspects of their responses impressed the reviewers.
- Assigned scores should clearly distinguish “unaddressed” from “missing” information, i.e., information might be provided but did not adequately address the criterion. Missing is non-existent.



# The Peer Review

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- Peer Review Dates: September 10 -25
- Peer Reviewers: 12 peer reviewers (six panels)
- Panel Monitors: IFLE program specialists will oversee each peer review discussion
- Award Notifications: September 30



# QUESTIONS

**THIS WEBINAR WAS PRE-RECORDED.  
PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL FOR DIRECT  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

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