



OPENING DOORS, EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES:

**PRE-APPLICATION WEBINAR
JANUARY 5, 2017**

NOTE: THESE SLIDES ARE INTENDED AS A GUIDE ONLY. PLEASE REFER TO THE OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS PUBLISHED IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER.

AGENDA

- Purpose
- Eligibility
- Absolute Priorities
- Competitive Preference Priorities
- Estimated Awards
- Requirements
- Selection Criteria
- Application Processes
- Questions
- Resources



PURPOSE

- This program supports local educational agencies (LEAs) and their communities in preparing to increase socioeconomic diversity as a means to improve the achievement of students in the lowest-performing schools.
- Grantees will analyze challenges and devise solutions for increasing socioeconomic diversity in their schools and create a blueprint detailing the plans to increase diversity.
- Blueprints will provide the following:
 - (1) an implementation plan for LEAs and their communities
 - (2) a resource for policy decisions
 - (3) a resource for other communities

More information about diversity efforts across the Department of Education:

<http://www.ed.gov/diversity-opportunity>



ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- An LEA with at least one SIG School or SIG-Eligible School

OR

- A consortium of LEAs, **each** with at least one SIG School or SIG-Eligible School in each member LEA
 - Must submit all Memoranda of Understanding or other binding agreements consistent with [34 CFR 75.128](#)
- See FAQs 3 through 8



ABSOLUTE PRIORITIES

Applicants must meet Absolute Priority 1 and either 2 or 3.

- **Absolute Priority 1:** Increasing Socioeconomic Diversity in Schools.

If considering racial or ethnic diversity in addition to socioeconomic status, please consult your legal counsel and refer to prior Federal guidance:

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/guidance-ese-201111.html> (see FAQ 13).

- **Absolute Priority 2:** Improving Schools by Increasing Student Diversity--Blueprint
- **Absolute Priority 3:** Improving Schools by Increasing Student Diversity--Blueprint and Pre-implementation
 - Must provide evidence of existing diversity plans (see FAQ 21).



COMPETITIVE PREFERENCE PRIORITIES

- **Competitive Preference Priority 1: Blueprint for Inter-District Efforts to Increase Student Diversity** (See FAQ 9)
 - Applicants may receive up to six additional points total based on the strength of the commitment of the LEAs to the partnership.
 - Applicants must submit a Memoranda of Understanding or letter of commitment signed by the superintendent or chief executive officer of each LEA that describes each LEA's proposed commitment.
- **Competitive Preference Priority 2: Efforts to Increase Student Diversity in Rural Schools**
 - Applicants may receive three additional points for proposing to serve rural schools.
 - Applicants must provide the school name and National Center for Education Statistics number (<http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch/>).



ESTIMATED FUNDING AND AWARDS

- **Estimated Available Funds:** \$12,000,000
- **Estimated Range of Awards:**
 - Absolute Priority 2: \$350,000-\$750,000
 - Absolute Priority 3: \$500,000-\$1,500,000
- **Estimated Average Size of Awards:**
 - Absolute Priority 2: \$500,000
 - Absolute Priority 3: \$1,000,000
- **Estimated Number of Awards:** 8-20
- **Project Period:** Up to 26 months



APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS (SLIDE 1 OF 2)

TO BE SUBMITTED WITH THE APPLICATION

- Assurances
 - To participate in a Community of Practice and one Project Directors' Meeting
 - To participate in program evaluation
 - To submit blueprint within the project period
- Plan to develop a blueprint addressing the following:
 - need for the project, significance of the project, project design, project personnel, management plan, and resources
- MOUs or other binding agreements, as applicable
- Signature of LEA(s) superintendent or chief executive officer



APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS (SLIDE 2 OF 2)

IF APPLYING UNDER ABSOLUTE PRIORITY 3, MUST SUBMIT WITH APPLICATION

- Pre-Implementation Activities Plan including a description of:
 - each Pre-Implementation Activity (including how it will promote student diversity in the schools to be served, how it will contribute to full implementation of the blueprint, a theory of action and the evidence base, anticipated challenges and potential solutions, timeline, and costs);
 - anticipated impact;
 - current or recent student diversity plans; and
 - plans to leverage new or existing partnerships.
- Refer to the NIA for the definition of Pre-Implementation Activities and details about the Adequacy of Resources selection criteria (also see FAQ 25 on allowable costs).



PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

TO BE SUBMITTED WITHIN THE GRANT PERIOD

Grantees' submission of a blueprint must include the following:

- Needs analysis
- School selection
- Diversity goals through 2025-2026
- Description of selected strategies
- Anticipated impact
- Plans for community engagements, parental involvement, and LEA and school staff capacity building
- Description of plans to leverage new or existing partnerships
- Implementation plan
- Description of potential opportunities for implementation

See FAQs 18-20



SELECTION CRITERIA

- Need for the project (up to 25 points)
- Significance (up to 15 points)
- Quality of project design (up to 30 points)
- Quality of project personnel (up to 10 points)
- Quality of management plan (up to 15 points)
- Adequacy of resources (up to 5 points)



APPLICATION PROCESSES

NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY

- Submission of a notice of intent to apply is optional.
- Email openingdoors@ed.gov the following information:
 - Name of the district(s) that will be applying
 - Contact person(s), including email and telephone number
 - Which absolute priorities you plan to apply under
 - Any competitive preference priorities you plan to apply for
- Please submit the intent to apply by next Friday, January 13, 2017.



APPLICATION PROCESSES

REGISTERING ON GRANTS.GOV

- Applications for grants under this competition must be submitted electronically using www.Grants.gov.
- In order to apply for a grant, you must (if you have not already done so) complete the Grants.gov registration process.
 - See the “Applicants” link on the bottom of Grants.gov and click “Organization Registration”
- The registration process can take between three to five business days (or as long as four weeks if all steps are not completed in a timely manner).
- In addition to registering on grants.gov, you must also have an Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number.



APPLICATION PROCESSES

ACCESSING MATERIAL ON GRANTS.GOV

- To access the electronic grant application and instructions, go to www.Grants.gov
 - Search for the downloadable application package by the CFDA number (84.377C).
 - Click the opportunity number (ED-Grants-121416-001).
 - Navigate to the “package” tab. Click Select Package (right side of the table). Submit email address or select no.



APPLICATION PROCESSES

SUBMITTING MATERIAL ON GRANTS.GOV

- Upon successful submission by 4:30 PM, EST on 2/13/17:
 1. Applicants should receive a confirmation email with a time and date stamp and an assigned tracking number from Grants.gov.
 2. Applicants should receive a validation email from Grants.gov. This means the application is ready for Department pickup.
 3. Applicants should receive an email with their assigned PR Award #.
- If there is an unsuccessful submission:
 1. Same as step 1 above.
 2. If the application is late or validation is not successful, applicant should receive an error email.
 3. The email may list the error, or applicant can use their tracking number to find the submission error.



APPLICATION PROCESSES

OTHER KEY INFORMATION AND TIPS

- Page limit: 40 pages
- Submit all attachments in read-only PDF form.
- Save often.
- Register and submit in advance of the deadline.
- See Electronic Application Submission Checklist in the Application Instructions.



APPLICATION PROCESSES

KEY DATES

- **Notice of Intent to Apply (optional):**
 - Next Friday, January 13, 2017

- **Application Deadline:**
 - Monday, February 13, 2017 at 4:30:00 PM, EST



QUESTIONS 1/2

- Please submit questions via the chat function.
- Following the webinar, you may also submit questions to openingdoors@ed.gov



LIKELY QUESTIONS

- Who is eligible?
- What is the minimum number of SIG Schools or SIG-eligible Schools to be served?
- Can an applicant propose to serve other schools in the district?
- What are the implementation expectations regarding the blueprint?
- How can an applicant collaborate with districts that do not have SIG Schools or SIG-eligible schools?
- Can an LEA submit more than one application?



RESOURCES

- **Notice Inviting Applications**

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-12-14/pdf/2016-29936.pdf>

- **Program Website and FAQs**

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

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/odeo/faq.html>

- **Application and Application Instructions**

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=84.377C>

- **Technical assistance with Grants.gov**

support@grants.gov or 800-518-4726

