

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education

Call for Peer Reviewers

Fiscal Year 2020 Grant Competition: Open Textbooks Pilot Program

The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education, is seeking peer reviewers (field readers) to read and evaluate discretionary grant applications for the Open Textbooks Pilot program. This pilot program supports projects at eligible institutions of higher education that create new open textbooks and expand the use of open textbooks in courses that are part of a degree granting program, and particularly those with high enrollments.

The Department is interested in peer reviewers from various backgrounds and professions including: administrators, college and university faculty, educational strategists and evaluators, grant makers, and others with expertise in adult and postsecondary education, open educational resources and practices, work-based learning, and career and technical education.

Selected reviewers will be expected to participate in a reviewer training webinar. Upon participation in the webinar, reviewers will be expected to read between 3-7 applications, score each selection criterion, and provide the applicant with substantive feedback pertaining to the score awarded. Reviewers are expected to meet specific deadlines and participate in panel discussions with other reviewers who have read and scored the same applications. **We anticipate the review will take place November 17 through December 11, 2020.** The entire process will be handled electronically, and travel is not required. All reviewers who complete the process will be provided an honorarium.

Reviewers are held to high standards of writing and the paramount responsibility of preserving the integrity of the review (by omitting or reporting potential bias, or conflicts of interest). Reviewers should be comfortable reading a large volume of material in a defined period of time and be capable of providing in-depth individual analysis and participating in small group discussions about the applications.

If you are interested in serving as a peer reviewer for this grant competition, send your resume showing your expertise in the areas listed above, as well as any applicable experience reviewing or approving grant applications, to OTP@ed.gov. **In addition, you must register in G5 at <https://www.g5.gov/> as a field reader.** Registration includes a web-based application form. Individuals already registered can update their profile information. On this site, potential readers provide information about their educational background and expertise, their technology skills, their grant reading history, and program experience. Under Reviewer Specialization, please be sure to select at least one area of specialization most closely aligned to your experience and the competition priority areas. Under Preferences, please select the competition CFDA 84.116T. Applying to be a peer reviewer through this site is the first step in the selection process. Interested persons must be deemed qualified for reviewing for a particular program, indicate their availability to review, and be selected before they actually become a peer reviewer for the program.