

Promise Neighborhoods
Frequently Asked Questions ADDENDUM #1
May 11, 2010

Please note that the following FAQs are an addendum to the FAQs published on April 30, 2010. The FAQs below have been incorporated into the relevant sections of the April 30, 2010 FAQs and the revised document is also now posted on the Promise Neighborhoods website at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/promiseneighborhoods/faq.html>.

A. PURPOSE

A-3. Has the Department set a limit for the number of grants that will be awarded to any individual State, city, or region?

No. The Department has not set any limits regarding the geographic distribution of grant awards. All applications will be evaluated and scored by peer reviewers using the selection criteria described in the notice. The Department will prepare a rank-order list of applications for each absolute priority based solely on the peer reviewers' evaluation of their quality according to the selection criteria. In accordance with 34 CFR 75.217(c)(3), the Department will make final awards after considering the rank ordering and other information including an applicant's performance, use of funds, and compliance history under a previous award under any Department program.

B. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND PARTNERS

B-10. Are Indian tribes eligible to apply for Promise Neighborhoods planning grants?

In order to be eligible for a Promise Neighborhoods planning grant, an entity must be able to demonstrate, among other requirements, that it is either a nonprofit organization that meets the definition of a nonprofit under 34 CFR 77.1(c) or an institution of higher education as defined by section 101(a) of the HEA. An Indian tribe that meets one of these definitions is eligible to apply for a Promise Neighborhoods planning grant so long as it also meets all of the other eligibility requirements described in the notice. For further guidance on verifying nonprofit status, *see* B-3.

B-11. If an entity has both a governing board and an advisory board, must both boards be “representative of the geographic area proposed to be served,” as defined in the notice, in order for the entity to be eligible to receive a grant?

No. To be considered "representative of the geographic area proposed to be served," an eligible entity must have at least one governing or advisory board that meets the definition of “representative of the geographic area proposed to be served,” as defined in the notice, and residents of the geographic area proposed to be served must have an active role in the organization’s decision-making. An entity is not required to have both a governing board and an advisory board that meets these requirements.

C. Priorities

C-8. Must the geographic area proposed to be served demonstrate a specified minimum level of need?

The Department has not established a minimum threshold of need for the geographic area proposed to be served by an eligible applicant. Applicants must describe the geographically defined area to be served and the level of distress in that area based on indicators of need (as defined in the notice) and other relevant indicators. Peer reviewers will consider the need for the proposed project, including the magnitude or severity of the problems to be addressed by the project, as well as the extent to which specific gaps or weaknesses in services, infrastructures, or opportunities will be identified and addressed by the project.

E. PROJECT DESIGN

E-7. Is there a minimum amount of funds that an eligible applicant must request in its application for a Promise Neighborhoods Planning Grant?

No. The Department has not prescribed a minimum amount of funds that an eligible applicant must request in its application. An eligible applicant should request the amount of funds necessary to carry out the planning activities described in the notice, including developing a feasible plan to implement a continuum of solutions with the potential to improve results for children in the community being served. The Department estimates that awards will range between \$400,000 and \$500,000. The Department does not intend to award any grant to an applicant with a budget exceeding \$500,000.

F. DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING

F-4. Are applicants responsible for selecting the national evaluator? What must an applicant do with respect to the national evaluation?

The Department will select the national evaluator. Applicants must commit to working with the Department and with the national evaluator for Promise Neighborhoods to ensure that data collection practices and program designs are consistent with plans to conduct, during the implementation phase, a rigorous national evaluation of the Promise Neighborhoods Program and of specific solutions and strategies pursued by individual grantees.

I. MATCHING REQUIREMENT

I-1. Is an eligible applicant required to have its matching funds in hand before submitting its application?

An applicant must provide evidence that funds or in-kind contributions have been committed at the time it submits its application. These funds or in-kind contributions need not be in hand. As evidence that funds or in-kind contributions have been committed, an applicant must submit a scanned letter or letters in its application explaining the type and quantity of the match commitment. The scanned letter or letters must include original signatures from the executives of organizations or agencies providing the match. In the case of an in-kind contribution, the letter or letters must include a description of how the value was determined for the donated or contributed goods or service.

I-2. What kinds of in-kind contributions may be used to meet the matching requirement?

The Department's regulations on matching funds, including in-kind contributions, are set forth in 34 CFR 74.23, which can be viewed at <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/fund/reg/edgarReg/edgar.pdf>. In-kind contributions from Federal sources cannot count toward the match requirement.

I-3. Must an eligible entity that proposes to serve a tribal community in a non-rural area secure a match commitment of 25% or 50% of its grant award?

An eligible entity that meets the requirements for Absolute Priority 3 (Promise Neighborhoods in Tribal Communities) must secure a match commitment of at least 25% of its grant award, regardless of the geographic area in which the tribal community it proposes to serve is located.

I-4. Must applicants identify matching funds for implementation grants as part of their planning grant application?

No. Applicants for Promise Neighborhoods planning grants must only identify matching funds for the amount of their requested planning grant. The FY 2010 Promise Neighborhoods planning grant competition will award only planning grants; the planning grant competition is not for implementation grants.