

Promise Neighborhoods
Frequently Asked Questions ADDENDUM #3
May 25, 2010

Please note that the following FAQs are an addendum to the FAQs published on May 18, 2010. The FAQs below have been incorporated into the relevant sections of the May 18, 2010 FAQs and the revised document is also now posted on the Promise Neighborhoods website at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/promiseneighborhoods/faq.html>.

B. Eligible Applicants and Partners

B-13. Is an eligible entity required to have an office or headquarters located in the geographic area proposed to be served?

No. However, an eligible entity is required to be representative of the geographic area proposed to be served (as defined in the notice) and must currently be providing at least one of the solutions from the applicant's proposed continuum of solutions in the geographic area proposed to be served.

B-14. May an entity apply for a Promise Neighborhoods planning grant if that entity does not currently meet the definition of an eligible entity but anticipates being able to meet that definition at some point after the application deadline?

No. In order to be eligible for a Promise Neighborhoods planning grant, an entity must meet all of the eligibility requirements on or before the application deadline date. An entity that does not meet the definition of a nonprofit organization under 34 CFR 77.1(c) or the definition of an institution of higher education as defined by section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, on or before June 25, 2010 is not eligible to apply for a Promise Neighborhoods planning grant.

C. Priorities

C-11. What types of applications meet the requirements of Absolute Priority 2: Promise Neighborhoods in Rural Communities?

In order to meet the requirements of Absolute Priority 2, an applicant must (1) meet all requirements in Absolute Priority 1; and (2) propose a project that will serve one or more rural communities only. As defined in the notice, "rural community" means a community that is served by an LEA that is currently eligible under the Small Rural School Achievement (SRSA) program or the Rural and Low-Income School (RLIS) program authorized under Title VI, Part B of the ESEA. An applicant may determine whether a particular LEA is eligible under these programs by referring to information on the following Department Web sites. For the SRSA program, see www.ed.gov/programs/reapsrsa/eligible09/index.html. For the RLIS program, see www.ed.gov/programs/reaprlisp/eligible09/index.html.

C-12. What types of applications will meet the requirements of Absolute Priority 3: Promise Neighborhoods in Tribal Communities?

In order to meet the requirements of Absolute Priority 3, an applicant must (1) meet all requirements in Absolute Priority 1; (2) propose a project that will serve one or more Indian tribes; and (3) either partner with an Indian tribe (as defined in the notice) or be an Indian tribe that meets the definition of an eligible entity.

C-13. The notice states that one possible indicator of family and community support need is the percentage of the residents living at or below the Federal poverty threshold. What are the current Federal poverty thresholds?

Federal poverty thresholds can be found at:

<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/threshld/thresh09.html>.

C-14. May an applicant propose to partner with a school or schools that is not one of the three types of target schools described in paragraphs 2(a)(i), 2(a)(ii), and 2(a)(iii) of Absolute Priority 1¹?

Applicants are required to partner with at least one target school that is either a persistently lowest-achieving school, a low-performing school, or an effective school (all as described in the notice), within the geographic area proposed to be served (*see* paragraphs 2(a)(i), 2(a)(ii), and 2(a)(iii) of Absolute Priority 1). An applicant that meets this requirement may partner with additional schools that do not fall within any of these three categories of schools.

C-15. Are applicants required to operate or partner with a target school that is a high school?

No. Applicants are required to operate or partner with a target school or schools that is one of the three types of target schools described in paragraphs 2(a)(i), 2(a)(ii), and 2(a)(iii) of Absolute Priority 1. There are no requirements for the grade levels that must be served by the target school or schools described in a planning grant application. However, applicants are required to propose how they will create a feasible plan to implement a complete continuum of cradle-through-college-to-career solutions for children in the target school or schools, which includes programs, policies, and personnel that are linked to improved academic outcomes for children in kindergarten through the 12th grade. In addition, applicants must ensure, as appropriate, that children in the neighborhood who do not attend the target school or schools have access to solutions designed to significantly improve educational and developmental outcomes.

C-16. Must applicants describe how they will plan to provide a complete continuum of solutions for all students who attend the target school or schools, or only those students who attend the target school or schools and live in the Promise Neighborhood?

The plan to be developed by the applicant must ensure that children *who attend the target school or schools and live in the Promise Neighborhood* have access to a complete continuum of solutions. Applicants must also ensure, *as appropriate*, that children in the neighborhood who do not attend the

¹ Paragraphs 2(a)(i), 2(a)(ii), and 2(a)(iii) of Absolute Priority 1 in the notice refer to a persistently lowest-achieving school, a low-performing school, and an effective school (all as described in the notice), respectively.

target school or schools have access to solutions designed to significantly improve educational and developmental outcomes.

C-17. Is an eligible applicant required to describe a project indicator for each of the academic and family and community support results listed in the notice?

An applicant must use the academic results indicators described in Table 1 of the notice as project indicators; an applicant may, but is not required to develop or describe additional project indicators for academic results. For family and community support results, an applicant may either: (a) use the indicators in Table 2 of the notice as project indicators; or (b) develop and describe other project indicators that align with the goals and objectives of its project for each of the family and community results.

F. Data Collection and Reporting

F-5. Must an eligible applicant conduct a needs assessment and segmentation analysis prior to submitting its planning grant application?

No. In its application, an eligible applicant should describe the academic indicators and family and community support indicators that it will use in conducting a needs assessment and segmentation analysis during the planning year.

G. Allowable Activities

G-5. May an eligible applicant propose to work with a local evaluator in addition to cooperating with the national evaluator?

Yes. The Department has not set any restrictions or requirements regarding work with local evaluators.

G-6. May Promise Neighborhoods planning grant funds be used to pay for construction or to purchase real property?

No. Promise Neighborhoods planning grants cannot be used to pay for construction or the acquisition of real property. For additional information on this topic, see 34 CFR 75.533 of EDGAR, which can be viewed at <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/fund/reg/edgarReg/edgar.pdf>.

I. Matching Requirement

I-7. Can funds that will be spent during the planning year to implement a solution in the proposed Promise Neighborhood count toward the required match?

Yes, so long as those funds do not come from Federal sources and are used for purposes within the scope of the proposed planning process. For additional information regarding the Department's regulations on matching funds, including in-kind contributions, see 34 CFR 74.23, which can be viewed at <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/fund/reg/edgarReg/edgar.pdf>.

K. Application Process

K-2. May an applicant that did not submit a “notice of intent to apply” by May 21, 2010 still apply for a Promise Neighborhoods planning grant?

Yes. Submitting a “notice of intent to apply” was not required, and entities that did not submit one may still apply for funding. In addition, an entity that submits a “notice of intent to apply” is not obligated to apply for a Promise Neighborhoods grant, nor is it bound to the information in its “notice of intent to apply.”

K-3. Should applicants submit a separate memorandum of understanding for each partner, or a single memorandum of understanding that includes all partners?

Applicants should submit a single memorandum of understanding that includes all partners. The memorandum of understanding should include the information listed in Absolute Priority 1, part 5, (a)(i)-(iii) of the notice. This document should be double-spaced and no more than ten pages in length.