

Promise Neighborhoods
Frequently Asked Questions ADDENDUM #6
June 14, 2010

Please note that the following FAQs are an addendum to the FAQs published on June 7, 2010. The FAQs below have been incorporated into the relevant sections of the June 7, 2010, FAQs, and the revised document is also now posted on the Promise Neighborhoods Web site at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/promiseneighborhoods/faq.html>.

C. Priorities

C-22. What requirements has the Department established for an applicant’s partnership with a school that is not a target school, as described in paragraph 2(c) of Absolute Priority 1?

As described in paragraph 2(c) of Absolute Priority 1, an eligible applicant that operates or partners with a target school that does not serve all students in the neighborhood must partner with at least one additional school that serves students in the neighborhood. The Department has not established any specific requirements regarding this partnership, but an applicant might work with the school partner to 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, as described in paragraph 2(b) of Absolute Priority 1. It should be noted that under the selection criteria “Quality of Project Design” and “Quality of Project Services,” peer reviewers will evaluate each application on the extent to which the proposed plan will build a continuum of solutions designed to significantly improve the academic and family and community support indicators and the likelihood that the services to be provided by the proposed project will lead to improvements in the achievement of students as measured against rigorous academic standards.

C-23. How can an applicant identify the low-performing schools in its State?

As defined in the notice, low-performing schools are schools receiving assistance through Title I that are in corrective action or restructuring, as determined by the State educational agency under section 1116 of the ESEA, and the secondary schools (both middle and high schools) in the State that are equally as low-achieving as these Title I schools and are eligible for, but do not receive, Title I funds. States are required to identify schools that are in corrective action or restructuring and make this information available to the public. Applicants should refer to their State educational agencies for current information about the low-performing schools in their States.

G. Allowable Activities

G-13. May a Promise Neighborhoods grantee use its planning grant funds to make subgrants to other entities?

No. The authorizing statute for the Promise Neighborhoods program, sections 5411 through 5413 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, does not authorize subgrants.

Consequently, grantees under the Promise Neighborhoods program will not be able to use planning grant funds to make subgrants to other entities (*see* 34 CFR 75.708). In all cases in which a grantee needs to pay another party for goods and services to carry out its grant, the grantee must follow the applicable procurement procedures in EDGAR. Nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher education must follow the procurement procedures in 34 CFR 74.40-74.48.

I. Matching

- I-11. The notice inviting applications states that the Department does not intend to award any Promise Neighborhoods planning grant with a budget exceeding \$500,000. Does the \$500,000 include the required matching funds?**

No. While the Department does not intend to award more than \$500,000 in Promise Neighborhoods planning grant funds to any applicant, an applicant's total project budget may exceed \$500,000 when other funds, which may include matching funds, are included.

- I-12. May a grantee use unrecovered indirect costs, i.e., indirect costs that a grantee could have claimed but did not claim under its Promise Neighborhoods planning grant, to meet the matching requirement?**

No. The Department will not approve the use of unrecovered indirect costs to meet the matching requirement under the Promise Neighborhoods program. *See* 34 CFR 74.23(b).

K. Application Process

- K-8. What Funding Opportunity Number and Title should Promise Neighborhoods applicants enter on ED Standard Form 424, question 12?**

The funding opportunity number is ED-GRANTS-050510-001. The title is "Promise Neighborhoods Program."

Please note: The original version of the application package posted on the Promise Neighborhoods Web site listed the Funding Opportunity Number as 84.215P and the Title as FIE. That information was incorrect and should be disregarded. However, applicants who answer question 12 incorrectly will still be able to submit their applications and will not be disadvantaged in the competition.

- K-9. What Competition Identification Number should Promise Neighborhoods applicants enter on ED Standard Form 424, question 13?**

Applicants for Promise Neighborhoods grants do not need a Competition Identification Number and should leave this question blank. The Competition Identification Number applies only to applications that are submitted through grants.gov; Promise Neighborhoods applications must be submitted electronically using e-Application and *not* grants.gov.

K-10. Are applicants required to respond to question 14 (Areas Affected By Project) on ED Standard Form 424?

No. Question 14 on ED Standard Form 424 is optional, and applicants may leave it blank. Applicants are required to describe the geographic area that they propose to serve in the Project Narrative.

K-11. When is the project start date for projects receiving Promise Neighborhoods planning grant funds (ED Standard Form 424, question 17)?

Grantees have discretion in determining the date to begin implementation of their projects, but the project period for all Promise Neighborhoods planning grants officially begins on the date a planning grant is awarded. Because an exact award date has not yet been determined, applicants may enter Oct. 1, 2010, as the start date on the ED Standard Form 424.

K-12. Can the Department provide any guidance on ED Standard Form 424, question 19?

Promise Neighborhoods is subject to Executive Order 12372 and 34 CFR part 79, which allow States that have chosen to participate in the intergovernmental review process the opportunity to review and comment on applications submitted to the Department for funding. Question 19 on ED Standard Form 424 requires an applicant to indicate if its State is participating in the intergovernmental review process under Executive Order 12372. A list of States that have chosen to participate in the intergovernmental review process is available at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_spoc/.