

RACE TO THE TOP ASSESSMENT PROGRAM



8/19/2010

Reviewer Training and Orientation Report

Overview

As part of the Race to the Top Assessment Program grant competition, the US Department of Education hosted a day-long training for peer reviewers on June 30, 2010 at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington DC. The purpose of the training and orientation was to provide Race to the Top Assessment Program reviewers with an overview of the selection criteria, requirements, and priorities in the grant applications, as well as to orient them to the review process, confidentiality and conflict of interest issues, and reviewer guidelines and expectations. Reviewers also had the opportunity to ask questions of Department of Education staff and the contractors responsible for establishing and maintaining the web-based Application Review System.

RACE TO THE TOP ASSESSMENT PROGRAM REVIEWER TRAINING SURVEY RESULTS

A link to an electronic survey was sent to all participants at the Race to the Top Assessment Program Training and Orientation. All responses were anonymous. See Appendix A for the full survey.

General Findings

All but one of the respondents reported satisfaction with the training session overall. One respondent was dissatisfied with the quality of the presentations and was very dissatisfied with the opportunities to ask questions and with the facility in which the training took place.

Survey Responses

Ten of the 13 reviewers and alternates who attended the training session responded to the survey, a 77% response rate.

All of the respondents, except one who was neutral, were satisfied with the usefulness of the information that was presented at the training; 20% were satisfied and 70% were very satisfied. All but one respondent was satisfied with the quality of the presentations. The one respondent who was dissatisfied with the presentation quality was also dissatisfied with the opportunities to ask questions and with the meeting facility as well. The remaining 90% of the respondents (n=9) were very satisfied with the opportunities to ask questions. With regard to the amount of time that was dedicated to the training; 8 of the 10 respondents were very satisfied, one respondent was satisfied and one was neutral. All of the respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with the materials provided at the training, with 70% reporting a high degree of satisfaction.

All of the respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with the location of the training and the vast majority (90%) was satisfied or very satisfied with the comfort and size of the facility.

Survey Comments

“The room in which training took place was spacious and well-lit. The one problem was that temperature was difficult to control throughout the day and it was sometimes far too cold; however, I appreciated the efforts that were made to try to address this problem. Set-up was excellent--this was my first experience with multiple screens, and I found it easier to read and follow the slides. Clearly, much thought went into the best way to set up the meeting space for comfort and effective communication between and among all involved.”

“This was a tremendously helpful and very well organized workshop.”

“Nice job!”

“Clearly a lot of thought and planning went into it. Well-oiled clockwork. I must say though, as much as I've had to work with lawyers in the past, seldom have I shared one room with so many. Luckily they were friendly!”

“The monitors were too high for female participants. The room was a bit too crowded.”

“Training room was very small and cold. We did not receive any advance reading materials. Reviewers were mostly talked at throughout the day w/o much engagement. Questions were answered but abruptly.”

“A very well run session. Good pace! Excellent preparation. Kudos!!!!”

“The Secretary's visit was a plus!!!”

RACE TO THE TOP ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEWER TRAINING

Survey Statistics

How satisfied were you with the following?						
	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Response total
Materials provided	70% (7)	30% (3)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	10
Usefulness of the information	70% (7)	20% (2)	10% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	10
Quality of the presentations	70% (7)	20% (2)	0% (0)	10% (1)	0% (0)	10
Opportunities to ask questions	90% (21)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	10% (1)	10
Amount of time dedicated to the training	80% (8)	10% (1)	10% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	10
Comfort and size of the facility	50% (5)	40% (4)	0% (0)	0% (0)	10% (1)	10
Location of the training	80% (8)	20% (2)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	10

Total # of respondents **10**

Appendix A: Race to the Top Reviewer Training and Orientation Survey Questions

**Race to the Top Assessment Program
Reviewer Orientation Survey**

How satisfied were you with the:

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Materials provided	<input type="radio"/>				
Usefulness of the information	<input type="radio"/>				
Quality of the presentations	<input type="radio"/>				
Opportunities to ask questions	<input type="radio"/>				
Amount of time dedicated to the training	<input type="radio"/>				
Comfort and size of the facility	<input type="radio"/>				
Location of the training	<input type="radio"/>				

Please offer any comments that might clarify or expand on your answers to the above questions.

Thank you for taking the time to help us improve these events in the future.