

## Comprehensive Regional Assistance Centers (CFDA No. 84.283)

### I. Legislation

Title XIII, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 8621-8625)(expires September 30, 1999).

### II. Funding History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
1995	\$ 1,500,000
1996	21,507,000

### III. Analysis of Program Performance

#### A. Goals and Objectives

Title XIII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as reauthorized in 1994, created 15 Comprehensive Regional Assistance Centers to help state and local education agencies implement educational reform.

The Comprehensive Regional Assistance Centers are part of a national technical assistance and dissemination system designed to make technical assistance available to states, local education agencies, tribes, schools, and other recipients of funds under the ESEA. Specific technical assistance goals are to provide assistance in (1) administering and implementing ESEA programs; (2) implementing school reform programs to improve teaching and learning; (3) coordinating ESEA programs with other federal, state, and local education plans so that all students (particularly, students at risk of educational failure) are given opportunities to meet challenging state content and performance standards; and (4) adopting, adapting, and implementing promising and proven practices for improving teaching and learning.

#### B. Strategies to Achieve the Goals

##### Services Supported

Comprehensive Regional Assistance Centers are to provide services that:

- Improve the quality of instruction, curricula, assessments, and other aspects of school reform with funds under Title I of the ESEA;
- Implement effective schoolwide programs under Section 1114 of the ESEA;
- Implement high-quality professional development activities for teachers, administrators, and other staff;
- Improve the quality of bilingual education;

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- Create safe and drug-free school environments;
- Implement educational applications of technology;
- Expand the involvement and participation of parents in the education of their children;
- Reform schools, school systems, and the governance and management of schools;
- Evaluate programs; and
- Meet the special needs of both urban and rural students and school districts.

### **Strategic Initiatives**

High-quality, comprehensive technical assistance is an essential ingredient of the Department's overall strategy through the ESEA, to improve teaching and learning, and to give all children opportunities to achieve to challenging standards. The Comprehensive Regional Assistance Centers are intended to provide "one-stop shopping" to the Department's customers in the education community in ways that contribute to improving schools and entire school systems.

### **C. Program Performance—Indicators of Impact and Effectiveness**

Performance indicators for the Comprehensive Regional Assistance Centers Program are being developed.

## **IV. Planned Studies**

In 1997 a survey will be conducted to determine the extent to which populations served under the ESEA are satisfied with their access to and the quality of services provided by the Comprehensive Regional Assistance Centers, as required by the statute.

An evaluation study is also planned to begin in FY 1997 that will provide information regarding the availability and quality of center services. The study will evaluate (1) the extent to which the assistance provided by the centers is contributing to significant improvements in the quality of educational programs and student achievement; (2) the factors that affect service delivery, including questions about organizational capacity, adequate and appropriate staffing, resource allocation, roles and responsibilities; and (3) the effective use of technology.

## **V. Sources of Information**

Program files.

## **VI. Contacts for Further Information**

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