

## Freely Associated States Educational Grant Program (CFDA No. 84.256A)

### I. Legislation

Section 1121(b)(2) of the amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) authorizes a program of discretionary grants to local education agencies (LEAs) in the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and Palau. Section 1121(b)(2) reserves a set-aside of \$5,000,000 from the amounts made available under subsection (a) in each fiscal year.

A special requirement of this program is that the Pacific Region Educational Laboratory (PREL) in Honolulu, Hawaii, conduct the competition for grants under this program and make grant award recommendations to the Secretary.

### II. Funding History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Mandated Set-aside</u>
1995	\$5,000,000
1996	5,000,000

### III. Analysis of Program Performance

#### A. Goals and Objectives

The goal of the Freely Associated States Educational Grant Program is to provide financial assistance in the form of competitive grants to LEAs in the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and Palau to support projects that are consistent with the purposes of the reauthorized ESEA and activities that will enable students to make progress toward achieving challenging academic standards and high levels of educational performance. Grant funds awarded under this program may be used to provide direct educational services, such as teacher training, curriculum development, instructional materials, or general school improvement and reform.

#### B. Strategies to Achieve the Goals

The Freely Associated States Educational Grants Program supports projects and activities that are designed to improve student achievement and the quality of education. The Secretary makes awards to those projects that clearly and effectively address the criteria outlined in the application, and that demonstrate the educational need in the area to be served and the relationship of the activity to the achievement of the National Educational Goals.

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

One of the criteria for making awards under this program is the high quality of an evaluation plan. All projects are required to submit evidence of progress toward goals and objectives in an annual performance report.

The Department is using information from these reports to monitor progress toward program objectives

## Chapter 132-2

and identify needs for technical assistance. The Department has not developed performance indicators for this program.

### **IV. Sources of Information**

1. Non-Regulatory Guidance for the Freely Associated States Educational Grants Program.
2. Program Files

### **V. Planned Studies**

None.

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

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