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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) for the FY 2020 Education Stabilization Fund—Reimagining Workforce Preparation (ESF-RWP) Discretionary Grants Program

AGENCY: Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Education (Department) is issuing an NIA for eligible applicants for the FY 2020 ESF-RWP Grants program under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number 84.425G. This notice relates to the approved information collection under OMB control number 1894-0006.

Pre-Application Information: The Department will post a supplemental notice with additional information, including additional selection criteria and the point values assigned to each criterion, for prospective applicants on the ESF-RWP program website:

<https://oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilization-fund/states-highest-coronavirus-burden/>. The Department requests that interested parties do not submit their applications until after the publication of the supplemental notice.

Applications Available: This date will be announced in the supplemental notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Erin Berg, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, room 11113, PCP, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 245-6792. Email: ESF-RWP@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) or a text telephone (TTY), call the Federal Relay Service (FRS), toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

Purpose of Program: The purpose of the ESF-RWP Grants program is to provide support to help States with the highest coronavirus burden (see CARES Act, Sec. 18001(a)(3)) create new short-term educational opportunities and career pathways programs that help citizens return to work, such as course work that would help small businesses to recover and new entrepreneurs to thrive.

Coronavirus Burden Definition: For the FY 2020 grant competition and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applications from this competition in accordance with section 437(d)(1) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA), 20 U.S.C. 1232(d)(1), "coronavirus burden" means a numerical score of the burden on a State from coronavirus based upon the objective measures in the application package, which will be specified in the supplemental notice and include initial unemployment insurance claims filed (as % of

civilian labor force) and State % share of confirmed coronavirus cases per capita, and any measures identified and furnished by the applicant.

Priorities: Priorities for the FY 2020 grant competition and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applications from this competition in accordance with section 437(d)(1) of GEPA, 20 U.S.C. 1232(d)(1), will be outlined in the supplemental notice inviting applications.

Application Requirements: The complete list of application requirements will be included in a supplemental notice. This NIA does contain one specific requirement, as discussed below. The following application requirement is established for the FY 2020 ESF-RWP Grants competition and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applications from this competition in accordance with section 437(d)(1) of GEPA, 20 U.S.C. 1232(d)(1).

Applicants must include a description of the State's coronavirus burden based upon indicators and information factors other than those provided in the application package that demonstrate the significance of the impact of COVID-19 on students, parents, and schools in the State. This description may include additional data, including other public health measures such as coronavirus-related deaths per capita, or any other relevant education, labor, or demographic data.

Exemption from Rulemaking: Under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553) the Department generally offers interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed priorities, selection criteria, definitions, and other requirements. Section 437(d)(1) of GEPA, however, allows the Secretary to exempt from rulemaking requirements regulations governing the first grant competition under a new or substantially revised program authority. This is the first grant competition for this program under section 18001(a)(3) of the CARES Act, and therefore qualifies for this exemption. In order to ensure timely grant awards, the Secretary has decided to forgo public comment on the priorities, requirements, definitions, and selection criteria under section 437(d)(1) of GEPA.

Program Authority: Section 18001(a)(3) of Title VIII of Division B of the CARES Act, Pub. Law 116-36 (enacted March 27, 2020).

Selection Criteria: The selection criteria for this competition are being established for the FY 2020 grant competition and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applications from this competition in accordance with section 437(d)(1) of GEPA, 20 U.S.C. 1232(d)(1). The following selection criterion will be included among other selection criteria, which the Department will announce in the supplemental notice, including the point values assigned to each criterion.

A. Highest Coronavirus Burden.

In determining the States with the highest coronavirus burden, the Secretary considers the extent to which the State has a high coronavirus burden as follows:

(1) The extent to which the applicant, based on the factors listed in the application package, when weighted equally, is in the—

- (i) Up to 20th percentile of coronavirus burden;
- (ii) 21st to 40th percentile of coronavirus burden;
- (iii) 41st to 60th percentile of coronavirus burden;
- (iv) 61st to 80th percentile of coronavirus burden; or
- (v) 81st to 100th percentile of coronavirus burden. (GEPA

Waiver)

(2) The extent to which the applicant has a high coronavirus burden based on indicators and information factors identified by the applicant in response to the Application Requirement (GEPA Waiver).

Award Information:

Estimated Available Funds: \$127,500,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$5,000,000 - \$20,000,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$15,000,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 8-9.

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

Eligible Applicants: These entities will be specified in the supplemental notice and may include State economic development or workforce agencies.

Accessible Format: Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document and a copy of the application package in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc) on request to the program contact person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.

Electronic Access to This Document: The official version of this document is the document published in the *Federal Register*. You may access the official edition of the *Federal Register* and the Code of Federal Regulations at www.govinfo.gov. At this site you can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the *Federal Register*, in text or Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site.

You may also access documents of the Department published in the *Federal Register* by using the article search feature at www.federalregister.gov. Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.

Dated:

Scott Stump,
*Assistant Secretary for Career,
Technical, and Adult Education.*

