



**COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR STATE
ASSESSMENTS (CGSA)
2020 COMPETITION**

**PRE-APPLICATION WEBINAR
MAY 12, 2020**

PRESENTERS

CGSA COMPETITION SUPPORT TEAM

- Donald Peasley, State Assessments, OESE
- Rachel Peternith, OGC
- Colin Bishop, OGC
- Patrick Rooney, OESE
- Ryan Tauriainen, OESE
- Deborah Spitz, State Assessments, OESE
- Kathleen Banks, State Assessments, OESE



AGENDA FOR TODAY'S WEBINAR

- Overview of Grant
- Eligibility Requirements – SEA/Consortium
- Priorities – One of three absolute priorities
- Budget Narratives
- Grantee Responsibilities – Record keeping, budget, monitoring, performance reports, closeout
- Criteria and Scoring
- Documents to include in application – Page limits
- Applying to Grants.gov
- Q & A
- Resources – NIA, grants.gov weblinks, ED weblinks



CGSA Grant Overview

Notice Inviting Applications

<https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2020-09336>

Deadline June 30, 2020 11:59 p.m. EST

CGSA GRANT COMPETITION 2020

PURPOSE

- The purpose of this program is to enhance the quality of assessment instruments and assessment systems used by States for measuring the academic achievement of elementary and secondary school students. It is authorized by section 1203(b)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA).



CGSA GRANT COMPETITION 2020

Type of Award: Discretionary grants.

Estimated Available Funds: \$12,327,000

Estimated Range of Awards: **Absolute Priority 2:** \$100,000 to \$500,000 total over 18-month project period. **Absolute Priorities 1 & 3:** \$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000 total over 48-month project period.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: **Absolute Priority 2:** \$300,000
Absolute Priorities 1 & 3: \$2,500,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 3-6.

Eligible Applicants: State educational agencies (SEAs), as defined in section 8101(49) of the ESEA, of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and consortia of such SEAs.

Note About Award Size: The Department will not make an award for less than the amount specified in section 1203(b)(1)(C) of the ESEA. Minimum award sizes, based on the FY 2019 SEA school-age child counts, are located on page 6 of the CGSA grant application document.



ABSOLUTE PRIORITIES

- This competition includes three absolute priorities.
- Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) **we consider only applications that meet at least one** of these priorities. Eligible applicants must specify which absolute priority they are applying under.
- The Department plans to fund at least one grant under each absolute priority for which applications of sufficient quality are submitted.

CGSA ABSOLUTE PRIORITIES

Absolute Priority 1: Implementing the Innovative Assessment Demonstration Authority (IADA).

Under this priority, SEAs must--

- a) Be approved for IADA as of the date of their CGSA application. If applying as part of a consortium (or in partnership with other SEAs), each SEA must be approved for IADA as of the date of its CGSA application; and
- b) Be implementing IADA, consistent with all requirements of section 1204 of the ESEA and applicable regulations as of the date of their CGSA application. If applying for CGSA as part of a consortium (or in partnership with other SEAs), each SEA must individually meet this requirement; and
- c) Describe how the SEA will use CGSA funds to implement its approved IADA plan.



CGSA ABSOLUTE PRIORITIES

Absolute Priority 2: Planning to Apply for the Innovative Assessment Demonstration Authority (IADA).

Under this priority, SEAs must--

- a) Provide an assurance by an authorized representative that the SEA intends to apply for flexibility under the IADA, when made available by the Department. If applying for CGSA as part of a consortium (or in partnership with other SEAs), each SEA must provide an assurance that it intends to apply for flexibility under the IADA;
- b) If applying as a consortium of SEAs during the initial demonstration authority for IADA, not include more than four SEAs; and
- c) Describe their approach to innovative assessments in terms of the subjects and grades the SEA anticipates addressing, the proposed assessment design, proposed item types (e.g., item prototypes), and other relevant features.



CGSA ABSOLUTE PRIORITIES

Absolute Priority 3: Developing Innovative Assessment Item Types and Design Approaches. Under this priority, SEAs must:

- a) Develop, evaluate, and implement new, innovative item types for use in summative assessments in reading/language arts, mathematics, or science;
 - 1) Development of innovative item types under paragraph (a) may include, for example, performance tasks; simulations; or interactive, multi-step, technology-rich items that can support competency-based assessments or portfolio projects;
 - 2) Projects under this priority must be designed to develop new methods for collecting evidence about a student's knowledge and abilities and ensure the quality, validity, reliability, and fairness (such as by incorporating principles of universal design for learning) of the assessment and comparability of student data; **or . . .**



CGSA ABSOLUTE PRIORITIES

Absolute Priority 3: Developing Innovative Assessment Item Types and Design Approaches (continued).

Under this priority, SEAs must:

- b) Develop new approaches to transform traditional, end-of-year summative assessment forms with many items into a series of modular assessment forms, each with fewer items than the end-of-year summative assessment.
 - 1) To respond to paragraph (b), applicants must develop modular assessment approaches which can be used to provide timely feedback to educators and parents as well as be combined to provide a valid, reliable, and fair summative assessment of individual students.

CGSA ABSOLUTE PRIORITIES

Absolute Priority 3: Developing Innovative Assessment Item Types and Design Approaches (continued).

- c) Applicants proposing projects under either paragraph (a) or (b) must provide a dissemination plan to share lessons learned and best practices such that their projects can serve as models and resources that can be shared with other States.



BUDGET NARRATIVES

EACH APPLICATION MUST ALSO PROVIDE A BUDGET NARRATIVE (WHICH SERVES TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF ED FORM 524, SECTION C) FOR REQUESTED FEDERAL FUNDS. THE BUDGET NARRATIVE FOR REQUESTED FEDERAL FUNDS SHOULD PROVIDE A JUSTIFICATION OF HOW THE MONEY REQUESTED FOR EACH BUDGET ITEM WILL BE SPENT

This section requires an **itemized budget breakdown** for each project year and the **basis for estimating the costs** of personnel salaries, benefits, project staff travel, materials and supplies, consultants and subcontracts, indirect costs and any other projected expenditures. Be sure to complete an itemized budget breakdown and narrative for each year of the proposed project (up to 48 months).



BUDGET NARRATIVE

CONTINUED

- The Budget Narrative provides an opportunity for the applicant to identify the nature and amount of the proposed expenditures. The applicant should provide sufficient detail to enable reviewers and project staff to understand how requested funds will be used, how much will be expended, and the relationship between the requested funds and project activities and outcomes.
- The budget should include only costs that are allowable, reasonable, and necessary for carrying out the objectives of the CGSA project. Rules about allowable costs are set out in 2 CFR Part 200, as adopted by the Department at 2 CFR Part 3474.



BUDGET NARRATIVE

SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR THE BUDGET NARRATIVE

In accordance with 34 CFR 75.232, Department of Education staff perform a cost analysis of each recommended project to ensure that costs relate to the activities and objectives of the project, are reasonable, allowable and allocable. We may delete or reduce costs from the budget during this review.





BUDGET NARRATIVE

WE ENCOURAGE EACH APPLICANT TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR EACH YEAR OF THE PROJECT:

- 1. Personnel**
- 2. Fringe Benefits**
- 3. Travel**
- 4. Equipment**
- 5. Supplies**
- 6. Contractual**
- 7. Construction (should not apply for these projects)**
- 8. Other** - major type or category, include cost per item, purpose & estimates
- 9. Total Direct Costs**
- 10. Indirect Costs** – look at the application for more information (ED524)
- 11. Training Stipends**
- 12. Total Costs**



INDIRECT COSTS

REMEMBER TO PROVIDE A COPY OF THE MOST RECENT APPROVED INDIRECT COST AGREEMENT IN THE OTHER ATTACHMENTS FORM SECTION OF THE APPLICATION.

- For this grant competition, you may charge indirect costs using the unrestricted negotiated rate. Be sure to include evidence of a Federally negotiated indirect cost rate.
- Identify indirect cost rate (if the applicant will charge indirect costs to the grant).
- If you budget for contractual services, please note that indirect costs may be applied only to the first \$25,000 of each subcontract for each year of the project.
- For more information about indirect cost rates, visit <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/intro.html>.



GRANTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Successful applicants with multi-year grants must submit an **annual performance report** demonstrating their progress in meeting approved project objectives. Grantees must also provide the most current financial and performance measure data for each year of the project.
- At the end of the project period, applicants will also be required to submit a **final performance report**.



GRANTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CONTINUED)

Under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), the following performance indicators have been established to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the Competitive Grants for State Assessments:

- 1) The percentage of grantees, for each grant cycle, that demonstrate significant progress towards improving, developing, or implementing a new model for measuring the achievement of students.
- 2) The percentage of grantees, for each grant cycle, that demonstrate collaboration with institutions of higher education, other research institutions, or other organizations to develop or improve state assessments.
- 3) The percentage of grantees that, at least three times during the period of their grants, make available to SEA staff in non-participating States and to assessment researchers information on findings resulting from the CGSA program through presentations at national conferences, publications in refereed journals, or other products disseminated to the assessment community.



CRITERIA AND SCORING

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR PROGRAM NARRATIVE

The selection criteria for this competition are from the NIA for this competition. We will award up to 100 points to an application under the selection criteria.

	Max. Points
A. Need for Project	10
B. Significance	10
C. Quality of the Project Design	20
D. Quality of Project Services	25
E. Adequacy of Resources	10
F. Quality of the Management Plan	20
G. Quality of the Project Evaluation	5



CGSA SCORING RUBRIC

	Max. Points	Weak	Adequate	Strong
A. Need for Project	10	0-3	4-7	8-10
B. Significance	10	0-3	4-7	8-10
C. Quality of the Project Design	20	0-6	7-14	15-20
D. Quality of Project Services	25	0-8	9-16	17-25
E. Adequacy of Resources	10	0-3	4-7	8-10
F. Quality of the Management Plan	20	0-6	7-14	15-20
G. Quality of the Project Evaluation	5	0-1	2-3	4-5
Total Score	100			



DOCUMENTS FOR APPLICATION

WE RECOMMEND FOR ATTACHED FILES, THAT YOUR FILE NAMES BE LESS THAN 50 CHARACTERS AND WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU LIMIT THE APPLICATION NARRATIVE TO NO MORE THAN 65 PAGES USING THE STANDARDS OUTLINED IN THE NIA

- **Project Abstract**
- **Project Narrative**
 - Table of Contents
 - Application Narrative
 - We will award up to 100 points
 - 7 categories (from Slides 21-22 and on pages 25-28 on the CGSA Notice)
- **Other Attachment Forms** (*not included in 65-page limit*)
 - Individual Resumes for Project Directors and Key Personnel
 - We encouraged you to limit each resume to five pages
 - Executive Order 12372
 - Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
 - Memoranda of Understanding
 - References/bibliography
- **Assurances and Certifications**



APPLYING TO GRANTS.GOV

RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE

■ Online Resources

Workspace is Grants.gov's shared, online environment to collaboratively complete and submit federal grant applications which consists of step-by-step explanations of particular applicant tasks to help applicants get started using Grants.gov. It provides access to online training resources and the video series to help you with the grant application process.

■ Grants.gov Training resources page at:

- <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-training.html>



APPLYING TO GRANTS.GOV

RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE

- **For Technical Difficulties**

Grants.gov Customer Support at 1-800-518-4726 or email at: support@grants.gov or access the Grants.gov Self-Service Knowledge Base web portal at:

<https://grants-portal.psc.gov/Welcome.aspx?pt=Grants>

- You must obtain a Grants.gov Help Desk Case Number and keep track of your progress to resolve the issue
- Additional submission instructions are found in the CGSA Application Package.



GRANTS.GOV SUBMISSION TIPS

- SEA staff should identify who at their SEA has the System for Award Management (SAM) registration information to facilitate their application. Please ensure that your SEA's SAM information is active.
- Grants.gov has relaxed the requirement for applicants to have an active registration in the System for Award Management (SAM) in order to apply for funding during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- An applicant that does not have an active SAM registration can still register with Grants.gov, but must contact the Grants.gov Support Desk, toll-free, at 1-800-518-4726, in order to take advantage of this flexibility.



GRANTS.GOV SUBMISSION TIPS

- SEA staff should identify who at their SEA has the ability to enable them to create their application in Grants.gov well in advance of the submission deadline.
- We advise that SEAs **SUBMIT EARLY.**
- Depending on the size of the file, transmittal may take SEVERAL MINUTES to HOURS.
- Don't wait until the deadline date to submit. The system will be slow due to last minute submissions.

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE READ!

- Applications that are time/date stamped after 11:59:59 p.m. Eastern Time on June 30 will be marked late **and will not be read.**



INFORMATION TO KNOW

TIMELINES

- **CGSA Intent to apply is June 1, 2020**
 - Not mandatory but preferred
- **CGSA Submission deadline – June 30, 2020 | 11:59pm EST**
 - If you are awarded a CGSA grant, you will receive information in October for a post-Award webinar
- **Post Award webinar/conference call in mid-October**
- **Announcements as early as possible**
 - Expected announcements: Mid to late September
 - Expect funds to be awarded by September 30, 2020



RESOURCES

ACCESS, DOWNLOAD

- Notice Inviting Applications

<https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2020-09336>

- Application Package Document

<https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/school-support-and-accountability/competitive-grants-for-state-assessments/applicant-information/>

- Grants.gov

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants> for general info,

CGSA link <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=326586>

- Webinar Slide Deck

<https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/school-support-and-accountability/competitive-grants-for-state-assessments/resources/>

- CGSA Program Page

<https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/school-support-and-accountability/competitive-grants-for-state-assessments/>



QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU AND BEST WISHES TO YOU ON YOUR APPLICATION
PROCESS...



For additional information or questions contact:

Donald Peasley ESEA.Assessment@ed.gov

