Well-Rounded Education Through Student-Centered Funding Demonstration Grants Program 6.18.2020 Q and A Session Transcription

Denise: I have seen that some people have joined in. Please state your name, type in your name and your district or your organization - if you are from an external organization or potential applicant. We will get started in a few minutes.

We have not received any questions beforehand. We will go through the PowerPoint, and if there are any questions you can type them in the chat box once we get to that point.

We wanted to see if anyone else was on the line that is from a district, or state or organization. We also have a note in the chat box that we are recording this meeting. If you have any objections to the recording, you can disconnect.

I am going to go over the PowerPoint presentation just in case there are any questions after that. Once I get to slide five, we will entertain any additional questions since we do not have any previously, sent in questions, we will start with the questions in the chat box. So Melinda had a question - if we needed to resubmit our questions. You do not need to resubmit your questions. The questions that you submitted beforehand, we are going to submit those via email unless we can answer some of those questions today. Does that work?

Welcome to our question and answer session. I am Denise Joseph and I am the competition manager for this competition. Of course, as I stated earlier, we are here to answer any questions that you have. We are going to clarify publicly available information that the field has about the competition and we will go straight into any questions that you type in once I get to slide five. So, for this competition and the next slide, we will talk about the housekeeping. And so remember to mute your phone. We are recording as I stated earlier. There will be an audio transcript in the next few days that will be posted to the website. Again, use the chat function to submit the questions that you have. We might pause at times if we need to confer before answering questions so please be patient with us as we work to get a response. Just for clarification if you have a follow-up question that you ask in the chat box, you can unmute yourself using \*6 or your microphone function on your computer or phone to ask those questions. I see that someone, actually can you just let us know in case I missed it, your name, and your district. I did not see that. If you could type that in the chat. I have an echo. So, if you have any technical difficulties during this session, you can email Brandon Dent. He is in the chat box but he is also available via email at Brandon.dent@ed.gov. In the next slide, we are talking about some information for you to know. Just some information. We know that the intent to apply has passed but you can let us know if you intend to apply. You can email our weighted funding pilot email address. It is not mandatory, but it is preferred. You can do it at any time. We just want to know that you know you are going to submit an application. Again, the application deadline is July 10th at 11:59pm EST. And if you are awarded a grant, you will receive information about the post award webinar. And that call will happen in the fall, and announcements for this competition will be made in September. In the next slide, we talk about the eligible entities. Here is an outline of the eligible entities, which are local educational agencies as defined in ESEA section 8101. We have put that information there for you and you can take a look there to decide if you are eligible or not. You can also look at ESEA section 8101(30) to see if you have any further questions to see if you are considered at LEA.

Just to let you know, a student centered funding system is a way to allocate funds across multiple schools within an LEA so it’s more meaningful if an LEA has multiple schools to apply for the competition. In the next slide, we talk about some resources for your review as you try to figure out whether or not you are going to apply to the grant or if you want more information as you are applying. We have the competition program page, we have ESEA section 1501 page, we have the PPSS 2019 study on weighted funding agreements, and then resources for technical difficulties to support you, if you have any, to support you as you are putting in your application in grants.gov. We have the number there, the email, and then the self-service portal. At this time, we will address any questions that you have, so we will take a few minutes to look at the chat box to see if you have any questions and I am going to take a pause right now and we will be right back.

I am going to turn it over to Jessica because I think Jessica has a response to the first question.

Jessica: Sure. Thanks Denise. This is Jessica McKinney. We did get a question about whether there is a set outline for the project narrative. The answer is no. The applicant can structure it in the way that makes the most sense. The question goes on to ask if it should hit on the selection criteria and generally yes, the selection criteria are the way that it will be scored. Often for grant applications, applicants choose to structure their narratives around the selection criteria and certainly, that is a method that will be acceptable.

Denise: Good question Beverley. Just state your name first and your organization or district. Put your question in the chat box if you have additional questions. I am going to pause right now and I will be right back.

Victoria Rosenboom, she is going to respond.

Victoria: Thank you. My name is Victoria and I am here to answer the question about is it correct that the timeline/milestones should be for three years but that there is the opportunity to extend for an additional two years?

If you look in the Notice Inviting Applications (NIA), the project period is for up to sixty months, so throughout your application, you should be addressing the full project period of sixty months. Thank you.

Jessica:

Perfect. So, this is Jessica again. Just to follow up, certainly the project period is sixty months and the application lays out the fact that the up to the first twelve months might be spent developing the application for flexibility under section 1501 and then up to the first 24 months might be required before approval and implementation would depend, commence, thereafter. The 1501 flexibility typically is yes, for three years, and extensions would be subsequent to that. There is also a question about if there is work going on that will support the Student Centered Funding initiative and tee it up for impact, but would be funded outside of this grant, should we include that in the narrative as well?

Certainly, I think it is relevant to describe, explain, all of the available resources that are supporting your project. So I think that as long the applicant makes it clear what is part of the proposal for funding under the grant period and grant program and what is ongoing work that will supplement and support it, that’s fine. There is also some of the selection criteria that speak to potential for project impact beyond the length of the grant so that information might be helpful to include with regard to that selection criteria.

We also had a question about the evidence forms within the application package. There is not a specific evidence requirement for this grant program so it fine to either omit that form or indicate that it is not applicable. If there is evidence information speaking to the formal evidence definitions from our general administrative regulations, if there is information about evidence-based practices that an applicant wants to share, it definitely wouldn’t be prohibited.

Denise: If you need any clarification, just let us know. And yes Melinda, you can submit the form with N/A written in the boxes.

Victoria: In response to two of the other questions, one was the same that we received about the evidence form, so for the other one: The grant application forms for project objectives and performance measures information located in grants.gov, this form is not referred in the application package, but I assume we complete it using project specific performance measures that we propose in addition to the measures included in the NIA on page 33 of the application package which are the same? On this grants.gov form, should those four measures be listed as GPRA measures as indicated in the application package or as program measures as indicated in the NIA?

Our response to that question is that the ED grant application form for project objectives and performance measures information is referenced on that page that was in your question, page 33, and you should include the program specific measures and separate project specific measures on the form as indicated. Applicants should submit all forms found on grants.gov, with the exception of the evidence form and follow the requirements outlined in the NIA. Both program performance measures and the applicant proposed project specific performance measures should be included and indicated clearly. And then, for the third question, are we to meet the GEPA requirement by including the information in the body of the project narrative or by including in an additional attachment?

For this question, as found on pages 11 and 30 of the application package, in part seven, the assurance and certifications required for this application include that ED GEPA 427 form for General Education Provisions Act Requirements. And in addition, this requirement is outlined on slide 46 of the pre-application webinar slide. We will be sending these responses via email too for the person that sent them in. Thank You.

Denise: The responses have been given and if there are any additional questions, anyone else has joined in from a district or organization and if they did, they can put their name and district or organization in the chat box. And we will wait a couple of minutes to see if there are any more questions.

As we are waiting for more questions, I just want to go through the next slide - to the timeline, if you do have additional questions, we do have one more sessions coming up next Tuesday from 12 to 1pm. You can email your questions to our program email account or just you can come online as you did today, but we will give priority to the questions that were emailed ahead of time. So let us just wait a few more minutes to see if there are any questions. And the same number and the link will be active for the next session and that will be the last session. Our application deadline is again, July 10th. We will give you a few more minutes to ask any questions and if not, we are going to sign off, but we will hold on for a couple minutes and give you some more time.

Again, if you have any additional questions, you can email us or you can join the line next Tuesday from 12 to 1pm. Thank you everyone for joining in and we are going to stay on for a few minutes but you can feel free to sign off if you do not have any additional questions.

The next slide shows us thanking you for your participation in today’s event and thank you for coming and we appreciate your attendance.