FY 21 Grant Competition American History And Civics Education, Academies (AHC-A)

U.S. Department Of Education

Office of Elementary And Secondary Education

Effective Educator Development Division

Closing Date: August 18, 2021 @ 11:59:59 pm

Washington, DC time

Note About These Slides

- The official document for this AHC-Academies (AHC-A) grant competition is the Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) published in the Federal Register on July 19, 2021. Applicants should refer to this document for official application and submission instructions.

- The slides presented on this webinar are used to provide guidance only. Applicants may download these slides from the AHC-A webpage.

- Applicants are strongly encouraged to download the AHC-A NIA, AHC-A Application Instructions Package and other program resources from the AHC-A program webpage listed below.

https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-discretionary-grants-support-services/effective-educator-development-programs/american-history-and-civics-academies/

Agenda for This Webinar

I. **AHC-A Program Purpose and Funding Legislation**

II. **Eligible Applicants**

III. **FY 21 Program Priorities**

V. **Selection Criteria, GPRA & Application Scoring**

VI. Budget and Match Requirements

AHC-A Selection Criteria & Scoring

➢ Applicants should read the AHC-A NIA for full AHC-A selection criteria language.

➢ The selection criteria are the criteria against which peer reviewers will review and score each application.

➢ The Department selects grantees based on peer reviewer scores. It is <u>critical</u> to clearly address the selection criteria <u>and</u> address each subfactor within each criterion.

FY 21 AHC-A Selection Criteria

Selection Criteria	Max Points
A. Quality of Project Design	35
B. Need	25
C. Quality of the Management Plan	20
D. Quality of the Project Evaluation	20
Total Points	100
Competitive Preference Priority	3
Max Total Points	103

Quality of the Project Design (35 points)

The Secretary considers the quality of the design of the proposed project. In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the proposed project demonstrates a rationale. *(20 points)*

(ii) The extent to which the proposed project represents an exceptional approach to the priority or priorities established for the competition. *(15 points)*

Demonstrates a Rationale = Logic Model

What is a Logic Model? A Logic Model is a visual diagram that illustrates how your project will work. Logic models communicate a project's vision, objectives, and goals to their internal team and stakeholders. Logic Models can also be used in program planning, implementation, evaluation, and communication.

➢ Logic Models reflect the goals and activities in the grantee's application.

➢ Logic Models identify the grantee's projects and each project's expected outcome.

➢ Logic Models identify sustainable changes for the grantee.

➢ Logic models contain appropriate information to serve as a communication tool to grantee stakeholders.

➢ **Resource Link:** Education Logic Model - REL Pacific

Need for Project (25 points)

The Secretary considers the need for the proposed project. In determining the need for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The magnitude or severity of the problem to be addressed by the proposed project. *(8 points)*

(ii) The extent to which specific gaps or weaknesses in services, infrastructure, or opportunities have been identified and will be addressed by the proposed project, including the nature and magnitude of those gaps or weaknesses. *(10 points)*

(iii) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project are focused on those with greatest needs. *(7 points)*

Quality of the Management Plan and Personnel (20 Points)

The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project. In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.

(ii) The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project.

Quality of Project Evaluation
(20 points)

The Secretary considers the quality of the evaluation to be conducted of the proposed project.   In determining the quality of the evaluation, the Secretary considers the following factors:

 (i) The extent to which the methods of evaluation include the use of objective performance measures that are clearly related to the intended outcomes of the project and will produce quantitative and qualitative data to the extent possible.
 (ii) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes.

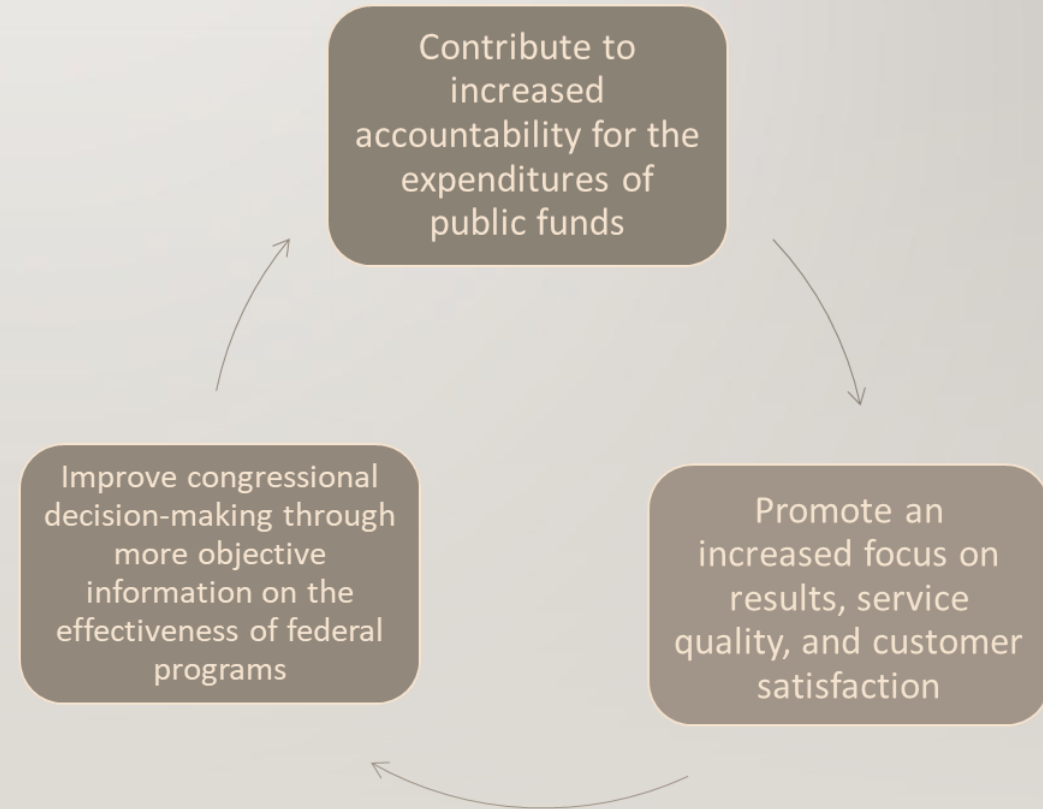# Additional Evaluation Plan Guidance

Evaluation Plans Should…
➢ be clear and detailed;
➢ include objectives that are S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measureable, Attainable, Relevant, and Timely);
➢ include key questions and proposed methods for addressing them;
➢ link to a Logic model (*Project Design*) connecting inputs with short and long-term outcomes;
➢ include a summary of data to be collected and how it will be collected;
➢ include a justification for evaluation costs; and
➢ include qualifications for the desired evaluation staff

The Government Performance Results Act of 1993 (GPRA)

GPRA is designed to help the Department improve program effectiveness and to help Congress ensure that spending decisions and oversight are informed by program performance.

Contribute to increased accountability for the expenditures of public funds

Promote an increased focus on results, service quality, and customer satisfaction

Improve congressional decision-making through more objective information on the effectiveness of federal programs

How Are GPRA Measures Used Practically With Grants?

GPRA Measures are -

➢ used to track overall program performance and support continuous improvement;

➢ used to track individual grantee progress; and

➢ used to guide decisions regarding continuation awards.

➢ GPRA data is used when writing Congressional budget justifications (CJs), which help determine overall program appropriation amounts.

AHC-A GPRA Measures

Presidential Academies: The average percentage gain on an assessment after participation in the Presidential Academy.
Congressional Academies: The average percentage gain on an assessment after participation in the Congressional Academy.

➢ Participants will demonstrate increased understanding of American history, civics and government, and geography through pre- and post-assessments.
➢ We advise applicants to give careful consideration to this measure in conceptualizing the approach to, and evaluation of, its proposed project.
➢ If successful, grantees will be required to provide, in its annual and final performance reports, data about its performance with respect to this measure.
  ➢ Grantees are also expected to establish high quality annual targets for each measure.

Project Level Measures

Project-Level Measures Should…

➤ support the program's GPRA measures and the project's ability to meet those measures;

➤ include high quality annual targets;

➤ thoroughly address key components of your unique project;

➤ evaluate services provided, project implementation and allow for continuous project improvement; and

➤ be designed to yield results within the designated 3-year project period.
(including all short and long-term measures)

PROJECT AND PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Formula for Success

GPRA + **Project Level** = **SUCCESS!**

Applicants should start by reviewing the program's GPRA measures at the time of application. Applicants should propose a project that aligns with the program's GPRA measures.

Applicants should create project level measures that support the program's GPRA measures and speak to the uniqueness of the proposed project.

Together, GPRA and project level measures should clearly and adequately evaluate the proposed project and provide for continuous improvement of project outcomes.

AHC-A Competition Resources

<u>Program Webpage:</u>

https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-discretionary-grants-support-services/effective-educator-development-programs/american-history-and-civics-academies//

➤ FY 21 AHC-A Notice Inviting Applications (NIA)

➤ FY 21 AHC-A Application Instructions Package

➤ FY 21 Applicant Information Webinars

➤ AHC-A EED Budget Narrative Template

QUESTIONS: Email questions to AmericanHistoryandCivics@ed.gov

AHC-A Competition Reminders

➤ **Closing Date: August 18, 2021 at 11:59:59 p.m., Washington, DC time**

➤ Late applications WILL NOT be reviewed

➤ FY 21 Intent to Apply Due Date: July 30, 2021

➤ Send Intents to Apply to: AmericanHistoryandCivics@ed.gov

➤ All applications must be submitted electronically using **Grants.gov**

➤ Grants.gov Help Desk: 1-800-519-4726

AHC-A APPLICATION APPENDICES

Appendix A: Demonstrates a Rationale: (Logic Model)

Appendix B: Documentation of its organization's demonstrated expertise in historical methodology or the teaching of America history or civics.

Appendix C: Resumes of Key Personnel

Appendix D: Current Approved Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, as applicable.

Appendix E: AHC-Academies Waiver Request of 100% Cost Share or Match Requirement, if applicable.*(Applicants that wish to apply for a waiver for one or more fiscal years should include a waiver request in their application that describes how the 100 percent matching requirement would cause serious hardship or an inability to carry out project activities. Waivers are not guaranteed and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. As part of the waiver request, the applicant should provide specific details to support the reason why the match cannot be met, and a waiver is needed. Applicants should also articulate what efforts it has undergone to secure funds to meet the match requirement.)*

Appendix F   Other documents, as applicable, for example, sources of the matching funds, letters of support and/or partnerships.

Appendix G: Proprietary Information (Eligible Applicants should identify any specific proprietary information and page numbers in the application where it can be found.)

Thank You for your interest in the AHC-Academies grant program!

Best wishes on a successful AHC-A application submission!
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