2022 EQUITY ASSISTANCE CENTER
GRANT COMPETITION

Fiscal Year 2022
AGENDA

- Program Information
- Competition Overview
- Application Narrative
- Application Selection Criteria
- Performance and Reporting
- Submission Procedures
- Closing Reminders
EQUITY ASSISTANCE CENTERS

PROGRAM PURPOSE

The Secretary is authorized, upon the application of any school board, State, municipality, school district, or other governmental unit legally responsible for operating a public school or schools, to render technical assistance to such applicant in the preparation, adoption, and implementation of plans for the desegregation of public schools.


PGSS Website: https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/program-and-grantee-support-services
EQUITY ASSISTANCE CENTERS

PROGRAM PURPOSE

- Equity Assistance Centers (EACs) provide technical assistance (TA), including training, upon request, in the areas of race, national origin, sex, and religion to school boards and other responsible governmental agencies located in their geographical service area.

- Technical assistance and training may include, for example:
  - Dissemination of information
  - Assistance and advice
  - Consultation and training
An applicant must be:

a) A public agency (other than a State educational agency or a school board);

b) A private, non-profit organization; or

c) A consortium comprised entirely of agencies or organizations described in clauses (a) or (b)
Federal support for coordinated technical assistance to address issues occasioned by desegregation and inequities will improve the capacity of state education agencies (SEAs), local educational agencies (LEAs), and other relevant stakeholders to provide better educational opportunities for all students regardless of race, sex, religion, or national origin.
PROGRAM LOGIC MODEL

**Inputs**
- Researchers and policymakers
- Relationships with agencies and partners
- Content area and methodological expertise
- Network of schools, districts, states, regions
- Dissemination, communication, training, and engagement strategies
- Federal staff
- Federal funding
- Federal regulations and guidance

**Processes**
- EACs collaborate and coordinate with other federal technical assistance providers and relevant partners
- EACs receive requests and work with clients to identify areas of significant need
- EACs provide universal technical assistance and support the use of evidence-based practices and frameworks
- EACs conduct needs sensing for universal technical assistance, and provide outreach and dissemination of resources in their region

**Outputs**
- Meaningful collaborations and coordination occur with federal technical assistance providers and relevant partners
- Needs and evidence-based practices are identified
- Appropriate levels of technical assistance are provided
- Resources are developed and disseminated

**Short-Term Outcomes**
- SEAs, LEAs, and other relevant partners recognize EACs as national leaders, an important partner, and a credible provider of technical assistance
- Increased collaboration and coordination across federal agencies and with relevant partners
- Increased client capacity to access information and understand how to address needs
- Increased client capacity to leverage resources and link programs/services to address needs
- Increased client capacity to revise and/or develop new policies/practices/systems to address needs

**Mid-Term Outcomes**
- Increased client application of knowledge to address needs
- Increased client implementation of policies/practices/systems to address needs

**Long-Term Outcomes**
- Improved and sustained public education system capacity to address issues occasioned by desegregation and inequities
- Increased equitable educational opportunities for all students regardless of race, sex, religion, or national origin
2022 EQUITY ASSISTANCE CENTER
GRANT COMPETITION

COMPETITION OVERVIEW
COMPETITION OVERVIEW
AT-A-GLANCE

- **Number of Awards:** 4
- **Estimated Available Funds for FY22:** $6,500,000
- **Estimated Range of Awards:** $1,400,000-$1,700,000
  - **NOTE:** Applicant budgets should not exceed $1,700,000 per budget period
- **Project Performance Period:** Up to 60 Months
- **Eligible Applicants:** Eligible entities include:
  - a) Any public agency (excluding SEAs or school boards)
  - b) A private, non-profit organization
  - c) A consortium of a & b above
- **Application Deadline:** May 16, 2022
COMPETITION OVERVIEW
GRANTS.GOV APPLICATION PACKAGE

- **ALN**: 84.004D
- **Opportunity Number** - ED-GRANTS-021522-001
- **Application Submission**: [https://grants.gov](https://grants.gov)

Applications must be submitted through grants.gov by 11:59:59pm Eastern Time on May 16, 2022.
COMPETITION OVERVIEW

GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS

- Four Centers will be funded under this grant program in four geographical regions, in accordance with 34 CFR 270.5.

- One award will be made in each region to the highest-ranking proposal for that region.

- If an applicant wishes to apply to serve more than one region, such an applicant **must submit an application for each region it wishes to serve**.

- Applicants should include the region they are applying for in the abstract portion of the application narrative.
Region I: Connecticut, Delaware, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virgin Islands, West Virginia.

Region II: Alabama, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia.

Region III: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wisconsin.

COMPETITION OVERVIEW

INVITATIONAL PRIORITY

Promoting Equity Through Diverse Partnerships.

Projects designed to promote educational equity and adequacy in resources and opportunity for underserved students in elementary school, middle school, and high school settings and which are implemented by or in partnership with one or more of the following entities:

- (a) Historically Black colleges and universities, defined as colleges and universities that meet the criteria in 34 CFR 608.2.
- (b) Tribal colleges and universities, as defined in section 316(b)(3) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA).
- (c) Minority-serving institutions, defined as institutions that are eligible to receive assistance under sections 316 through 320 of part A of title III, under part B of title III, or under title V of the HEA.
COMPETITION OVERVIEW

PEER REVIEW

- A minimum of 3 peer reviewers will evaluate each proposal.
- Reviewers will be asked to review the applicants’ responses to each criterion and score each of their assigned proposals.
- Not responding to a specific criterion could negatively impact the applicant’s score.
APPLICATION NARRATIVE

OVERVIEW

Applicants should provide a narrative that describes how their project proposal will meet the selection criteria.
APPLICATION NARRATIVE

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

When addressing the selection criteria, the Department encourages applicants to consider the following:

- **Improving Equitable Learning**: Demonstrate experience delivering technical assistance and training that resulted in documented improvements in creating more equitable learning environments for students.
APPLICATION NARRATIVE

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

The Department encourages applicants to consider:

- **Project Management Experience**: Demonstrate proven ability to manage personnel, resources, and budgets to adequately respond to a high volume of technical assistance requests.

- **Diverse Technical Assistance Capability**: Describe how they will consider the unique and diverse local and cultural needs of communities within the region and consider appropriate staffing and partnerships.

- **Partnerships**: Describe how they will establish and maintain networks of professional partnerships to further their desegregation work, including with other Federal offices, technical assistance centers, and professional organizations.
APPLICATION NARRATIVE

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

The Department encourages applicants to consider:

- **Remote Technical Assistance**: Establish a comprehensive plan to efficiently deliver effective remote technical assistance and training to clients that comply with applicable legal requirements for accessibility, including those required under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
APPLICATION NARRATIVE

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

The Department encourages applicants to consider:

- **Collaboration**: To improve the effectiveness of collaborative efforts across technical assistance providers to create more equitable learning environments responsive to a comprehensive range of student needs, applicants are encouraged to include in their proposed plans for networks of professional partnerships approaches for collaboration with agencies and organizations that reflect the broader intersectional nature of educational equity work.
APPLICATION NARRATIVE

PROJECT DESIGN

Applicants should describe a project design informed by research or evaluation findings that demonstrates a rationale (as defined in the NIA), explaining how the project is likely to improve or achieve relevant and expected outcomes:

- consider research and evaluation findings regarding best practices for addressing desegregation based on sex, race, religion, and national origin

- consider research and evaluation findings related to adult learning principles
APPLICATION NARRATIVE

PROJECT DESIGN

Applicants should describe a project design informed by research or evaluation findings that demonstrates a rationale (as defined in the NIA), explaining how the project is likely to improve or achieve relevant and expected outcomes:

- explain how the project will examine the sources of inequities related to race, religion, national origin, and sex in public schools, and their intersection with many other areas of important educational equity work (including socioeconomic status and disability)

- describe how the requested services will utilize evidence-based policies or strategies designed to increase racial, ethnic, cultural, socioeconomic, and linguistic diversity in educational settings
APPLICATION NARRATIVE

PROJECT DESIGN

Applicants are encouraged to:

 Propose to employ evidence-based practices that mitigate impacts of segregation based on sex, race, religion, and national origin in public schools

 Describe how to contribute to the evidence base on such practices, in accordance with the definition of “evidence-based” in 34 CFR 77.1

 Consider how the proposed project may develop evidence related to, or provide TA on, evidence-based policies or strategies designed to increase inclusivity with regard to racial, ethnic, cultural, and linguistic diversity in educational settings appropriate to the needs of the intended recipients or beneficiaries of those services
APPLICATION NARRATIVE

PROJECT DESIGN

Applicants are encouraged to:

▪ Include a rigorous evaluation plan that describes methods to identify and evaluate evidence-based practices and resources developed in response to client requests and the criteria for determining the extent to which outputs and client outcomes were met as a result of the TA provided

▪ Describe current or recent working relationships with governmental agencies legally responsible for operating public schools in the applicants' EAC regions
APPLICATION NARRATIVE

PROJECT PERSONNEL

Applicants are encouraged to:

- Demonstrate expert knowledge of Federal statutory requirements, regulations, and policies related to desegregating public schools by race, sex, national origin, and religion.
APPLICATION SELECTION CRITERIA
APPLICATION SELECTION CRITERIA

Selection criteria for this competition include:

- Quality of Project Design (up to 65 points)
- Quality of Project Personnel (up to 20 points)
- Adequacy of Resources (up to 15 points)

The maximum possible score for addressing all the criteria is **100 points**.
Quality of the Project Design (up to 65 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 services to be provided by the proposed project are appropriate to the needs of the intended recipients or beneficiaries of those services. (Up to 15 points)
- (ii) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project involve the collaboration of appropriate partners for maximizing the effectiveness of project services. (Up to 10 points)
- (iii) The extent to which the proposed project demonstrates a rationale (as defined in this notice). (Up to 10 points)
APPLICATION SELECTION CRITERIA

QUALITY OF THE PROJECT DESIGN

Quality of the Project Design Continued

- (iv) The extent to which the design of the proposed project includes a thorough, high-quality review of the relevant literature, a high-quality plan for project implementation, and the use of appropriate methodological tools to ensure successful achievement of project objectives. (Up to 10 points)

- (v) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes. (Up to 10 points)

- (vi) How the applicant will ensure that a diversity of perspectives are brought to bear in the operation of the proposed project, including those of parents, teachers, the business community, a variety of disciplinary and professional fields, recipients or beneficiaries of services, or others, as appropriate. (Up to 10 points)
APPLICATION SELECTION CRITERIA

QUALITY OF PROJECT PERSONNEL

Quality of Project Personnel (up to 20 points)

The Secretary considers the quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project. In determining the quality of project personnel, the Secretary considers:

- The extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability. (Up to 10 points)

- In addition, the Secretary considers the qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel. (Up to 10 points)

**NOTE:** Please note that a full-time Project Director will be required for each Center.
Adequacy of Resources (up to 15 points):

The Secretary considers the adequacy of resources for the proposed project. In determining the adequacy of resources for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

- (i) The extent to which the technical assistance services to be provided by the proposed project involve the use of efficient strategies, including the use of technology, as appropriate, and the leveraging of non-project resources. (Up to 10 points)

- (ii) The extent to which the budget is adequate to support the proposed project. (Up to 5 points)
ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

REMINDERS TO ENHANCE AN APPLICATION

When addressing the criteria, a successful applicant should review and consider these factors, among others, detailed in the Background Section of the NIA:

- Demonstrated experience in technical assistance delivery supporting equitable learning environments for students
- Demonstrated ability to manage personnel, resources, and budgets
- Demonstrated familiarity with the local and cultural needs of communities within their regions
  - Experience with diverse populations, such as those in rural communities, communities with newcomer families, communities with high instances of languages other than English spoken in the home, Tribal communities
ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

REMINDERS TO ENHANCE AN APPLICATION

When addressing the criteria, a successful applicant should review and consider these factors, among others detailed in the Background Section of the NIA:

- Demonstrated ability to facilitate partnerships and relationships with other Federal offices and technical assistance providers
- Demonstrated ability to use technological capacity to provide effective remote technical assistance and training
- Effective use of evidence-based practices supported by research and best practices
- Effective support for the intersection of sources of inequities related to race, religion, national origin, and sex with other areas of important educational equity
APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

BUDGET

- 524B Budget Table
- Budget Narrative
- Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

BUDGET CATEGORIES

- Personnel
- Fringe
- Travel
- Equipment
- Supplies
- Contractual
- Construction
- Other Costs
- Total Direct Costs
- Indirect Costs
- Training Stipends
- Total Costs
APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

BUDGET CATEGORIES

- **Personnel**: Project personnel salaries and wages only
  - Do not include consultant fees in this category
- **Fringe**: Benefits: Fringe benefits rate applied to personnel
- **Travel**: Travel costs of employees and participants only
  - Do not include travel costs for consultants in this section
  - Include anticipated costs for when travel is safe
  - Review [Travel Costs](#) in the Uniform Guidance for more information
- **Equipment**: Tangible, non-expendable personal property with a useful life greater than one year and acquisition costs of $5,000 or more
  - Applicants’ internal policies may establish a lower threshold
  - Examples: Business copy machine, significant IT infrastructure
APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

BUDGET CATEGORIES

- **Supplies**: Tangible, expendable items that are consumable, expendable, and of a relatively low unit cost
  - Examples: Paper, ink, computer implements such as keyboards

- **Contractual**: Costs associated with agreements and activities based on the applicant’s internal procurement systems
  - Review [Procurement Standards](#) (Sections 200.317 to 327) in the Uniform Guidance for more information
  - Examples: Consultant and consultant travel costs

- **Construction**: Not allowed

- **Other**: All direct costs not covered in other categories

- **Total Direct Costs**: Simply add up all direct costs

- **Indirect Costs**: Apply and add to budget costs based on entity’s approved indirect cost rate
APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

BUDGET CATEGORIES

Indirect Costs Considerations

▪ What are they?
  – Business expenses that are not readily identified with a particular grant, contract, function or activity, but are necessary for the organizational operations and activities

▪ The EAC program uses unrestricted indirect cost rate

▪ Include a copy of indirect cost rate agreement with application

▪ Use modified total direct costs (MTDC) when calculating annual indirect costs (unless your approved agreement explicitly says otherwise)
  – Include only the first $25,000 for each contract each year when applying the indirect cost rate
APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

BUDGET CATEGORIES

Indirect Costs Considerations

- Questions about indirect costs?
  - Contact the Indirect Cost Team at IndirectCostDivision@ed.gov
  - Visit the Department’s Indirect Cost Division website at: https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/fipao/abouticg.html
APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

BUDGET CATEGORIES

- **Training Stipends**: Costs associated with long term training programs and college or university coursework
  - Note: This is not a routine cost for the EAC program

- **Total Costs**: The sum of the previous budget line items
  - Note: Remember the application of the approved indirect cost rate agreement only to the first $25,000 of each contract unless your agreement specifies otherwise

**REMINDERS**

- No budget should exceed $1,700,000 per year
- Provide additional details in your accompanying budget narrative
2022 EQUITY ASSISTANCE CENTER
GRANT COMPETITION

PERFORMANCE AND REPORTING
Successful Applicants with multi-year grants must submit an annual performance report and a final performance report.

The Department will provide specific reporting guidelines, including reporting deadlines and requirements, for each of the required annual reports and financial expenditure information.

Cooperative agreements will be issued to each grantee following grant award further detailing these requirements.
PERFORMANCE & REPORTING

PERFORMANCE REPORTING

- Applicants should be prepared to measure and report on all program performance measures.
- Further details will be included in the cooperative agreement.
- Note that in the past the Department has conducted an annual survey to collect customer feedback to assist with this collection.
PERFORMANCE & REPORTING

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- **Measure 1**: The percentage of clients reporting an increase in awareness or knowledge resulting from technical assistance provided.

- **Measure 2**: The percentage of clients who report changed policies or practices related to providing students with a full opportunity for participation in all educational programs regardless of their sex, race, religion, and national origin.

- **Measure 3**: The percentage of clients reporting an increase in capacity resulting from technical assistance provided.
REPORTING & ACCOUNTABILITY
PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- **Measure 4**: The percentage of technical assistance requests received from organizations that were accepted during the performance period.

- **Measure 5**: The percentage of clients willing to request additional technical assistance or refer another organization to an EAC for technical assistance during the performance period.

- **Measure 6**: The percentage of clients who report that outcomes, as documented in memoranda of understanding with EACs, were met as a result of the technical assistance provided.
Project-Specific Performance Measures: An applicant may propose measures specific to that applicant's proposed project. If an applicant chooses to propose such project-specific measures, the application must provide the following information as directed under 34 CFR 75.110(b): How each proposed measure would accurately measure the performance of the project and how the proposed measure would be consistent with the performance measures established for this program.
SUBMISSION PROCEDURES
SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Grants.gov
  - Register as a user in Grants.gov
  - Allow 24 to 48 hours for your registration to become active
  - Add profiles and create a workspace
  - For detailed information on the Registration Steps, please go to: http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html

- System for Award Management (SAM)
  - Register with [SAM](#)
    - SAM registration can take approximately 7-10 business days, but may take longer

- Reminder: Transition from DUNS numbers to Unique Entity Identifiers (UEI)
SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

UNIQUE ENTITY IDENTIFIERS (UEI)

- The Application Instructions describe the transition from the requirement to register in SAM.gov a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number to the implementation of the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

- More information on the phase-out of DUNS numbers is available at https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ofo/docs/unique-entity-identifier-transition-fact-sheet.pdf
SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

PAGE LIMITS AND FORMAT

- Applicants may upload attachments in .pdf format only
- Applicants are encouraged to limit their Application Narrative to no more than 50 pages and to limit their supplemental narrative to 3 pages (if applicable)
- The Department suggests you use the following standards:
  - A "page" is 8.5" x 11" (on one side only) with 1” margins at the top, bottom, and both sides
  - Use a 12-point font
  - All text in the Application Narrative must be double-spaced including charts, tables, screen shots, graphs, headings, footnotes, and citations
SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

GRANTS.GOV

- Applications must be entered into the Grants.gov system
- Applications submitted via email will not be accepted
- For more information, including how to submit a paper application in cases in which electronic submission is not possible, please read the Common Instructions for Applicants to Department of Education Discretionary Grant Programs, published in the Federal Register on December 27, 2021 (86 FR 73264) and available at [www.federalregister.gov/d/2021-27979](http://www.federalregister.gov/d/2021-27979)
SUBMISSION PROCEDURES
REQUIRED FORMS

- Application for Federal Assistance (Form SF-424 “Cover Sheet”) – Note: must complete this form first
- Supplemental Information for SF-424 (Novice Applicant/Human Subjects Research)
- ED Form 524 Budget Information Non-Construction Programs
- ED Abstract Narrative Form and Accompanying Project Abstract
- Project Narrative Form and Accompanying Project Narrative
- Budget Narrative Form and Accompanying Project Narrative
- Standard Form LLL - Disclosure of Lobbying Activities*
- Grants.gov Lobbying Form – “Certification Regarding Lobbying” (ED 80-013 Form)
- General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) Requirements – Section 427 (ED GEPA427 form)
SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

REQUIRED FORMS

- Other Attachments Form:
  - Individual Resumes for Project Directors and Key Personnel: Provide brief resumes that describe the qualifications for the responsibilities that the Project Director and other Key Personnel (e.g., the Fiscal Agent) will carry out under the project.
  - Copy of Indirect Cost Rate Agreement: Attach a copy of your organization’s current Indirect Cost Rate Agreement.
  - Letters of Support: Attach any external letters of support for your application
  - References/Bibliography
  - MOU/MOA or Consortium Agreement Documentation (required for all group applicants)
  - Evidence Form 1894-0001
CLOSING REMINDERS
SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- **Register early** for SAM and Grants.gov
- Verify your submission in Grants.gov is Validated, Received by Agency, or Agency Tracking Number Assigned
- Follow the guidance in the Application Instructions
- Follow .pdf, suggested page limits, and formatting requirements
- Ensure all forms are accurate and complete
- Submit early!
SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Submit your application package on or before the deadline—May 16, 2022 at 11:59:59 Eastern Time.

No exceptions!
APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

APPLICATION PUBLICATION

- The Department plans to make successful applications available to the public after award.

- Applicants may request confidentiality of some business information, consistent with Executive Order 12600.
  - Applicants must provide specific information in their application.

- See Application Instructions for more information.
Successful applicants will establish a cooperative agreement with the Department after award. This agreement will include details such as the following:

- Communications Plan—This may include client communication strategies and the use of technology-based resources
- Partnership Agreements—Detailed agreements with potential technical assistance partners
- Evaluation Services—Awardees will cooperate in evaluation of services and activities
APPLICATION INFORMATION

RELEVANT LINKS

Notice Inviting Applications

Program Regulations

Application Package on Grants.gov

Application Instructions
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Please email: OESE.EACcompetition@ed.gov

Office of Program and Grantee Support Services
