



**COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR STATE
ASSESSMENTS (CGSA)
2022 COMPETITION**

**PRE-APPLICATION WEBINAR
FEBRUARY 25, 2022**

PRESENTERS

CGSA COMPETITION SUPPORT TEAM

State Assessments

- ✓ Donald Peasley, Kathleen Banks

School Support and Accountability

- ✓ Patrick Rooney

Office of General Counsel (OGC)

- ✓ Rachel Peternith, Colin Bishop



AGENDA FOR TODAY'S WEBINAR

- **Overview of CGSA**
- **Eligibility Requirements – SEA/Consortium.**
- **Priorities – One of two absolute priorities, one competitive preference priority, one invitational priority.**
- **Budget Narrative**
- **Other Application Documents**
- **Criteria and Scoring**
- **Grantee Responsibilities – Record keeping, budget, monitoring, performance reports, closeout.**
- **Applying to Grants.gov**
- **Information to Know – Timelines.**
- **Resources – NIA, Grants.gov weblinks, ED weblinks.**
- **Q & A**



Overview of CGSA

Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) link is at:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/02/16/2022-03290/applications-for-new-awards-competitive-grants-for-state-assessments-program>

Application Deadline: April 18, 2022, at 11:59:59 pm
EST

OVERVIEW OF CGSA CONTD.

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.
- The **program 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).



2022 CGSA COMPETITION & ELIGIBILITY

- **Type of Award** – Discretionary grants.
- **Estimated Available Funds** – \$17,700,000.
- **Estimated Range of Awards** – \$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000.
- **Estimated Average Size of Awards** – \$2,500,000.
- **Estimated Number of Award** – 3 to 6 awards.
- **Project Period** – Up to 48 months.
- **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 2021 SEA school-age child counts, are located on pages 6-7 of the CGSA grant application document. Maximum award size is \$3,000,000



CGSA ABSOLUTE PRIORITIES

- This competition includes two absolute priorities.
- Under 34 CFR § 75.105(c)(3) **we consider only applications that meet at least one** of these priorities. Eligible applicants must clearly indicate the specific absolute priority that the proposed project addresses.
- The **Department plans to fund at least one** grant under each absolute priority for which applications of sufficient quality are submitted.

CGSA ABSOLUTE PRIORITY 1

Measuring student academic achievement using multiple measures of student academic achievement from multiple sources.

CGSA ABSOLUTE PRIORITY 2

Evaluating student academic achievement through the development of comprehensive academic assessment instruments (such as performance and technology-based academic assessments, computer adaptive assessments, projects, or extended performance task assessments) that emphasize the mastery of standards and aligned competencies in a competency-based education model.

COMPETITIVE PREFERENCE PRIORITY

Improving the utility of information about student performance included in reports of assessment results and providing better and more timely information to educators and parents (**up to 3 points**).

note-see NIA for full text of this competitive priority.

INVITATIONAL PRIORITY

Supporting effective instruction and building educator capacity through the development of high-quality assessments of student learning and strategies that allow educators to use data from assessments to inform instruction.

CGSA ALLOWED USE OF FUNDS

Section 1203(b)(1)(A) of the ESEA identifies six allowable use of CGSA funds.

1. Developing or improving assessments for English learners.
2. Developing or improving models to measure and assess student progress or student growth on assessments.
3. Developing or improving assessments for children with disabilities.
4. Collaborating with institutions of higher education or other organizations to improve the quality, validity, and reliability of State academic assessments.
5. Measuring student academic achievement using multiple measures of student academic achievement from multiple sources.
6. Evaluating student academic achievement using comprehensive academic assessment instruments (such as performance and technology-based academic assessments, computer adaptive assessments, projects, or extended performance task assessments) that emphasize the mastery of standards and aligned competencies in a competency-based education model).



BUDGET NARRATIVE

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 CONTD.

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 CONTD.

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 CONTD.

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>.



OTHER APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

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
- **Other Attachment Forms** *(not included in 65-page limit)*
 - Individual Resumes for Project Directors and Key Personnel
 - ✓ We encourage you to limit each resume to five pages
 - Executive Order 12372
 - Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
 - Memoranda of Understanding
 - References/bibliography
- **Assurances and Certifications**



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.

Criteria	Max. Points
A. Significance	10
B. Quality of Project Design	25
C. Quality of Project Services	30
D. Adequacy of Resources	10
E. Quality of Management Plan	20
F. Quality of Project Evaluation	5



SUGGESTED SCORING RUBRIC POINTS BREAKDOWN

Criteria	Max. Points	Weak	Adequate	Strong
A. Significance	10	0-3	4-7	8-10
B. Quality of Project Design	25	0-8	9-17	18-25
C. Quality of Project Services	30	0-9	10-19	20-30
D. Adequacy of Resources	10	0-3	4-7	8-10
E. Quality of Management Plan	20	0-6	7-14	15-20
F. Quality of Project Evaluation	5	0-1	2-3	4-5
Total Score	100			



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, grantees will also be required to submit a **final performance report**.



GRANTEE RESPONSIBILITIES CONTD.

REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The Department has established the following performance indicators to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the Competitive Grants for State Assessments (CGSA):

- 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.



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 CONTD.

RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE

■ For Technical Difficulties

Grants.gov Customer Support at 1-800-518-4726 or email at support@grants.gov or access 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.



SYSTEMS FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT 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.
- **Until April 3, 2022** – Entities that are not already registered in SAM.gov must obtain and/or use a valid Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number to register their entity in SAM.gov.
 - ✓ Obtain a DUNS number from Duns and Bradstreet at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform> (takes 1-2 business days).
- **On or After April 4, 2022** – Entities that are not registered in SAM.gov will be assigned a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) when they register and will not need to use a DUNS number for entity registration or reporting (see “unique-entity-identifier-transision.pdf” handout posted in the chat and in application package document).



GRANTS.GOV SUBMISSION TIPS

- SEA staff should **identify who at their SEA has the ability to enable the State to create an 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.**
- Do not 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 April 18, 2022 will be marked late **and will not be read.**



INFORMATION TO KNOW

TIMELINES

- **March 18, 2022 - CGSA Intent to apply**
 - Not mandatory but preferred
- **April 18, 2022 by 11:59:59 pm EST – CGSA Submission deadline**
- **Award Announcements as early as possible**
 - Expected announcements: Mid to late September 2022
 - Expect funds to be awarded by September 30, 2022
- **Mid-October – Post Award Webinar/Conference Call**



RESOURCES TO ACCESS

- **Notice Inviting Applications**

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/02/16/2022-03290/applications-for-new-awards-competitive-grants-for-state-assessments-program>

- **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/search-grants.html?keywords=ED-GRANTS-021622-002>

- **Webinar Slide Deck and Recording**

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

- **CGSA Program Webpage**

<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:

ESEA.Assessment@ed.gov

