

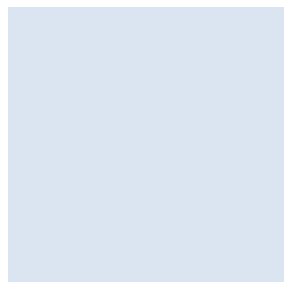
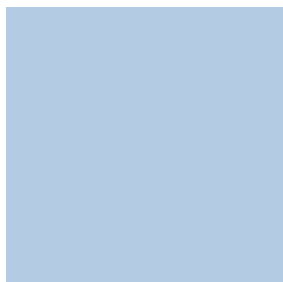
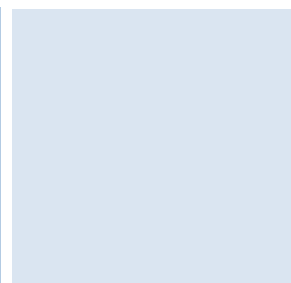


# Fostering Diverse Schools Demonstration Grants

## FY2023 Grant Competition Applicant Resource



The Fostering Diverse Schools Demonstration Grants program is intended to help school systems provide students with access to a well-rounded education and to improve school conditions for student learning by **increasing socioeconomic diversity in safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environments.**





# Absolute Priorities



The Foster Diverse Schools Program application has two absolute priorities. Applications must meet one of these priorities to be considered for funding.

## Program Focus

01



### Developing or Enhancing a Comprehensive Plan

to help school systems provide students with access to a well-rounded education and to improve school conditions for student learning by increasing socioeconomic diversity in safe, supportive and inclusive learning environments



02

### Implementing a Comprehensive Plan

An applicant must propose to **develop or enhance**, and make publicly available, a **comprehensive plan**, which must include:



A description of how the applicant will develop or enhance a plan to increase socioeconomic diversity across the LEA or LEAs



A description of how the applicant will document and publicly disseminate the results of the funded project



A timeline and approach for conducting a comprehensive assessment of the geographic area to be served



A timeline and approach for family, student, community, and educator engagement to inform the development of the comprehensive plan



Action steps and a timeline to produce a comprehensive plan approved by district leadership

An applicant must propose to **implement** its existing high-quality **comprehensive plan**, which must:

Provide evidence that the comprehensive plan to increase socioeconomic diversity is based on a comprehensive assessment of the geographic area to be served

Demonstrate that the comprehensive plan to increase socioeconomic diversity is based on rigorous family, student, community, and educator engagement

Document a commitment to ambitious, but achievable, goals for increasing socioeconomic diversity and transparent, published data analysis of progress relative to those goals







## Comprehensive Plan – Explained



The comprehensive plan to increase socioeconomic diversity is the focus area of the Fostering Diverse Schools Program. Applicants will either be developing/enhancing a plan OR implementing a plan.

### Definition

Comprehensive plan to increase socioeconomic diversity means a comprehensive plan (approved by an LEA's leadership) to:

- (a) Increase socioeconomic diversity within schools, classrooms, and educational programs, or courses or across and within school district(s), for the purpose of promoting academic achievement; and
- (b) Promote student academic achievement by fostering inclusive and welcoming learning environments that support the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students within classrooms and extracurricular activities in the district or districts and increase access to safe, healthy, and/or well-rounded educational opportunities.

### Required Elements of the Comprehensive Plan

	<input type="checkbox"/> The results of a comprehensive assessment of the area to be served.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Goals, metrics to determine progress and success, timelines, and cost estimates for improving and sustaining socioeconomic diversity in covered LEAs, schools, classrooms, and educational programs.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Professional development activities that support educators in creating safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environments.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Actions that build capacity to collect and analyze data that provide information for transparency, evaluation, and continuous improvement, including data that supports meeting diversity goals for students and educators, and equitable access to, and success in, programs and activities.
	<input type="checkbox"/> An approach to sustaining robust ongoing engagement with families, students, community members, and educators.
	<input type="checkbox"/> A comprehensive set of strategies designed to improve academic outcomes for all students at each of the following levels: (1) LEA, (2) school, and (3) classroom. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The plan must ensure that approaches offer schoolwide opportunities (i.e., to benefit all students in the school).</li></ul>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific methods for disseminating lessons learned during implementation.



# Key Application Elements



The application will be awarded based on applicants responding to the absolute priority, two application requirements, three **optional** competitive preference priorities, and seven selection criteria, described below.

## Application Requirements

**1.** Signed letters demonstrating broad community support for the proposal from at least five established community organizations representing diverse populations.

**2.** A description of how the proposed project will be designed to improve student outcomes, including increased academic achievement, in schools served by the LEA(s) by doing either or both of the following:

- Increasing access to well-rounded educational opportunities
- Supporting safe, healthy, and supportive school environments



**Fostering Socioeconomic Diversity in One or More High-Need LEAs**  
(0 or 10 points)



**Cross Agency Coordination & Community Engagement to Advance Systemic Change**  
(up to 5 points)



**Fostering Socioeconomic Diversity through Regional Approaches**  
(0 or 5 points)

## Competitive Priorities



**Need for Project:** Including (i) the magnitude or severity of the problem to be addressed; and (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

**10 points**



**Project Design:** The extent to which: (i) goals, objectives, and outcomes are specified and measurable (ii) the design of the proposed project is appropriate to, and will successfully address, the needs of the target population; (iii) the project is designed to build capacity and yield results that will extend beyond period of federal funding (iv) project reflects up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice (v) applicant demonstrates that it has resources to operate the project beyond the length of the grant.

**25 points**



**Project Services:** The quality and sufficiency of strategies for ensuring equal access and treatment for project participants who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented, the likely impact of the services to be provided, and the extent to which the services provided are focused on those with the greatest need.

**15 points**



**Project Personnel:** The extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have been historically underrepresented and the qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel.

**10 points**



**Adequacy of Resources:** The relevance and demonstrated commitment of each partner in the proposed project to the implementation and success of the project and the extent to which the costs are reasonable in relation to the objectives, design, and potential significance of the proposed project.

**10 points**



**Management Plan:** The adequacy of: (i) the management plan to achieve objectives on time and within budget, including responsibilities, timelines and milestones; (ii) procedures for ensure feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project; and (iii) how the applicant will ensure that a diversity of perspectives are brought to bear in the operation of the proposed project.

**20 points**



**Project Evaluation:** The extent to which: (i) the methods of evaluation will provide valid and reliable performance data on relevant outcomes; and (ii) the methods of evaluation include the use of objective performance measures that are clearly related to the intended outcomes of the project.

**10 points**

## Selection Criteria



## Further Resources & Information



### Upcoming Technical Assistance Webinars

The Department will hold pre-application meetings via webinar for prospective applicants on:

- ☐ **Tuesday, May 9** at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time
- ☐ **Thursday, May 18** at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time

For more information and to sign on to the webinars please visit [the program site](#).



### Resources & Contact



[Program Website](#)



[Notice Inviting Applications \(NIA\)](#)

### Point of Contact:

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