

Supporting America's School Infrastructure Technical Assistance Webinar Transcript

Thursday, June 8, 2023

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Hello and welcome to the fiscal year 2023 Supporting America's School Infrastructure grant competition, pre-application technical assistance webinar. This webinar is designed to support applicants interested in applying for the Supporting America's School Infrastructure grant competition in fiscal year 2023.

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I'm going to kick us off with some introductions. My name is Staci and I am the program manager for the Supporting America School infrastructure program, otherwise known as SASI, if you have questions about the program or the fiscal year 2023 grant competition, you can reach me by emailing oesse.shool.infrastructure@ed.gov

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Both Leslie Poynter and Patrick Carr, my colleagues in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education also support this program, but I will be your primary point of contact. Before we get started, I want to review a few important reminders listed on this slide.

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First, you can now access and submit a SASI application on grants.gov. The application is linked on this slide. Second, please note that the SASI application will close on August 7, 2023, at 11:59 PM EDT. All applications must be submitted in grants.gov.

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Prior to that time, to be considered for funding, and again, that deadline is August 7, 2023, at 11:59:59 PM EDT. Finally, please note that this webinar is meant to be a resource for applicants as they complete the application in grants.gov.

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This recording, nor the slides, contain the full text of the notice inviting applications, otherwise known as the NIA for the fiscal year 2023 SASI grant competition. Before applying interested applicants should thoroughly review the program's NIA, published in the federal register, which is also linked on this slide, the NIA includes

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A complete listing of eligibility and application requirements, priorities definitions, and selection criteria.

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At the end of this webinar participants will have a better understanding of the fiscal year 2023 application process for the SASI grant competition, additionally, participants will be able to identify the information required in the application and the application submission due date and review process over the course of.

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This presentation we will provide a program overview and discuss the following first program requirements, then application requirements, accessing and completing the application and grants.gov, and finally we will cover some resources if you have questions at the end of this webinar and after reviewing the notice, inviting a.

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And the application package in grants.gov please email the Department at oese.school.infrastructure@ed.gov.

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Let's jump right into an overview of the SASI program where we'll discuss the background and purpose of SASI basic award information and the competition timeline.

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Local educational agencies or LEAs, especially high-need LEAs face ongoing challenges in ensuring that their school facilities provide state, healthy, sustainable and equitable learning environments to address these challenges. The US Department of Education developed two school infrastructure programs, the Supporting America School.

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Infrastructure program or SASI, which is what we are here to discuss today and the National Center on School Infrastructure or NCSI grant.

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The purpose of the SASI program is to increase the capacity of states to support high-need LEAs and schools and leveraging other available federal state and local resources to improve school facilities and environments for all students. We'll discuss this more shortly, but eligible entities for the SASI.

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Include state educational agencies or SEAs or other state entities other than the SEA that have authority over or responsibility for education facilities, if the SEA does not have this authority, and again, we'll talk more about eligibility shortly the NCSI grant, which is the

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school infrastructure program will establish a national Center on school infrastructure that will serve as a Clearinghouse of Resources for states and LEAs related to improving and developing state healthy sustainable and equitable public school infrastructure and provide technical assistance to SASI grantees and high-need.

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As seeking to leverage available resources to improve public school facilities for all students in this way, the NCSI grant will be available as a support for SASI grantees and LEAs the NIA for NCSI is linked on this slide as well. This webinar is focused only on the SASI.

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Program, but as a SASI applicant, we encourage you to review the NIA for NCSI for awareness. Please note that this grant SASI fundstate-level capacity building and does not provide direct funding for infrastructure or infrastructure improvements for more information on both SASI and NCSI.

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Please see the SIP website, which is linked on this slide.

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Okay, this slide has information on what the Department expects for this award in fiscal year 2023. To start the Department will run a competition to award these funds. We anticipate making between 8 and 13 awards and we anticipate that the average award will be between \$3 million.

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And \$5 million for the duration of the 60-month performance period, the Department intends to award the full amount of the grant at the start of the 60-month performance period. This program does not require cost sharing or matching, nor can a grantee under this competition award, subgrants to entities to directly carry out project.

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Activities described in the application also note that the Department is not bound by any of the estimates included in this presentation and they are just that, estimates.

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The eligible entities or the SASI grant are state agencies, specifically state educational agencies or SEAs or a state entity other than the SEA that has authority over or responsibility for education facilities, if the SEA does not have this authority.

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And finally, a consortium comprised entirely of eligible agencies or organizations within a single state are also eligible please note that applicants applying under a consortium of eligible entities will be required to designate a lead agency in order to apply under the appropriate absolute priority.

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The Department will make only one award per state, and each application must apply under one of two absolute priorities. we'll dig into this, we'll dig into absolute priorities later in this presentation.

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We're going to discuss all of the steps in the application and award process later, but this slide provides a general timeline and major milestones for the fiscal year 2023 SASI competition. The competition was announced on June 2, when the notice inviting applications or NIA was published in the Federal Register

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Applications became available in grants.gov. Applications are due August 7, which is when the competition will close and the Department will begin its review process in late August, this process consists of creating peer reviewer panels, which will then review, which will then review submitted applications.

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The Department will go through an internal approval process and congressional notification in October and November of this year, and finally, we expect to announce awards in November or at the latest December.

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We're now going to discuss the program requirements for SASI, specifically, we'll review the absolute priority key program activities reporting and performance measures and some key definitions.

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Let's start with the priorities for the fiscal year. 2023 SASI competition. There are two absolute priorities and one competitive preference priority for this competition, applicants must apply under one of the two absolute priorities. Please note that we consider only applications that meet one of the absolute priorities.

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And for any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applications from this competition, these priorities are absolute priorities applicants applying under the building capacity of the SEA absolute priority may also address the competitive preference priority in their application. We're going to review.

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Three priorities in this presentation, but again, please see the SASI NIA for the full description.

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This slide includes both absolute priorities, which are differentiated by the applying organization to meet the requirements of absolute priority one building capacity of the SEA, the applicant must be an eligible state educational agency or SEA proposing a project that will, in,

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It's capacity to support high-need LEAs and provide technical assistance to those LEAs regarding how to leverage available resources to assess infrastructure needs and how to make public school infrastructure improvements. So, again, to meet the requirements of absolute priority one, the applicant must be an eligible state ED.

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Proposing the project to meet absolute priority two building capacity of the state entity other than the SEA, on the other hand, an applicant must be an eligible state entity other than the SEA and that entity must have authority over or responsibility for educational facilities.

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If the SEA does not have that authority or responsibility.

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I mean, absolute priority two with the proposed project must be in collaboration with the sea. So if you are a state entity other than the SEA applying under absolute priority to the proposed project in the application, must be in collaboration with the state educational agency.

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Includes some key information and reminders regarding applying under one of the two absolute priorities first the Department considers only applications that meet one of these two absolute priorities applicants must clearly identify the specific absolute priority, The proposed project addresses.

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In the project abstract and narrative for fiscal year 2023 and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applications for this competition. These priorities are absolute priorities. Only one application per state may be submitted to this grant competition under either absolute priority.

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One or absolute priority two, which means that applicants may need to coordinate across state agencies to submit one single application also as a reminder applicants can apply as a consortium of state agencies. So a state educational agency may apply.

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As a consortium with another state agency, however, that consortium must designate a lead agency and apply under that applicable absolute priority. So, if a consortium includes the state educational agency and that is designated as the lead agency that applicant will want to apply.

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Under absolute priority one, if you have questions about eligibility or the absolute priorities, we highly recommend reviewing the SASI NIA linked on this slide. You can also email us at oese.school.infrastructure@ed.gov

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Next, we're going to discuss competitive preference priority one SEAs with low capacity in the areas of school infrastructure again, for fiscal year 2023 and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applications for this competition. This priority is a competitive preference priority.

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The competitive preference priority applies only to those Ses applying under absolute priority one and is intended to prioritize those applicants with the lowest capacity in the area of school infrastructure. The competitive preference priority is worth up to five points and points will be awarded to an applicant that.

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Demonstrates that it currently has low or no administrative capacity to support LEAS in its state in assessing facility conditions or making public school infrastructure improvements by a testing that it needs one or more of the following criteria, first, the SEA must have test.

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That it does not currently provide capital funding for school construction or renovations consistent with the most recent public elementary secondary education, finance data, the SEA reported to the US Census Bureau. This attestation will be reviewed and scored for zero or three points.

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Meets the requirement. It will be awarded three points if it does not meet the requirement, it will be awarded zero points. Second, the SEA must have test that it does not currently employ a dedicated staff person whose primary job responsibility is providing technical assistance to LEAs regarding school infrastructure.

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Improvements, again, if the SEA applicant meets the requirement, it will be rewarded two points, if it does not the SEA applicant will be awarded zero points. Competitive preference priority points are awarded based on the two sub-criteria. I just reviewed applicants should ensure that they address both criteria in their application.

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IBLE for the total five points under this competitive preference priority.

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The Department will award an additional five points for competitive preference priority one to any application from an SEA under absolute priority one that addresses this priority, an applicant must clearly identify in the project abstract a narrative section that it wishes to be considered for the purposes of earning competitive preference priority point.

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Again, we recommend reviewing the NIA for more information or emailing us with any questions.

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Next, we're going to review some key required activities. Please note that this slide has some of the key required activities, but not all of them to see a full list of program activities. See the SASI NIA, which is linked on this slide.

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All of these activities are related to increasing a SASI grantees capacity to understand school infrastructure systems and support LEAs in their state on issues related to school infrastructure first, the SEAs must complete and needs assessment of high-need LEAS to determine their issues needs and potential Opport.

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School infrastructure, which will inform the applicant's logic model. We're going to come back to the term high-need LA, in the definition section of this presentation, additionally, note that an applicant must submit a logic model as part of the application given that we given that there are required activities.

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ATED with this logic model that will happen after funds are awarded the Department views. The logic model as a living document that will guide the grantee project over the course of the performance period. So please keep that in mind as you, the applicant are developing your logic model. The next activities on the slide are related to evaluating and developing state

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IDE systems first Assy Granty must develop or improve state and local data and information systems management related to public school infrastructure. Second, a grant team must evaluate the current state-level public school infrastructure funding systems and make recommendations that would ensure the system.

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Provide all students access to a state healthy sustainable and equitable learning environment. A SASI grantee must also establish or improve existing statewide systems for training lead agency officials responsible for public school infrastructure relatedly a SASI grantee must provide technical as.

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Assistance or TA to high-need LEAS related to school infrastructure and available funding. Finally, a SASI grantee must build the capacity of its staff by engaging in professional development on topics related to public school infrastructure and sustainability for non-SEA applicants. It is also required that they establish.

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Interagency collaboration with the state educational agency includes a few of the required activities for SASI, but again, we recommend that perspective applicants review the NIA for a full list of required activities.

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How performance will be measured and the SASI reporting requirements.

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Grantee is required to report annually to the Department on how it is meeting the outcomes described and the logic model, specifically how it is increasing the capacity of high-need LEAs, additionally, a SASI grantee must also report on which LEAs in the state have been designated as high-need how they meet that definition and.

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Which received direct TA, a state grantee's performance will be measured by the number of grantees that attain or exceed the established targets for the outcome indicators for their projects and the number and percentage of high-need LEAs, that report to the grantee that the overall condition of their school buildings is adequate.

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Please note that the grantee will be responsible for collecting this information and reporting it to the Department annually.

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The NIA also establishes definitions specific to the SASI grant. We're gonna highlight a few definitions in this webinar, but not all of them again, we recommend utilizing the NIA to fully understand each term and its definition for the purposes of SASI. The NIA is linked on this slide. The following definitions apply to the 2020

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The fiscal year 2023 green competition and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applications from this competition for the purposes of SASI state entity means an agency of the state other than the SEA with authority or responsibility over public school facilities. We've used this.

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Of times already in this presentation when talking about eligible entities, which include state entities and absolute priority, two.

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Next a few definitions to clarify what we mean when we talk about school infrastructure and sustainability for the purposes of the SASI grant, the term public school infrastructure means school buildings, facilities, and grounds, including the built and natural outdoor environment of a public elementary school or secondary school that are necessary for an LA.

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To provide a state healthy sustainable and equitable learning environment for all students. So again, we are defining the term public school infrastructure specific to SASI relatedly public school infrastructure improvements means activities related to building acquiring, altering or modeling, repairing, modernizing

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Public school facilities, including planning, design, financing maintenance, and operation of public school infrastructure. Finally, for the purposes of the SASI grant sustainable means practices policies programs and systems that do not deplete or permanently damage fiscal or environmental resources.

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Maintaining social, well-being, these definitions may be different than once you've worked with in the past, so we recommend that you review all of the definitions in the NIA and familiarize yourself with what we mean by public school infrastructure public school infrastructure improvements, sustainable, et cetera.

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Next is high-need LEAs we have mentioned this term several times throughout this presentation as we've discussed key program activities and reporting and performance measures as a reminder. The purpose of the SASI grant is to build state capacity, so that state agencies can support high-need LEAS in their states on issues related to school infrastructure.

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For example, SASI grantees are required to, among other things, provide technical assistance, specifically to high-need LEAS in their state, which they will also have to collect data on and report to the Department. So, what do we mean by high need? LEAs, as part of their application SASI applicants are required to establish

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A definition of high-need LEA for their state. In other words, we, the Department are not defining high-need to LEAs, but rather SASI applicants will define LEA for their state in their application.

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Applicants are also required to identify which LEAs meet the established criteria, which must be done annually for the performance period of the grant. The definition for funded applicants will be finalized in consultation with the Department as part of the Grant Award process. So, we will work with funded applicants.

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Use their definitions as needed in establishing the definition SASI applicants must include a measure of poverty and a measure of capacity to fund school facility improvements, We've included an example measure of poverty and capacity to fund school facility improvements for applicants in the NIA.

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Which will discuss on the next slide, additionally, if applicable to their state context, a definition may include secondary factors that impact the ability of an LEA or an individual school within an LEA to effectively make public school infrastructure improvements, for example, secondary factors may include the document.

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Condition a facilities or geographic isolation of the LEA or individual schools within an LEA, In this way, the definition of high-need LEA included in the SASI application must include a measure of poverty and a measure of the LEAS capacity to fund school facility improvements.

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It may also include it secondary factors that the state determines impact the ability of an LEA or an individual school within an LA- to effectively make public school infrastructure improvements.

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Applicants may establish their own measures of poverty and capacity to fund facilities as part of the definition of high-needlea. The Department has also provided an example that applicants may use if they find it applicable. These measures are on the side for the poverty measure, an LEA may be defined as high-need if it.

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Is among the alias in the state with the highest numbers or percentages of students counted as eligible under section eleven, twenty- four C of the ESCA. Please note that this measure is related to the determination of the number of children in poverty, under Title I, part A of the ESEA for the capacity to fund facilities. An LEA

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May be defined as high-need if it is among the LEAs in the state with the most limited capacity to raise funds for the long-term improvement of public school facilities as determined by an assessment of first the current and historical ability of the LEA to raise funds for construction renovation, modernization and major.

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Projects second whether the LEA has been able to issue bonds or receive other funds to support school construction projects and third, the bond rating of the LEA.

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Again, the Department has provided these definitions of ** this definition of high-need LEA, including the measure of poverty and capacity to fund facilities that I just reviewed as a reference for applicants. You are not required to utilize either measure or the whole definition applicants may mix and match, for example.

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Using this poverty measure, but their own measure of capacity to fund facilities or vice versa also as a reminder applicants may include secondary measures such as geographic isolation with their definition of high-need lead agency as well. So you could utilize the.

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Provided by the Department for Reference and also add a secondary factor such as geographic isolation for your states, your state definition of high-need LEA. That wraps up this section of the presentation. Next, we're going to review.

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Application requirements, including the components of the application package, the selection criteria, an overview of the budget narrative and some consideration and other requirements.

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This line has a summary of the required application package components and some of the documents that may be submitted as part of those components.

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All of the different parts of the application package listed on this side are required, although not every element within each part is required, for example, not all of the documents listed under part C- A part, six, other attachment forms are required, but the other attachment form.

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Is a required part of the application in grants.gov the application package instructions on grants.gov include the requirements for each component and all of these forms are included within that package as well. Further instructions on how to complete these forms can be found within the application instructions document on grants .gov, which is.

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Also part of the downloadable application package instructions document grants.gov will show you which forms are mandatory for the application and which are optional, which we're going to review more later. Please note that the Department will screen every application for completeness and the presence of the requirements.

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Before the content of the application is even reviewed. So please be sure to complete all of the required forms prior to submitting your application.

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We are not going to review all of these forms today, given that the instructions are available in grants.gov of, we are, however, going to focus our time on discussing the application and budget narratives. So if you have questions about any of the required forms, for example, the standard forms under part one or.

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The assurances and certifications under part seven, I recommend reviewing the application package instructions in grand stock of there are multiple narrative forms that must be submitted as part of the application. There's the abstract narrative form, which should include the name and address of the applicant. Organization name, phone number.

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Email address at the contact person for the project, the project title if applicable goals and expected outcomes of the project and as I mentioned earlier, which absolute priority the applicant is applying under, and if applicable that the applicant wishes to be considered for the purposes of earning competitive preference prior.

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Points this abstract narrative should not exceed one page think of it like a cover sheet with all all of the basic essential information related to you, the applicant, and your application, then there is a budget narrative form and the application narrative, which is submitted under project N.

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Form, please note that the application narrative is where you, as the applicant will address how you meet absolute priority one or two, the competitive preference priority. if applicable this selection criteria and the other application requirements that reviewers will use to evaluate your application.

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I want to emphasize this. The application narrative should address in detail, which absolute priority you are applying under, so that is absolute priority one or two, and how your application meets the competitive preference priority if that is applicable under absolute priority one, the selection criteria and another app.

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Requirements that application narrative is what reviewers and the Department will use to ensure that you meet the requirements of the application.

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We recommend that you include a table of contents for the application narrative and organize it by the selection criteria listed in the NIA. We're gonna talk about selection criteria shortly, additionally, we recommend limiting the application narrative to know more than thirty pages. Please note that this does not include.

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The table of contents, the budget section, the assurances, and certifications, the abstract resumes, bibliography or additional documents are included as part of the other attachment form section. So in short, we recommend limiting the co- the core section of the application narrative, which should address.

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Which priorities you are applying under and what the application requirements to know more than thirty pages, but that does not include the table of contents, etc

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Finally, the NI includes suggested standards for the application narrative, including fonts and spacing next we're going to discuss the different selection criteria.

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The first selection criterion we're going to discuss is the need for the project applicants may earn up to fifteen points for this criterion. There are three sub-criteria listed on this slide, along with the total possible point values for each criterion. Please note that reviewers will score at the sub-criteria level for each selection.

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Criteria, so ensure that your application narrative addresses each of the sub-criteria, for example, under the need for the project criterion applicant should address all three sub-criteria and explain the magnitude of the need for the services to be provided or the activities to be.

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Carried out by the proposed project in the extent to which specific gaps or weaknesses in the services infrastructure or opportunities have been identified and will be addressed by the proposed project reviewers will score this criteria according to how well the applicant addresses all elements, including the sub-criteria, I just discussed and are listed on this slide.

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Thinking about this criteria, many guarantees find it helpful to think of this section as a needs assessment, in which they describe the target population to be served and support their descriptions with statistical or anecdotal evidence.

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Next is the quality of the project. Design criteria applicants may earn up to thirty points total under this criterion. This criterion focuses on the project design and encompasses a wide range of elements from demonstrating a rationale for the project to have the project will operate beyond.

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As a reminder applicants should address each of the five sub-criteria and ensure that their application describes the extent to which the design of the proposed project is appropriate to and will successfully address the needs of the target population or other identified needs. The extent to which the proposed activities constitute.

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Coherent sustained program of training to the field, and so on the focus is on this side.

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The next selection criteria on which applicants will be evaluated is the quality of project services applicants may earn up to thirty points and must address each element in sub- criteria included in the NIA and listed on this slide. This criterion gives the applicant the opportunity to describe the likely impact of the project on recipients.

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State staff or high-need LEAs and the rationale for how the training or professional development will lead to improvements of practice reviewers were also assessed for the quality and sufficiency of strategies for insurance equal access and treatment for eligible project participants who are members of groups that have traditionally been under.

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Represented, which should be addressed in the application.

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Next is the adequacy of resources, applicants might earn up to ten points under this criterion reviewers will be looking for the extent to which the budget is adequate to support the proposed project. We recommend keeping the adequacy of resources in mind while developing the project and the budget two more criter.

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Applicants must also address the quality of the management plan, which will be reviewed and scored to up to ten points under this criterion reviewers will be assessing if an applicant's management plan can achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget.

115

00:34:33.280 --> 00:34:51.840

The final criteria centers on project evaluation your application of yours will consider the degree to which the methods of evaluation can examine the effectiveness of the project, the selection criteria, as well as a competition rubric are available in the SASI application package on grants.gov

116

00:34:55.040 --> 00:35:12.320

That does it for selection criteria next, we're gonna talk about application requirements as a reminder applicants must meet certain application requirements and those should be included in the application narrative along with the.

117

00:35:12.760 --> 00:35:32.640

Criteria as I mentioned, previously, Department staff will screen each application for completeness, ensuring that each application meets the requirements that I'm about to discuss applicants must address these requirements in the application narrative section, which I just mentioned and include evidence in the application as necessary.

118

00:35:34.080 --> 00:35:53.280

I'm going to walk through these requirements in this presentation, but we recommend that applicants reference the NIA for a full list. The first application requirement applicants will need to describe the high-need LEAS designated by the state to be served by this proposed project. We discussed defining.

119

00:35:54.080 --> 00:36:13.760

Earlier in the presentation, but there are additional elements that should be included. Additional related elements that should be included in the application, for instance, an applicant must define high and describe how it will determine if an LEA needs that definition, SASI grantees will annually.

120

00:36:14.400 --> 00:36:34.240

Which LEAS meet the established definition of high-need. So the application should include a description of that process, which will ensure that those designated in high-need will benefit from the project, not just in the first year, but over the course of the performance period, next an applicant must use a logic model to describe its approach to build.

121

00:36:34.400 --> 00:36:54.720

Internal capacity there are requirements for this logic model, for example, it must include key project components and relevant outcomes. I also want to highlight that the logic model should indicate how the proposed approach will improve or expand on any previous approaches. How the new approach will address barriers and how the applicant will.

122

00:36:54.840 --> 00:37:00.320

Sustain support for high-need LEAS after the project period has ended.

123

00:37:01.760 --> 00:37:17.240

We recommend reviewing this application requirement in the NIA and including any requirements that are defined elsewhere, for example, relevant outcomes, which should be a part of the logic model is defined in thirty- four CFR seventy- seven point one.

124

00:37:18.440 --> 00:37:35.880

Lastly, an applicant must include a proposed evaluation plan that describes the criteria for determining which one milestones were met. Two outputs for met three recipient outcomes were met and four capacity building services were implemented as intended.

125

00:37:38.240 --> 00:37:58.080

This is the last slide on the application requirements, Again, a full list of which can be found in the NIA. This requirement applies only to non- SEA state entities applying under absolute priority two, if you are a state agency other than the SEA applying under absolute priority two.

126

00:37:58.120 --> 00:38:18.560

You must describe how you will coordinate and collaborate with the SEA when implementing the project that description should clarify the role of the state entity applicant and the SEA in the project and interagency community and how interagency communication and coordination with the SEA will be developed and maintained.

127

00:38:18.600 --> 00:38:39.040

Over the course of the performance period applicants should also include a description of how the project will increase the capacity of the SEA to support high- need LEAS in leveraging available resources to assess and make infrastructure improvements in our highest need public schools. Again, this application requirement applies only to non- se.

128

00:38:39.040 --> 00:38:43.080

State entities applying under absolute priority, two.

129

00:38:45.440 --> 00:39:04.640

Next up is the budget narrative as part of the application, an applicant must submit a budget narrative, which fulfills the requirement of form ed- five, twenty- four section C- budget narrative section, a- of the ED- five twenty- four form is also required and.

130

00:39:04.960 --> 00:39:25.760

Down the budget by category, please note that the funds requested should match across the application, so that includes across the budget narrative that we are about to discuss and in section a of the ad- five, twenty- four form, which is structured like a table and again, breaks down the budget by category.

131

00:39:26.400 --> 00:39:46.880

We highly recommend that you review all of the various budget documents to ensure that the requested amounts match across the application and across categories the purpose of the budget narrative is for the applicant to provide a justification for how the requested money will be spent, including the proposed expenditure amounts for each.

132

00:39:47.120 --> 00:40:07.360

Item if the applicant's opportunity to, oh, excuse me it is the applicant's opportunity to explain to reviewers and the Department staff, how funds will be used and the relationship between requested funds and project activities and outcomes projects now will perform a cost analysis of each.

133

00:40:07.400 --> 00:40:27.840

Project to ensure that cost relate to the activities and objectives of the project are reasonable are allowable and are allocable. We may work with the applicant to delete or reduce costs during this review, This slide includes three things that should be included when writing a budget narrative. Please note that the full.

134

00:40:28.360 --> 00:40:48.320

For the budget portion of the application are available on grants.gov first, A budget narrative must include an itemized budget breakdown and narrative for each year of the proposed project. It should also include the basis for estimating the cost of propo of projected expenditures, including personal salar.

135

00:40:50.060 --> 00:41:01.180

Et cetera, the applicant should provide sufficient detail to enable reviewers and project staff to understand how funds will be used and that relationship.

136

00:41:05.420 --> 00:41:23.340

This slide includes a few considerations for applicants as they develop budgets as a reminder in determining a budget applicants should consider if the costs are necessary to complete the project, our reasonable and are allowable. The Department anticipates making a one time award for the full amount.

137

00:41:23.460 --> 00:41:43.820

Funds at the beginning of the sixty- month performance period. The Department anticipates that awards will range from three million to five million dollars, and finally this is a non- construction grant relatedly please note that this grant is intended to build state agency capacity and does not provide direct funding for school infrastructure improvements.

140

00:43:19.180 --> 00:43:39.660

Next up is the budget narrative as part of the application, an applicant must submit a budget narrative, which fulfills the requirement of form at five, twenty- four section C- budget narrative section, a- of the ed- five twenty- four form is also required and breaks down the budget by category. Please note that the fund.

141

00:43:40.940 --> 00:44:00.100

Under each category should match across the application, including in the budget narrative and in section a- of the ad- five, twenty- four form, we highly recommend that you review both forms and the entirety of the application to ensure that the requested fund amounts the requested funding amounts match.

142

00:44:00.780 --> 00:44:20.620

The purpose of the budget narrative is for the applicant to provide a justification for how the requested money will be spent, including the proposed expenditure amounts for each budget item, it is the applicant's opportunity to explain to reviewers and Department staff, how funds will be used and the relationship between the.

143

00:44:21.260 --> 00:44:40.580

Funds and project activities and outcomes project staff will perform a cost analysis of each project to ensure that cost relates to the activities and objectives of the project are reasonable are allowable and are allocable. We might, we may work with the applicant to delete or reduce costs during this review.

144

00:44:41.100 --> 00:45:01.580

This slide includes three things that should be included when writing a budget narrative. Please note that the phone instructions for the budget portion of the application are available on grand stock of first. A budget narrative must include an itemized budget breakdown and narrative for each year of the proposed project. It should.

145

00:45:01.620 --> 00:45:22.060

Also include the basis for estimating the cost of projected expenditures, including out including personnel, salaries, benefits, et cetera. The applicant should also provide sufficient detail to enable reviewers and Department staff to understand how the requested funds will be used how much will be expended and.

146

00:45:22.060 --> 00:45:42.460

The relationship between the requested funds and project activities and outcomes. So I want to emphasize again that all budget numbers should match across the application and that applicants use the budget narrative to explain and justify these budgets and their relationship to the project.

147

00:45:45.740 --> 00:46:03.020

This slide includes a few considerations for applicants as they develop budgets as a reminder in determining a budget applicants should consider if the costs are necessary to complete the project are reasonable and allowable the Department anticipates making a one-time award for the full.

148

00:46:03.060 --> 00:46:23.500

Amount of funds at the beginning of the 60-month performance period. The Department also anticipates that awards will range from three to five million and finally, this is a non-construction grant related. Please note that this grant is intended to build state agency capacity and does not provide direct funding.

149

00:46:23.660 --> 00:46:29.460

School infrastructure improvements on the SEA level or the LEA level.

150

00:46:32.460 --> 00:46:50.260

This slide has additional eligibility information that applicants should be aware of all of which can be found on pages 24 and 25 of the SASI NIL. First, this program does not require cost sharing a matching nor does it include any program-specific limitations on administrative expenses.

151

00:46:51.660 --> 00:46:56.620

And finally, this program uses an unrestricted indirect cost rate.

152

00:46:58.060 --> 00:47:18.540

As part of the application applicants must complete another attachment form, which is where you can attach one or more relevant documents, you can attach one or more documents under this form, but if possible, please submit all documents as a single PDF also make sure that.

153

00:47:18.660 --> 00:47:39.020

All substantive project-related information that you wish reviewers to consider is submitted in the application narrative and budget narrative section and not in the other attachment form. I'm gonna repeat that just to make sure that we really emphasize it contains all substantive project-related information that you.

154

00:47:39.060 --> 00:47:59.500

You wish reviewers to consider should be submitted in the application narrative and budget narrative sections. It should not be uploaded as an individual document or as part of a combined PDF in the other attachments, for example, documents that you may want to include in this section are not limited to but include.

155

00:47:59.540 --> 00:48:14.100

Resumes for the project director and any other tea personnel, a copy of your indirect cost rate agreement, if you currently are in possession of a negotiated indirect cost rate with the federal agency, and references or a bibliography.

156

00:48:17.420 --> 00:48:36.620

As part of the application applicants must also complete to the required assurances and certifications in grants.gov this includes the ED GEPA 427 form, which relates to the General Education Provisions Act GEPA requirements section, four twenty- seven, this gap performance.

157

00:48:37.260 --> 00:48:57.100

New, so we're going to spend some time reviewing it today. The General Education Provisions Act, or GEPA section, four, twenty- seven titled equity for students teachers and other program beneficiaries wasn't acted as part of the Improving America's School Act of 1994, its purpose to ensure equitable access to, and part.

158

00:48:58.140 --> 00:49:17.580

Federally assisted programs for all beneficiaries, the sixth barriers highlighted in section 427 are gender race color, national origin, disability and age an applicant must determine and define at the outset and based on the design of their proposed grant project.

159

00:49:18.220 --> 00:49:31.540

The participants and community and community, the project proposes to serve and local circumstances, What barriers may inhibit the full and effective participation of all who might benefit from the project.

160

00:49:33.580 --> 00:49:54.060

Section four, twenty- seven, the section, four, twenty- seven standard forms is required to be completed and submitted with an applicant's grant application package, each text box allows 4,000 characters. So, ensure if you are copying from another document that all contents, are copied correctly. Applicants that have already undertaken

161

00:49:54.380 --> 00:50:14.540

Steps to address barriers must provide an explanation or description of the steps already taken in response to each question as appropriate applicants that believe no barriers exist must provide an explanation or description to each question as appropriate, which confirms this position and satisfies GEPA section four.

162

00:50:15.180 --> 00:50:30.060

Requirement, one-page instructions are included in the application package for how to complete the GEPA section, 427 standard form, the notes on this form also outline additional details necessary for completing the form.

163

00:50:33.740 --> 00:50:46.100

If you need additional support while completing the gap, a section of the application, the Department has resources available, all of which are linked on this slide, and as previously mentioned, the application package also has instructions.

164

00:50:49.100 --> 00:51:08.300

We're going to end this section with a few reminders regarding the application review process in terms of the next steps. peer reviewers will read and score applications based on the selection criteria. We have discussed program staff will also review applications for consistency with application requirements and for completeness.

165

00:51:09.520 --> 00:51:29.360

To be considered for this competition, applications must be complete and address all of the relevant priorities, which include an absolute priority for all applicants, the selection criteria, and all the application requirements also be certain to complete all of the required forms and grants.gov and include all.

166

00:51:29.760 --> 00:51:49.840

Information in the appropriate place on each form. The Department will be reviewing these forms for completeness. We also want to remind potential applicants that the secretary may consider the past performance of the applicant and carrying out a previous award such as the applicants' use of funds. The secretary might also consider.

167

00:51:49.960 --> 00:51:56.760

Whether the applicant failed to submit a timely performance report or submitted a report of unacceptable quality.

168

00:51:59.440 --> 00:52:08.720

Now that, you know, more about the state program and what is required in the application. We're going to end this webinar with some information on how to access and complete that application.

169

00:52:10.360 --> 00:52:27.160

Please note that all applications must be submitted electronically through the grand stock of website. We've linked directly to the application package on grand stock of, on this slide, the screenshot on this slide also shows you what the login page of grants.gov of should look like.

170

00:52:29.560 --> 00:52:48.720

This slide has a few tips and reminders remind regarding grants.gov of grants.gov includes the instructions and requirements for each application form. So that's really the best place to go looking for application instructions. All of these instructions can be downloaded as a complete application package as well.

171

00:52:48.760 --> 00:53:09.200

If you are new to grants.gov or want to refresher, we recommend reviewing the grand stock of submission procedure and tips for applicants in the application package, you can download that you can download the application and work offline as well. That being said, applicants must also download the correct version of Adobe in order to.

172

00:53:09.840 --> 00:53:29.680

Any grants.gov of application packages. So what that means, if you download forms from grants.gov of as part of the application, you will need the correct version of Adobe in order to work with those forms. There is a banner on the top of the grand Stock of page that tells you more about which version of ADO.

173

00:53:30.120 --> 00:53:31.240

Unique.

174

00:53:32.880 --> 00:53:52.680

Once an application is submitted applicant should receive a confirmation email with a time and date stamp on the right side of this slide. You can see a few very important reminders regarding grants.gov of if you are working actively in the site, please remember to save often.

175

00:53:53.440 --> 00:54:13.840

Just in case the site crashes, you lose internet connectivity, et cetera. Also please make sure to include all forms and attachments. I've mentioned this before, but we do review for completeness. So please make sure all forms and your intended attachments are included in the application on grants.gov. Submit all documents as.

176

00:54:13.920 --> 00:54:34.320

Pdfs and once the application is complete, you will see the save and submit button, make sure to save and submit once you are, once you are ready, you cannot unsubmit an application, but you can resubmit at any time prior to the close of the application if a correction is needed. So for example.

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00:54:34.960 --> 00:54:53.080

Once you submit, you cannot remove that submission, but if you need to make a correction, you can resubmit the application with the correction, and finally, once you have submitted the application, please save a copy of it so that you have a record of your complete application.

178

00:54:57.360 --> 00:55:15.280

One very important note about grants.gov it is critical to go through the registration process. You do not have to register with grants.gov if you only want to find grant opportunities or to download the application package, but you must register.

179

00:55:16.120 --> 00:55:34.400

In grants.gov, in order to submit the application. So if you intend to apply, you will need to go through the registration process. It does take up to four weeks to complete this entire process, so we highly recommend that you start as soon as possible.

180

00:55:35.760 --> 00:55:56.200

The first step is ensuring that your organization has a unique entity ID or UEI and that the UEI is registered in the system for awards management or sam.gov, in order to submit your application, you must have a UEI, if your organization is currently registered in Sam with either an active or inactive registration.

181

00:55:56.240 --> 00:56:16.720

You've already been assigned a UEI and you should be able to see it in your entity's registration record in grants.gov. Once you have confirmed that your organization has a registered UI, you can create your applicant user account and grants.gov, and add your organization profile to your applicant user account again, please note that this process can take.

182

00:56:16.800 --> 00:56:34.720

Several weeks, so we recommend that you start as quickly as possible this slide, it links to several resources including Sam .gov. How to create an applicant user account and grants.gov gov and how to add your organization profile to your applicant user account using your UEI number.

183

00:56:38.480 --> 00:56:56.400

To support your organization as you work on the application grants.gov of also has a tool called Workspace, which is a shared online environment to collaboratively complete and submit federal grant applications. It consists of step-by-step explanations of particular applicant tasks that help.

184

00:56:56.400 --> 00:57:16.880

Helps applicants get started using grants.gov it allows for different members of your team to access and complete different forms at the same time, and you can also complete these forms offline and re-upload them when you have connectivity. Workspace is a tool that you can use, and we've included more information about it in the resources.

185

00:57:17.160 --> 00:57:19.000

At the end of this presentation.

186

00:57:22.000 --> 00:57:41.200

As a reminder, grants.gov includes a downloadable version of the application package. It also shows you which forms are mandatory, and which are optional. See the screenshot on this slide. There's one optional form included in the application package, and that is the SLL form disclosure of lobbying activities.

187

00:57:41.920 --> 00:57:59.920

This form is required if your organization has conducted lobbying activities or performed actions to influence the outcome of legislation or covered federal action, the less side of this screen includes all of the mandatory SASI application forms, many of which we've discussed in this webinar.

188

00:58:02.960 --> 00:58:22.160

Before we wrap up, I want to emphasize the importance of registering and grants.gov of, and Sam .gov as early as possible, since these processes can take weeks, additionally, we recommend submitting the application early please leave enough leeway. In other words, at least several days to address any issues that.

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00:58:22.400 --> 00:58:42.640

Arise with grants.gov submission. Also, grants.gov assigns each application and agency tracking number, which you can use to track your application in this middle process. We've also linked to the tracking page on this slide to verify if your application has been submitted, you can log into grant St.

190

00:58:43.280 --> 00:59:03.120

And confirm that the application status has validated the applicant should also receive a confirmation email, once the application is submitted and finally just a reminder that applications are due August 7th, 2023, at 11:59 PM EDT, okay, we are now going to wrap up with some.

191

00:59:03.240 --> 00:59:23.600

Resources including some information on grants.gov of if you are experiencing technical difficulties grants.gov has a customer support phone line and email, both of which are on this slide grants.gov also has a self-help webpage where you can go in and read articles and search.

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00:59:23.600 --> 00:59:44.080

Different topics or issues. Please note that the grants.gov of customer service support line is not open on the weekends. In other words, it is only available to call or answer your emails during the weekdays. This application is due on August 7, which is a Monday.

193

00:59:44.080 --> 01:00:04.560

So you may want to submit the application the week before, if you have issues submitting over the weekend grand stock, gov support will not be available to help you in the event of some last-minute issue. So again, we recommend giving yourself several days leeway between, when you intend to submit the application and grand stock of, and when the application.

194

01:00:05.280 --> 01:00:08.080

In grants.gov up on August 7,

195

01:00:09.040 --> 01:00:29.440

This slide also links to a grand stock of video series, which discusses the grant application package and is good for folks who are new to grants.gov, or those who need a refresher finally the SASI grant application package also has submission instructions and tips.

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01:00:32.720 --> 01:00:50.000

This slide has some reminders and information that application should be aware of, in terms of the deadline, the application will close on August 7, at 11:59 PM Eastern, we expect to make the award announcements and award funds in November or December of this year after that likely in the winter of.

197

01:00:50.040 --> 01:01:10.480

Two thousand, twenty- four, we will hold a post-award webinar for grantees. This slide also links to the Nicky website again as a reminder NCSI is the other school infrastructure program and this website has information on that grant and the grantees for both SASI.

198

01:01:12.020 --> 01:01:14.660

Collaboration over the performance period.

199

01:01:17.700 --> 01:01:36.700

This slide links to resources on SASI, including the website, the NIA, and the application package after reviewing this presentation and reviewing those resources, if you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. You can email us that oeseschoolinfrastructure@ed.gov

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01:01:36.900 --> 01:01:38.060

Thank you.