

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Houser, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 3C140, Washington, DC 20202-6140. Telephone: (202) 401-0307 or via Internet: Jim.Houser@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, or computer diskette) on request to the program contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain a copy of the application package in an alternative format by contacting that person. However, the Department is not able to reproduce in an alternative format the standard forms included in the application package.

Electronic Access to This Document: You may view this document, as well as all other Department of Education documents published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister>.

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The Department intends to offer further information about the program at the following Internet site: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OII/portfolio/facilities.html>.

Note: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO access at: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html>.

Program Authority: Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, title V, part B, subpart 2, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act, 2001 (20 U.S.C. 7223-7223j).

Dated: March 31, 2003.

Nina S. Rees,

Deputy Under Secretary for Innovation and Improvement.

[FR Doc. 03-8133 Filed 4-2-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.069]

Federal Student Aid; Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership and Special Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership Programs

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of the closing date for receipt of State applications for Award Year 2003-2004 funds.

SUMMARY: This is a notice of the closing date for receipt of State applications for Award Year 2003-2004 funds under the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) and Special Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (SLEAP) programs.

The LEAP and SLEAP programs, authorized under Title IV, Part A, Subpart 4 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended (HEA), assist States in providing aid to students with substantial financial need to help them pay for their postsecondary education costs through matching formula grants to States. Under section 415C(a) of the HEA, a State must submit an application to participate in the LEAP and SLEAP programs through the State agency that administered its LEAP Program as of July 1, 1985, unless the Governor of the State has subsequently designated, and the Department has approved, a different State agency to administer the LEAP Program.

DATES: To receive an allotment under the LEAP and SLEAP programs for Award Year 2003-2004, applications submitted electronically must be received by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern time) May 30, 2003. Paper applications must be received by May 23, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Greg Gerrans, LEAP Program Manager, Financial Partners, U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid, 830 First Street, NE., Room 111H1, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 377-3304.

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format the standard forms included in the application package.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Only the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands may submit an application for funding under the LEAP and SLEAP programs.

State allotments for each award year are determined according to the statutorily mandated formula under section 415B of the HEA and are not negotiable. A State may also request its share of reallocation, in addition to its basic allotment, which is contingent upon the availability of such additional funds.

In Award Year 2002-2003, 47 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands received funds under the LEAP Program. Additionally, 34 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands received funds under the SLEAP Program.

On-Line Application Submitted Electronically: The Financial Partners Channel within Federal Student Aid has automated the LEAP and SLEAP application process in the Financial Management System (FMS). Applicants are encouraged to use the web-based form (Form 1288-E OMB 1845-0028) which is available on the FMS LEAP on-line system at the following Internet address: <http://fms.sfa.ed.gov>

Paper Application Delivered by Mail: States or territories may request a paper version of the application (Form 1288 OMB 1845-0028) by contacting Mr. Greg Gerrans, LEAP Program Manager, at (202) 377-3304 or by E-mail at greg.gerrans@ed.gov. A paper version will be mailed to you. An application sent by mail must be addressed to: Mr. Greg Gerrans, LEAP Program Manager, Financial Partners, U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid, 830 First Street, NE., Room 111H1, Washington, DC 20202.

The Department of Education encourages applicants that are completing a paper application to use certified or at least first-class mail when sending the application by mail to the Department. Applications that are mailed must be received by the Department no later than May 23, 2003.

A late applicant cannot be assured that its application will be considered for Award Year 2003-2004 funding.

Paper Applications Delivered by Hand: Applications that are hand-delivered must be delivered to Mr. Greg Gerrans, LEAP Program Manager,

Financial Partners, U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid, 830 First Street, NE., Room 111H1, Washington, DC. Hand-delivered applications will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. daily (Eastern time), except Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays.

Applications that are hand-delivered will not be accepted after 4:30 p.m. on the closing date.

Applicable Regulations: The following regulations are applicable to the LEAP and SLEAP programs:

(1) The LEAP and SLEAP Program regulations in 34 CFR part 692.

(2) The Student Assistance General Provisions in 34 CFR part 668.

(3) The Regulations Governing Institutional Eligibility in 34 CFR part 600.

(4) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR 75.60 through 75.62 (Ineligibility of Certain Individuals to Receive Assistance), part 76 (State-Administered Programs), part 77 (Definitions that Apply to Department Regulations), part 79 (Intergovernmental Review of Department of Education Programs and Activities), part 80 (Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments), part 82 (New Restrictions on Lobbying), part 85 (Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants)), part 86 (Drug-Free Schools and Campuses) and part 99 (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act).

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Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070c *et seq.*

Dated: March 31, 2003.

Theresa S. Shaw,

Chief Operating Officer Federal Student Aid.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA Nos. 84.133S and 84.017S]

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) and the Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE); Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program—Phase I Notice Inviting Grant Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

Purpose of Program: The purpose of this program is to stimulate technological innovation in the private sector, strengthen the role of small business in meeting Federal research or research and development (R/R&D) needs, increase the commercial application of Department of Education (ED) supported research results, and improve the return on investment from Federally-funded research for economic and social benefits to the Nation.

For FY 2003, we encourage applicants to present activities that focus on the invitational priorities in the *Priorities* section of this application notice.

Eligible Applicants: Each organization submitting an application must qualify as a small business concern as defined by the Small Business Administration (SBA) at the time of the award. This definition is included in the application package.

Firms with strong research capabilities in educational and assistive technologies, science, or engineering in any of the priority areas listed are encouraged to participate. Consultative or other arrangements between these firms and universities or other non-profit organizations are permitted, but the small business must serve as the grantee.

If it appears that an applicant organization does not meet the eligibility requirements, we will request an evaluation by the SBA. Under circumstances in which eligibility is unclear, we will not make an SBIR award until the SBA makes a determination.

Applications Available: April 3, 2003.

Deadline for Transmittal of

Applications: June 3, 2003.

Estimated Available Funds: Up to \$4,176,000 for new Phase I awards.

The estimated amount of funds available for new Phase I awards is based upon the estimated threshold SBIR allocation for OSERS and OPE, minus prior commitments for Phase II

continuation awards. The actual funds available could be less, should an office make any new Phase II awards in FY 2003.

Estimated Average Size of Awards:

Up to \$75,000 for Priority 1 and \$60,000 for Priority 2.

Maximum Award: We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding \$75,000 for Priority 1 or \$60,000 for Priority 2 for a project period of up to 6 months.

Estimated Number of Awards: 25.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: Up to 6 months.

Page Limits: The application narrative is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. You must limit your application narrative to the equivalent of no more than 25 pages, excluding any documentation of prior multiple Phase II awards, if applicable; and required forms. The following standards should be used:

- A "page" is 8.5" x 11", on one side only, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides.

- Single space all text in the application narrative, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.

- Use a font that is either 12-point or larger or no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch). Standard black type should be used to permit photocopying.

- Draw all graphs, diagrams, tables, and charts in black ink. Do not include glossy photographs or materials that cannot be photocopied in the body of the application.

The application package will provide instructions for completing all components to be included in the application. Each application must include an application cover sheet (ED Standard Form 424); budget requirements (ED Form 524) and other required forms; an abstract, certifications, and statements; a technical content project narrative; and related application(s) or award(s) and documentation of multiple Phase II awards, if applicable.

We will reject your application if—

- You apply these standards and exceed the page limit; or
- You apply other standards and exceed the equivalent of the page limit.

Applicable Statutes and Regulations

(a) *Statutes.* The Small Business Reauthorization Act of 2000, Pub. L. 106-554 (15 U.S.C. 631 and 638); Title