

Length of Funding for UBP-PEI

Comments: Four commenters inquired about the expected funding period for this initiative.

Discussion: To the extent that the commenters were questioning whether the Secretary planned to provide additional funding in future fiscal years, the Secretary anticipates awarding funds under the UBP-PEI for the next four project/budget years. However, the expenditure of funds in the future is always contingent upon Congressional action, including the size of the Congressional appropriation for a program in a given fiscal year.

Changes: None.

Requests for Clarification on Student Eligibility

Comments: Ten commenters asked whether students already enrolled in Upward Bound who took part in the previous Upward Bound initiative could participate in this year's initiative. Eight commenters asked whether all UBP-PEI students must come from the target schools that have 50 percent or more students eligible for the Free Lunch program. Another commenter asked whether grades of C or less in 8th grade core subjects were acceptable if a student's grade point average was unavailable.

Discussion: Students currently being served by Upward Bound projects as a consequence of participating in the FY 2000 expansion initiative may participate in UBP-PEI *as long as they meet all UBP-PEI criteria*, that is they are eligible Upward Bound participants who are enrolled in an eligible target high school and meet one or more of the greatest academic need criteria listed in the priority. With regard to the second question, for the reasons explained in a previous response, all UBP-PEI students must attend eligible target schools. With regard to the third question, the Secretary does not wish to add additional criteria. Moreover, the third criterion allows a project to use the grade point average for the most recent school year for which grade point averages are available. Therefore, a relevant grade point average will almost always be available.

Changes: None.

Request To Reduce the Minimum Number of Participants Served

Comments: One commenter proposed that eligible projects be given the opportunity to serve the number of needy participants they could manage best. The commenter indicated that project and institutional resources may not be sufficient to accommodate and

serve well 20 additional students, yet resources would be available to serve a smaller number adequately.

Discussion: The Secretary considers this suggestion reasonable and viable.

Changes: A project may request three levels of funding, \$100,000, \$75,000, or \$50,000. If a project requests \$100,000, it must serve at least 20 students; if it requests \$75,000, it must serve at least 15 students; if it requests \$50,000, it must serve at least 10 students.

Concerns About Local Impediments That Run Counter to UBP-PEI

Comments: Three commenters identified local or regional situations that present difficulties in meeting the UBP-PEI criteria or providing the required services. One was the Appalachia situation that was mentioned above, a second was small rural schools, and a third was jurisdictions like Chicago, where the School Board has mandated students who flunk state tests take summer courses so the students would be unable to participate in the Upward Bound summer component.

Discussion: The change discussed above that allows a project to apply for three levels of funding should eliminate the first two concerns. Jurisdictions like Chicago are providing a valuable service to Chicago students, obviating the need for Upward Bound involvement.

Changes: See preceding change.

Suggestions for Additional Criteria for Student Eligibility

Comments: Three commenters suggested additional eligibility criteria for program participants: limited English proficiency, English as a second language, and a grade of C or less in core academic subjects.

Discussion: As stated earlier, a student currently served by Upward Bound projects may be eligible to participate in UBP-PEI if the student is enrolled in an eligible target high school, and meets one or more of the greatest academic need criteria listed in the priority. The Secretary does not wish to add additional criteria that may be hard to implement consistently across projects nationwide and may confound the evaluation of the impact that UBP-PEI has on the individuals served.

Changes: None.

Intergovernmental Review

This program is subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. One of the objectives of the Executive order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism. The Executive

order relies on processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

This document provides early notification of our specific plans and actions for this program.

Applicable Program Regulations

34 CFR part 645

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(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 84.047A, Upward Bound Program Participant Expansion Initiative)

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070.

Dated: August 18, 2003.

Sally L. Stroup,

Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No: 84.047A]

Office of Postsecondary Education, Upward Bound Program Participant Expansion Initiative; Notice Inviting Applications for Supplemental Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

Purpose of Program: The purpose of this initiative is to help the Upward Bound Program achieve one of its key performance goals: increasing the college enrollment rate of low-income, first generation college students.

Eligible Applicants: All currently funded Upward Bound projects successful in the FY 2003 grant competition. Veterans Upward Bound projects and Upward Bound Math-Science projects are not eligible to participate.

Applications Available: August 21, 2003.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: September 8, 2003.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: Completed on February 11, 2003.

Estimated Available Funds: \$18,000,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$50,000–\$100,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$100,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 180.

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

Project Period: Up to 4 years.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 82, 86, 97, 98, and 99; and (b) the regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 645.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Eligible applicants that meet all the criteria for the absolute priority, except for having received supplemental funding under the FY 2000 participant expansion initiative, are invited to apply and will be funded, subject to the availability of funds, as described in the Notice of Final Priority.

Applicants for supplemental awards must submit an application that contains:

- A list, certified by the Upward Bound project director, of the target schools in which at least 50 percent of the students were eligible for the Free Lunch program during the 2001–02 or 2002–03 school year;
- The number of additional students, at least 10 (if requesting \$50,000), at least 15 (if requesting \$75,000), or at least 20 (if requesting \$100,000), that the project plans to serve;
- Agreement to select participants from the identified eligible target schools that have one or more of the greatest need criteria described in the Notice of Final Priority;
- A brief description of the activities that will be supported with the supplemental funding;
- A budget summary; and
- A budget narrative describing how the supplemental funds will be used.

Priority

Absolute Priority

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), the Secretary will give an absolute preference to applications that meet the following absolute priority.

The Secretary will provide supplemental funds of up to \$100,000 to regular Upward Bound Program projects that:

1. Were selected for funding under the FY 2003 Upward Bound Program grant competition;

2. Serve a target high school in which at least 50 percent of the students were eligible to receive free lunch under the National School Lunch Act during the 2001–2002 or 2002–2003 school year;

3. Received supplemental funds in FY 2000 under the Notice of Final Priority dated July 24, 2000, 65 FR 45698–45699; and

4. (a) Agree to select and serve at least 20 students who are eligible for Upward Bound services, attend a target high school in which at least 50 percent of the students were eligible to receive free lunch under the National School Lunch Act during the 2001–2002 or 2002–2003 school year and have the greatest need for project services, if requesting \$100,000.

(b) Agree to select and serve at least 15 students who are eligible for Upward Bound services, attend a target high school in which at least 50 percent of the students were eligible to receive free lunch under the National School Lunch Act during the 2001–2002 or 2002–2003 school year and have the greatest need for project services, if requesting \$75,000.

(c) Agree to select and serve at least 10 students who are eligible for Upward Bound services, attend a target high school in which at least 50 percent of the students were eligible to receive free lunch under the National School Lunch Act during the 2001–2002 or 2002–2003 school year and have the greatest need for project services, if requesting \$50,000.

Students who have the greatest need for project services are those students who:

- a. Have not met the state academic achievement standard for grade eight in reading/language arts;
- b. Have not met the state academic achievement standard for grade eight in math; or
- c. Have a grade point average of 2.5 or less (on a 4.0 scale) for the most recent school year for which grade point averages are available.

Veterans Upward Bound projects and Upward Bound Math-Science projects are not eligible to participate in this initiative.

The Secretary will fund applications in the following order:

- 1. Applications that meet the absolute priority.
- 2. All other applications that meet criteria 1, 2, and 4 above.

If funds are available after funding all applications that meet the absolute priority, the Secretary will select from among the remaining applicants based

upon the highest scores received (including prior experience points) in the FY 2003 Upward Bound grant competition. If there are insufficient funds for all applications with the same score, the Secretary will select for funding those applicants with the lowest average cost per Upward Bound participant (Federal funds only) for the 2001–2002 program year.

FOR APPLICATIONS AND FURTHER

INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Margarita Benitez, Sheryl Wilson, or Gaby Watts, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., Room 7020, Washington, DC 20006–8510. Telephone (202) 502–7600. The e-mail address for the Office of Federal TRIO Programs is: Trio@ed.gov.

The e-mail addresses for Dr. Benitez, Ms. Wilson and Ms. Watts are: Margarita.Benitez@ed.gov, Sheryl.Wilson@ed.gov, Gaby.Watts@ed.gov.

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Dated: August 18, 2003.

Sally Stroup,

*Assistant Secretary Office of Postsecondary
Education.*

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