

(3) Create, maintain, and expand a subscriber data base for ED.

(4) Evaluate on an ongoing basis the impact of *The Challenge* on the intended audience, and use evaluation results for continuous improvement of the newsletter.

(5) Develop, create, and maintain a Web site to post each issue and receive reader comments and suggestions.

(6) Agree to have content of the newsletter reviewed and approved by the Department of Education prior to publication.

Selection Criteria

The following selection criteria will be used to evaluate applications for one cooperative agreement under this competition. The maximum score for all these criteria is 100 points. The maximum score for each criterion or factor under that criterion is indicated in parentheses.

(1) *Significance.* (10 points)

In determining the significance of the proposed project, the following factor is considered: The potential contribution of the proposed project to increased knowledge or understanding of educational problems, issues, or effective strategies.

(2) *Quality of the project design.* (30 points)

In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the following factors are considered:

(a) The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the proposed project are clearly specified and measurable. (10)

(b) 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. (5)

(c) The extent to which the proposed project represents an exceptional approach to the priority or priorities established for the competition. (15)

(3) *Adequacy of resources.* (10 points)

In determining the adequacy of resources for the proposed project, the following factors are considered:

(a) The adequacy of support, including facilities, equipment, supplies, and other resources, from the applicant organization or the lead applicant organization. (5)

(b) The extent to which the costs are reasonable in relation to the objectives, design, and potential significance of the proposed project. (5)

(4) *Quality of management plan.* (25 points)

In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the following factors are considered:

(a) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks. (5)

(b) The adequacy of mechanisms for ensuring high-quality products and services from the proposed project, including qualifications and experience of key personnel in writing and editing newsletters for education, prevention and related fields. (10)

(c) The extent to which the time commitments of the project director and principal investigator and other key project personnel are appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives of the proposed project. (5)

(d) How the applicant will ensure that a diversity of perspectives are brought to bear in the operation of the proposed project, including those of students, faculty, parents, the business community, a variety of disciplinary and professional fields, recipients or beneficiaries of services, or others, as appropriate. (5)

(5) *Quality of project evaluation.* (25 points)

In determining the quality of the evaluation, the following factors are considered:

(a) The extent to which the evaluation plan provides for an ongoing evaluation of the effectiveness of *The Challenge* newsletter, and its impact on the intended audience. (10)

(b) The extent to which the evaluation results will be used for continuous improvement of *The Challenge*. (5)

(c) The extent to which the methods of evaluation are appropriate to the context within which the project operates. (5)

(d) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes. (5)

Intergovernmental Review

This program is subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR Part 79. The objective of the Executive order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism by relying on processes developed by State and local government for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

In accordance with the order, this document is intended to provide early notification of the Department's specific plans and actions for this program.

Electronic Access to This Document

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<http://ocfo.ed.gov/fedreg.htm>
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To use the PDF you must have the Adobe Acrobat Reader Program with Search, which is available free at either of the previous sites. If you have questions about using the PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free, at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC area at (202) 512-1530.

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: 20 U.S.C. 7131

Dated: March 21, 2000.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 84.184P Office of Elementary and Secondary Education—Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities National Programs—Federal Activities Grants—*The Challenge Newsletter*)

Michael Cohen,

Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education.

[FR Doc. 00-7300 Filed 3-23-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No: 84.184P]

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education; Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities National Programs—Federal Activities Grants Program—The Challenge Newsletter

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year 2000.

Purpose of the Program: To fund one cooperative agreement for the development and dissemination of *The Challenge* newsletter to provide information about effective practices to prevent drug use and violent behavior among youth.

Eligible Applicants: Public and private nonprofit organizations and individuals.

Applications available: March 24, 2000.

Deadline for Receipt of Applications: April 24, 2000.

Note: All applications must be received by the Department's Application Control Center

by 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time on or before the deadline date. Applications received after that time will not be eligible for funding. Postmarked dates will not be accepted. This requirement takes exception to the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), 34 CFR 75.102. Under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553), the Department generally offers interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed regulations. However, this exception to EDGAR makes procedural changes only and does not establish new substantive policy. Therefore, under 5 U.S.C. 553 (b) (A), the Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education has determined that proposed rulemaking is not required. Applications by mail should be sent to: U.S. Department of Education, Application Control Center, Attention: CFDA: 84.184P, Room 3633, ROB#3, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-4725. The address for applications delivered by hand is: U.S. Department of Education, Application Control Center, Attention: CFDA: 84.184P, Regional Office Building 3, Room 3633, 7th and D Streets, SW, Washington, DC 20202-4725.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: May 23, 2000.

Available Funds: \$300,000.

Estimated Size of Award: \$300,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 1.

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

Project Period: Up to 36 months. Please note that all applicants for multi-year awards are required to provide detailed budget information for the total project period requested. The Department will negotiate at the time of the initial award the funding levels for each year of the cooperative agreement award.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, 97, 98, and 99; and (b) The Notice of Final Priority and Selection Criteria for FY 2000 published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**.

Absolute Priority: The Assistant Secretary has published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register** a notice of final priority and selection criteria which establishes an absolute priority for *The Challenge* newsletter. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), the Assistant Secretary will fund under this competition only applications that meet the absolute priority.

For Applications or Information Contact: Gail Beaumont, Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-6123. Telephone: (202) 260-3954. By FAX: (202) 260-7767. Internet: gail_beaumont@ed.gov.

An individual who uses a TDD may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

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To use the PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader Program with Search, which is available free at either of the previous sites. If you have questions about using the PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free, at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC area at (202) 512-1530.

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Dated: March 21, 2000.

Michael Cohen,

Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education.

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