

Dated: March 14, 2024.

**Kun Mullan,**

*PRA Coordinator, Strategic Collections and Clearance, Governance and Strategy Division, Office of Chief Data Officer, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development.*

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**BILLING CODE 4000–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Application Deadline for Fiscal Year 2024; Small, Rural School Achievement Program

**AGENCY:** Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Under the Small, Rural School Achievement (SRSA) program, Assistance Listing Number 84.358A, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) awards grants on a formula basis to eligible local educational agencies (LEAs) to address the unique needs of rural school districts. In this notice, we establish the deadline and describe the application process for the fiscal year (FY) 2024 SRSA grant. This notice relates to the approved information collection under OMB control number 1810–0646. All LEAs eligible for FY 2024 SRSA funds must apply electronically via the process described in this notice by the deadline listed below.

#### **DATES:**

*Applications Available:* March 19, 2024.

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* May 10, 2024.

#### *Application Technical Assistance:*

The Department will announce application technical assistance opportunities for applicants when the application becomes available.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Leslie Poynter, REAP Group Leader, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 401–0039. Email: [reap@ed.gov](mailto:reap@ed.gov).

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability and wish to access telecommunications relay services, please dial 7–1–1.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **I. Award Information**

*Type of Award:* Formula grant.

*Available Funds:* The Administration has requested \$107,500,000 for SRSA in FY 2024. The actual level of funding depends on final congressional action. However, we are inviting applications to

allow enough time to complete the grant process if Congress appropriates funds for this program.

*Estimated Range of Awards:* \$0–\$60,000.

*Note:* The amount of an LEA's award depends on the number of eligible LEAs in a given year, the number of eligible LEAs that complete the SRSA application, and the amount Congress appropriates for the program. Some eligible LEAs may receive an SRSA allocation of \$0 due to the statutory funding formula and, in that case, will not be invited to submit an application.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 4,200.

##### **II. Program Authority and Eligibility Information**

*Under what statutory authority will FY 2024 SRSA grant awards be made?*

The FY 2024 SRSA grant awards will be made under title V, part B, subpart 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), 20 U.S.C. 7345–7345a.

*Which LEAs are eligible for an award under the SRSA program?*

For FY 2024, an LEA (including a public charter school that meets the definition of LEA in section 8101(30) of the ESEA) is eligible for an award under the SRSA program if it meets both criteria below:

(a) The total number of students in average daily attendance at all schools served by the LEA is fewer than 600, or each county in which a school served by the LEA is located has a total population density of fewer than 10 persons per square mile; and

(b) All schools served by the LEA are designated with a school locale code of 41, 42, or 43 by the Department's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), or the Secretary has determined, based on a demonstration by the LEA and concurrence of the State educational agency, that the LEA is located in an area defined as rural by a governmental agency of the State.

The Department provides an eligibility spreadsheet listing each LEA eligible to apply for FY 2024 SRSA grant funds. The spreadsheet is available on the Department's website at: <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/rural-insular-native-achievement-programs/rural-education-achievement-program/small-rural-school-achievement-program/eligibility/>.

If an LEA on the Department's list of LEAs eligible to apply for an FY 2024 SRSA award will close prior to the 2024–2025 school year, that LEA is not eligible to receive an FY 2024 SRSA award and should not apply.

*Note:* The “Choice of Participation” provision under section 5225 of the ESEA gives an LEA eligible for both SRSA and the Rural and Low-Income School (RLIS) program, which is authorized under title V, part B, subpart 2 of the ESEA, the option to participate in either the SRSA program or the RLIS program. 20 U.S.C. 7351d. An LEA eligible for both SRSA and RLIS is henceforth referred to as a “dual-eligible LEA.”

*Which eligible LEAs must submit an application to receive an FY 2024 SRSA grant award?*

Under 34 CFR 75.104(a), the Secretary makes a grant only to an eligible entity that submits an application.

In FY 2024, each LEA eligible to receive an SRSA award is required to submit an SRSA application in order to receive SRSA funds, regardless of whether the LEA received an award or submitted an application in a previous year. For example, if a rural community has two distinct LEAs—one composed of its elementary school(s) and one composed of its high school(s)—each distinct LEA must submit its own SRSA application. This requirement applies to all eligible LEAs, including each dual-eligible LEA that chooses to participate in the SRSA program instead of the RLIS program and each SRSA-eligible LEA that is a member of an educational service agency (ESA) that does not receive SRSA funds on the LEA's behalf. In the case of an SRSA-eligible LEA that is a member of an SRSA-eligible ESA, the LEA and ESA must coordinate directly with each other to determine which entity will submit an SRSA application on the LEA's behalf, as both entities may not apply for or receive SRSA funds for the LEA. As noted above, pursuant to section 5225 of the ESEA, a dual-eligible LEA that applies for SRSA funds may not receive an RLIS award.

*What are the Unique Entity Identification (UEI) number requirements for the SRSA program?*

As required by 2 CFR part 25, appendix A, entities receiving funds from the Federal Government, including SRSA-eligible LEAs that apply for an SRSA award, must maintain current entity information in the System for Award Management (SAM). SAM is the Federal Government's primary registrant database and is managed by the General Services Administration, not the Department of Education. The UEI, a 12-character alphanumeric code, is the primary means of entity identification for Federal awards.

Each SRSA-eligible LEA must provide its UEI on the SRSA application or notify the REAP team by emailing [reap@ed.gov](mailto:reap@ed.gov) to explain why the LEA is unable to provide a UEI. An LEA must have a UEI with an active registration status in SAM to access its awarded SRSA grant funds. An LEA without a UEI may not receive an SRSA award until it has obtained and registered a UEI. Obtaining a UEI is free to LEAs and is available at [www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov). LEAs may find SAM's guide helpful in understanding the registration process, available at: <https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration>. For additional resources or technical support related to the UEI registration process please utilize the support features at [www.fsd.gov](http://www.fsd.gov).

### III. Application and Submission Information

*Note:* Since FY 2020, the SRSA grant application is no longer housed on the *Grants.gov* platform. Please see below for the updated application process.

#### *Electronic Submission of Applications Using Connect.gov*

The Department will send an email with a unique application link on March 19, 2024, to each LEA that is eligible and estimated to receive a positive allocation for an FY 2024 SRSA grant award. The email will include detailed instructions for completing the electronic application.

An eligible LEA must submit an electronic application via *Connect.gov* by May 10, 2024, to be assured of receiving an FY 2024 SRSA grant award. The Department may consider applications submitted after the deadline to the extent practicable and contingent upon the availability of funding.

Please note the following:

- The application is estimated to take 30 minutes to complete. LEAs are encouraged not to wait until the application deadline date to begin the application process.
- Eligible LEAs will receive periodic emails during the application period with a reminder to complete the SRSA application prior to the May 10, 2024, deadline.
- An application received by *Connect.gov* is dated and time stamped upon submission, and an applicant will receive a confirmation email after the application is submitted.
- If any applicant information changes (e.g., address or contact information for the LEA) after an application has been submitted via *Connect.gov*, the applicant must contact REAP staff directly by emailing [reap@ed.gov](mailto:reap@ed.gov) to update such information.

#### *Application Deadline Date Extension in Case of Technical Issues*

If you are unable to submit an application by May 10, 2024, because of technical issues, contact REAP staff by emailing [reap@ed.gov](mailto:reap@ed.gov) within 5 business days and provide an explanation of the technical problem you experienced. The late application will be accepted as having met the deadline if REAP program staff can confirm that a technical issue occurred with the *Connect.gov* system that affected your ability to submit the application by the deadline. As noted above, if you submit the application after the deadline and the late submission is not due to a technical issue about which you have notified REAP program staff, the Department may consider your application to the extent practicable and contingent upon the availability of funding.

### IV. Other Procedural Requirements

#### *System for Award Management (SAM)*

To do business with the Department, an entity must maintain an active registration in the SAM, the Federal Government's primary registrant database, using the following information:

- UEI.
- Legal business name.
- Physical address associated with the UEI.
- Taxpayer identification number (TIN).
- Taxpayer name associated with the TIN.
- Bank information to set up Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) (i.e., routing number, account number, and account type (checking/savings)).

### V. Accessibility Information and Program Authority

*Accessible Format:* On request to the program contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, individuals with disabilities can obtain this document and a copy of the application package in an accessible format. The Department will provide the requestor with an accessible format that may include Rich Text Format (RTF) or text format (txt), a thumb drive, an MP3 file, braille, large print, audiotope, or compact disc, or other accessible format.

*Electronic Access to This Document:* The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. You may access the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations at <https://www.govinfo.gov/>. At this site you can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department

published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF, you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site.

You may also access documents of the Department published in the **Federal Register** by using the article search feature at [www.federalregister.gov](http://www.federalregister.gov). Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.

*Program Authority:* Sections 5211–5212 of the ESEA, 20 U.S.C. 7345–7345a.

**Adam Schott,**

*Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Delegated the Authority to Perform the Functions and Duties of the Assistant Secretary Office of Elementary and Secondary Education.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Biological and Environmental Research Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Office of Science, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of open virtual meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces an open virtual meeting of the Biological and Environmental Research Advisory Committee (BERAC). The Federal Advisory Committee Act requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

**DATES:** Thursday, April 11, 2024; 11 a.m.–5 p.m. EDT.

Friday, April 12, 2024; 11 a.m.–5 p.m. EDT.

**ADDRESSES:** This meeting will be held digitally via webcast using Zoom.

Instructions for Zoom, as well as any updates to meeting times or meeting agenda, can be found on the BERAC meeting website at: <https://science.osti.gov/ber/berac/Meetings>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Tristram West, Designated Federal Officer, BERAC, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Office of Biological and Environmental Research, BER/Germantown Building, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585–1290. Phone (301) 903–5155; fax (301) 903–5051 or email: [tristram.west@science.doe.gov](mailto:tristram.west@science.doe.gov).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Purpose of the Committee:* To provide advice on a continuing basis to the Director, Office of Science of the Department of Energy, on the many