

and the time allotted. Each person desiring to make an oral presentation must provide the point of contact listed above with one (1) written copy of the presentation by 5 p.m., April 15, 2005, and bring 15 written copies of any material that is intended for distribution at the meeting. Persons submitting a written statement must submit 15 written copies of the statement to the Task Force staff by 5 p.m. on April 15, 2005.

General Information: Additional information concerning the Defense Task Force on Sexual Harassment and Violence at The Military Service Academies, its structure, function, and composition, may be found on the DTFSH and VTMA Web site (<http://www.dtic.mil/dtfs>).

Dated: April 1, 2005.

Jeannette Owings-Ballard,

*OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer,
Department of Defense.*

[FR Doc. 05-6826 Filed 4-5-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs; Meeting of the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences

AGENCY: Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

ACTION: Notice.

(1) Approval of Minutes—February 8, 2005.

(2) Faculty Matters.

(3) Departmental Reports.

(4) Financial Report.

(5) Report—Interim President, USUHS.

(6) Report—Dean, School of Medicine.

(7) Report—Dean, Graduate School of Nursing.

(8) Approval of Degrees—School of Medicine; Graduate School of Nursing.

(9) Comments—Chairman, Board of Regents.

(10) New Business.

DATES: May 20, 2005, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Board of Regents Conference Room (D3001), 4301 Jones Bridge Road, Bethesda, MD 20814-4799.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Barry W. Wolcott, M.D., Executive Secretary, Board of Regents, (301) 295-3681.

Dated: March 31, 2005.

Jeannette Owings-Ballard,

*OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer,
Department of Defense.*

[FR Doc. 05-6731 Filed 4-5-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Federal Student Aid Programs Under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as Amended

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice inviting letters of application for participation in the Quality Assurance Program.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Education invites institutions of higher education that may wish to participate in the Quality Assurance Program, under section 487A(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), to submit a letter of application to participate in the program.

DATES: Letters of application may be submitted any time after April 6, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Institutions wishing to apply to participate in the Quality Assurance Program may do so by mailing a letter of application to Barbara Mroz, Federal Student Aid, U.S. Department of Education, 830 First Street, NE., room 84F1, Washington, DC 20202-5232 or by submitting a letter of application electronically to Barbara Mroz at: Barbara.Mroz@ed.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sharyn Hutson, Federal Student Aid, U.S. Department of Education, 830 First Street, NE., room 83G3, Washington, DC 20202-5232. Telephone: (202) 377-4379, or via e-mail: Sharyn.Hutson@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-888-877-8339.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Institutions of higher education are invited to join the Department in an effort to simplify regulations and administrative processes for the Federal Student Aid (FSA) Programs authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA). The vision of the Quality Assurance Program, with 145 institutions currently participating,

is to provide tools that help all Title IV institutions promote better service to students, compliance, and continuous improvement in program delivery. The program encourages participating institutions to develop and implement their own comprehensive systems to verify student financial aid application data, and continually assess compliance to Federal requirements.

The Secretary is authorized to provide participating institutions with regulatory flexibility for the verification of student data, and to encourage alternative approaches that improve award accuracy.

The Secretary believes that the process of continuous improvement fostered by the institutions already participating in the Quality Assurance Program has enhanced not only the accuracy of student aid awards and payments, but also the management of student aid offices and the delivery of services to students.

Features of the Program

The mission of the Quality Assurance Program is to help schools attain, sustain, and advance exceptional student aid delivery and service excellence. For the past 19 years, the program has done that by providing participating institutions with the flexibility to design an institutional verification program that more directly focuses on their own population segments. It has also helped them target areas of administration that affect award accuracy or that may leave the institution vulnerable to potential liabilities.

The Quality Assurance Program has given institutions the tools and techniques to assess, measure, analyze, correct and prevent problems, and has provided them with data on which to base their decisions for solving problems and addressing verification issues.

The Secretary encourages institutions participating in the Quality Assurance Program to evaluate their student aid or verification policies and procedures and adopt improvements in those procedures. Institutions measure performance and test the effectiveness of their verification program by using the Department's ISIR Analysis Tool. The ISIR Analysis Tool is a web-based software product that provides Financial Aid Administrators with an in-depth analysis of their applicant population. It allows them to see not only which FAFSA elements changed when verified, but also what impact these changes have upon the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and aid eligibility. This analysis helps Financial

Aid Administrators develop a targeted institutional verification program, which ultimately makes the financial aid process easier for students, while ensuring accountability and integrity.

The Quality Assurance Program also helps institutions make improvements beyond verification and basic compliance. By using the FSA Assessments, schools can set goals for continuous improvement in all areas of financial aid delivery. One key benefit of the program is the partnership between the Department and the participating institutions.

Both parties become engaged in promoting continuous improvement in the administration and delivery of the student financial assistance programs, thereby enhancing service to students.

Invitation for Applications

The Secretary invites institutions of higher education that administer one or more Title IV programs to submit a letter of application to participate in the Quality Assurance Program. Institutions that currently participate in the program may continue to do so without submitting a new letter of application. The Secretary will review the letter of application, which should reflect the institution's commitment to the goals of the Quality Assurance Program, as determined by the Secretary. The letter of application should address the following goals in detail:

- Attain and sustain compliance and continuous improvement in program delivery, and better service to students;
- Improve the accuracy of institutional verification programs;
- Increase institutional flexibility in managing student aid funds, while maintaining accountability for the proper use of those funds; and
- Encourage the development of innovative management approaches that advance quality.

Review Process

The Department will screen prospective participants to determine if the institution meets general Title IV eligibility requirements and has a demonstrated record of program compliance. The Secretary may also consider the institution's performance with regard to financial responsibility, administrative capability, program review findings, audit findings, etc. as outlined in the regulations and in the Federal Student Aid Handbook.

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Dated: March 31, 2005.

Theresa S. Shaw,

Chief Operating Officer Federal Student Aid.

[FR Doc. 05-6745 Filed 4-5-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools; Overview Information; Grants for the Integration of Schools and Mental Health Systems; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2005

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.215M.

Dates: Applications Available: April 5, 2005. Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: May 16, 2005. Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: July 18, 2005.

Eligible Applicants: State educational agencies (SEAs), local educational agencies (LEAs), and Indian tribes. LEAs or consortia of LEAs that have ever received funds or services under the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative (CFDA Number 84.184L), or will receive funds under the FY 2005 competition for CFDA Number 84.184L, are not eligible for funding under this program.

Estimated Available Funds: \$4,960,000. Contingent upon the availability of funds and the quality of applications, we may make additional awards in FY 2006 from the list of unfunded applications from this competition.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$150,000–\$350,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$250,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 20.

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

Project Period: Up to 18 months.

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose of Program: Grants for the Integration of Schools and Mental Health Systems will provide funds to increase student access to high-quality mental health care by developing innovative approaches that link school systems with the local mental health system.

Priority: In accordance with 34 CFR 75.105(b)(2)(iv), this priority is from section 5541 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (ESEA) (20 U.S.C. 7269).

Absolute Priority: For FY 2005 and any subsequent year in which we make awards based on the list of unfunded applications from this competition, this priority is an absolute priority. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) we consider only applications that meet this priority.

This priority is:

Increasing student access to quality mental health care by developing innovative approaches to link local school systems with the local mental health system. A program funded under this absolute priority must include all of the following activities:

(1) Enhancing, improving, or developing collaborative efforts between school-based service systems and mental health service systems to provide, enhance, or improve prevention, diagnosis, and treatment services to students.

(2) Enhancing the availability of crisis intervention services, appropriate referrals for students potentially in need of mental health services, and ongoing mental health services.

(3) Providing training for the school personnel and mental health professionals who will participate in the program.

(4) Providing technical assistance and consultation to school systems and mental health agencies and families participating in the program.

(5) Providing linguistically appropriate and culturally competent services.

(6) Evaluating the effectiveness of the program in increasing student access to quality mental health services, and making recommendations to the Secretary about sustainability of the program.

Additional Requirements:

(a) *Coordination of Activities:* Recipients funded under this competition will be required to coordinate activities under this program with projects funded under the Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental