

crediting slip-lid cans as one of the two required contamination barriers. Yet several sites continue to use this type of packaging. For nonmetallic plutonium, including items containing plutonium-238, LANL plans to rely on stainless steel taped slip-lid cans only as an inner container; currently, however, a large number of items remain at the laboratory in nested slip-lid cans. Moreover, several varieties of slip-lid cans continue to be approved for use as inner and outer storage containers for certain materials at LLNL.

#### Hagan Can

LANL's Comprehensive Nuclear Material Packaging and Stabilization Plan approves the use of a standard container known as the Hagan can, a robust, screw-top container with an O-ring seal and filtered vent. The Hagan can generally meets the expectations of the ISSC and has undergone testing to certify its performance (Wickland and Mataya, PATRAM 98, 1998). However, drop testing was performed at a height lower than the expected maximum storage height; therefore, additional analysis or testing is required. Under the proposed Documented Safety Analysis for LANL's Plutonium Facility, the Hagan can is classified as a safety-significant engineered feature. The Hagan can appears to be an appropriate outer package for nuclear material storage, although, as recognized by LANL, the service life of the Viton (an organic fluorocarbon compound) O-ring requires verification through a surveillance program. Currently, Hagan cans are widely used only at LANL; however, their use may be under consideration at other sites.

#### Conflat Can

A can fabricated with a Varian-type Conflat flange results in a hermetically sealed, robust container that can be used to store plutonium metal. A copper gasket on a bolted flange closure is designed to maintain a long-term hermetic seal against oxidation of plutonium metal. This closure type has been standard in the high-vacuum industry for many years and has been certified to maintain a leak-tight seal under various temperature and pressure conditions. The Conflat can is identified in LANL's Comprehensive Nuclear Material Packaging and Stabilization Plan as the inner container for the storage of plutonium metal. The use of Conflat cans for storage of other nuclear materials requiring a sealed environment may also be appropriate. Conflat cans have been used periodically at some sites for special

storage applications, but their use is not widespread or uniform.

#### Metal Drums

Several sites commonly use U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Type A containers and similar types of metal drums for overpacking of packages of nuclear materials for onsite transportation and storage. These containers have been certified as Type A radioactive material packages per DOT specifications. For transportation purposes, this certification usually is limited to a single year. The use of these containers for interim storage beyond the certification period appears appropriate, but consideration should be given to periodic inspection and replacement for limited-life components, such as lid gaskets. The Criteria for the Safe Storage of Enriched Uranium at the Y-12 Plant (Y/ES-015/R2) allow interim storage of enriched uranium materials for a period of up to 10 years in DOT Type A or Type B containers.

#### Y-12 Prolonged Storage Container

The Y-12 Y/ES-015/R2 criteria specify the use of stainless steel cans similar to food-pack cans for prolonged low-maintenance storage for up to 50 years. While the reliance on a single robust barrier for the storage of enriched uranium may be appropriate, it is unclear whether the requirement to maintain mechanical and seal integrity during normal handling includes protection against drops. In addition, a lid sealant compound is specified in the appendix to Y/ES-015/R2, but no discussion of its longevity is provided. While fewer radiological hazards and less chemical reactivity are associated with enriched uranium than with plutonium and some other nuclear materials, further testing of these containers would better demonstrate their reliability for long-term storage. Currently, the Y-12 container specification is planned for use only at the Y-12 National Security Complex.

#### Plastic Bags and Bottles

Historically, plastic bags have been relied upon to provide contamination control for a limited period. Bag materials, which include polyethylene, polyvinyl chloride, and related polymers, play an important role in the overall packaging system. Their principal use is for contamination control during the "bagout" operation, when the nuclear material container is removed from the glovebox. Unfortunately, some types of bags have proven to be detrimental to the integrity of packages left in storage for prolonged

periods of time. For example, the radiation-induced degradation of polyvinyl chloride bag material led to the production of hydrochloric acid, which in turn contributed to the corrosion and eventual failure of containers that occurred during the Type B event at LANL. The choice of material also impacts the generation of radiolytic gas and effectively defines the service life of a package when the outer container is not leak-tight. In repackaging campaigns at LLNL, as well as at other sites, such as Hanford, bags commonly have been found to be in a discolored or otherwise degraded state (UCRL-ID-117333 and WHC-SD-TRP-067). While plastic bags have been in use for a long time, little quantitative information exists on the effects of time, temperature, and radiation field exposure on maintenance of an effective contamination barrier. It is recognized that plastic bags may be necessary for contamination control, but they should not be relied upon as a long-term contamination barrier.

In some cases, plastic bottles (*e.g.*, safe bottles) have been used for the storage of solutions containing nuclear materials, especially enriched uranium, outside of processing equipment. While bottles are constructed of thicker plastics than are bags, they undergo the same chemical and radiolytic degradation with time and must be compatible with the chemical properties of the contained liquids. Furthermore, whereas bags provide only contamination control, bottles are relied upon to provide a complete contamination barrier, including structural integrity. Any reliance on plastic bags or plastic bottles for extended periods of time should be informed by the available knowledge of polymer degradation, in combination with information gleaned from surveillance programs.

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Indian Education Formula Grants to Local Educational Agencies

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice reopening the deadline date for the Indian Education Formula Grants to Local Educational Agencies Program.

*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.060A.*

**SUMMARY:** On January 11, 2005 we published a notice in the **Federal**

**Register** (70 FR 1881) that established a deadline of February 28, 2005, for transmittal of applications for the fiscal year ("FY") 2005 Indian Education Formula Grants to Local Educational Agencies. The purpose of this notice is to reopen the notice inviting applications, with a new deadline date for transmittal of applications for this program. A total of 96 current recipients that enroll approximately 16,600 Indian students did not submit their applications by the deadline. This year's deadline was several months earlier than usual, and some of those current grantees, who were focusing on assembling information required under their fiscal year 2004 grants, may not have understood that, during the months of January and February, they needed both to complete the submission of that information for their 2004 grants and to submit their fiscal year 2005 applications. The new deadline date for the transmittal of applications or amendments to applications already submitted is March 28, 2005.

**DATES:** The new deadline date for the transmittal of applications or amendments to applications already submitted, is March 28, 2005.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Victoria Vasques, Office of Indian Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 3W115, Washington, DC 20202-6335. Telephone: (202) 260-3774 or by e-mail: [oiegrants@ed.gov](mailto:oiegrants@ed.gov).

#### Electronic Access to This Document

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

To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have questions about using 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.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html>.

Dated: March 16, 2005.

**Victoria Vasques,**

*Assistant Deputy Secretary for Indian Education.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Office of Postsecondary Education, Overview Information, Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants Program—Teacher Quality Enhancement (TQE) Recruitment Grants for States and Partnerships; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2005

*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.336C.*

**DATES:** Applications Available: March 21, 2005.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: May 2, 2005.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: July 1, 2005.

*Eligible Applicants:* States (including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the insular areas), and partnerships that comprise, at a minimum, an institution of higher education with an eligible teacher preparation program, a school of arts and sciences, and a high-need local educational agency (LEA). These terms are defined in section 203 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), and in sections 103(16) and 202(b) of the HEA.

States and partnerships that previously received a grant under this program are not eligible for a FY 2005 grant.

*Estimated Available Funds:* \$16,579,318.

*Estimated Range of Awards:* \$650,000–\$1,100,000.

*Estimated Average Size of Awards:* \$828,966.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 20.

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

*Project Period:* Up to 36 months.

#### Full Text of Announcement

##### I. Funding Opportunity Description

*Purpose of Program:* The purpose of this program is to afford an opportunity for States and partnerships receiving grants to address the challenge of America's teacher shortage by making significant and lasting systemic changes in the way that teachers are recruited, prepared and supported to teach in high-need schools. The Department of Education's goal is that these systemic changes lead to important improvements to the supply of well-trained and highly-qualified teachers.

*Program Authority:* 20 U.S.C. 1024.

*Applicable Regulations:* (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, 97, 98, and 99.

(b) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR Part 611 (including the

amendments to these regulations published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**).

**Note:** The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to institutions of higher education only.

##### II. Award Information

*Type of Award:* Discretionary grants.

*Estimated Available Funds:*

\$16,579,318.

*Estimated Range of Awards:*

\$650,000–\$1,100,000.

*Estimated Average Size of Awards:*

\$828,966.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 20.

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

*Project Period:* Up to 36 months.

##### III. Eligibility Information

1. *Eligible Applicants:* States (including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the insular areas) and partnerships that comprise, at a minimum, an institution of higher education with an eligible teacher preparation program, a school of arts and sciences, and a high-need LEA. These terms are defined in section 203 of the HEA and in sections 103(16), and 202(b) of the HEA. States and partnerships that previously received a grant under this program are not eligible for a FY 2005 grant.

2. *Cost Sharing or Matching:* See 34 CFR 611.62.

##### IV. Application and Submission Information

###### 1. Address to Request Application Package:

You may obtain an application package via Internet by downloading the package from the program Web site at: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/heatqp/index.html>.

You may also obtain a copy of the application package by contacting Luretha Kelley, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., room 7096, Washington, DC 20006-8526. Telephone: (202) 502-7645 or by e-mail: [luretha.kelley@ed.gov](mailto:luretha.kelley@ed.gov).

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

Individuals with disabilities may obtain a copy of the application package in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) by contacting the program contact person listed in this section.

2. *Content and Form of Application Submission:* Requirements concerning the content of an application, together