

**SUMMARY:** The IC Clearance Official, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of Management invites comments on the submission for OMB review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before August 2, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Rachel Potter, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10222, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or faxed to (202) 395-6974.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The IC Clearance Official, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of Management, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment.

Dated: June 27, 2006.

**Angela C. Arrington,**  
IC Clearance Official, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of Management.

#### Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development

*Type of Review:* Revision.

*Title:* Data Collection for the Evaluation of the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries Program.

*Frequency:* One-time.

*Affected Public:* State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

*Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:*

*Responses:* 881.

*Burden Hours:* 808.

*Abstract:* This submission requests approval for an evaluation of the Improving Literacy through School Libraries Program (LSL). LSL, established under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), is designed to improve the literacy skills and academic achievement of students by providing them with access to up-to-date school library materials, technologically advanced school library media centers, and professionally certified school library media specialists. The evaluation of this program is authorized by NCLB Title I, Part B, Subpart 4.

Requests for copies of the information collection submission for OMB review may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 3066. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Potomac Center, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20202-4700. Requests may also be electronically mailed to *ICDocketMgr@ed.gov* or faxed to 202-245-6623. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be electronically mailed to *ICDocketMgr@ed.gov*. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

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#### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

##### Office of Innovation and Improvement; Overview Information, Charter Schools Program (CSP)

Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2006.

*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:* 84.282B and 84.282C.

*Dates:* Applications Available: July 3, 2006.

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* August 17, 2006.

*Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:* September 8, 2006.

*Eligible Applicants: Planning and Initial Implementation (CFDA No. 84.282B):* Non-State educational agency (non-SEA) eligible applicants in States with a State statute specifically

authorizing the establishment of charter schools and in which the SEA elects not to participate in the CSP or does not have an application approved under the CSP program.

**Note:** *Eligible applicant* is defined in section 5210(3) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (ESEA). The following States currently have approved applications under the CSP: Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin. In these States, non-SEA eligible applicants interested in participating in the CSP should contact the SEA for information related to the State's CSP subgrant competition.

*Dissemination (CFDA No. 84.282C):* Charter schools, as defined in section 5210(1) of the ESEA.

**Note:** A charter school may apply for funds to carry out dissemination activities, whether or not the charter school previously applied for or received funds under the CSP for planning or implementation, if the charter school has been in operation for at least three consecutive years and has demonstrated overall success, including—

- (1) Substantial progress in improving student academic achievement;
- (2) High levels of parent satisfaction; and
- (3) The management and leadership necessary to overcome initial start-up problems and establish a thriving, financially viable charter school.

*Estimated Available Funds:*

\$4,000,000.

*Estimated Range of Awards:*

\$130,000–\$175,000 per year.

*Estimated Average Size of Awards:*

\$150,000 per year.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 20–40.

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

*Project Period:* Up to 36 months under CFDA No. 84.282B. Up to 24 months under CFDA No. 84.282C.

**Note:** Planning and implementation grants awarded by the Secretary to non-SEA eligible applicants will be awarded for a period of up to 36 months, no more than 18 months of which may be used for planning and program design and no more than two years of which may be used for the initial implementation of a charter school. Dissemination grants are awarded for a period of up to two years.

#### Full Text of Announcement

##### I. Funding Opportunity Description

*Purpose of Program:* The purpose of the CSP is to increase national understanding of the charter school model and to expand the number of

high-quality charter schools available to students across the Nation by providing financial assistance for the planning, program design, and initial implementation of charter schools, and to evaluate the effects of charter schools, including their effects on students, student academic achievement, staff, and parents.

Non-SEA eligible applicants that propose to use grant funds for planning, program design, and implementation must apply under CFDA No. 84.282B. Non-SEA eligible applicants that request funds for dissemination activities must submit their applications under CFDA No. 84.282C.

**Priority:** Under these competitions we are particularly interested in applications that address the following priority.

**Invitational Priority:** For FY 2006 this priority is an invitational priority. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1), we do not give an applicant that meets this invitational priority a competitive or absolute preference over other applications.

This priority is:

The applicant proposes to plan, design, and implement, or in the case of a dissemination grant, disseminate information about, a high-quality charter high school in a geographic area in which a large proportion or number of public schools has been identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring under Title I, Part A of the ESEA.

**Program Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 7221–7221j.

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

**Note:** The regulations in 34 CFR part 79 apply to all applicants except federally recognized Indian tribes.

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

**Note:** The regulations in 34 CFR part 99 apply only to educational agencies or institutions.

## II. Award Information

**Type of Award:** Discretionary grants.

**Estimated Available Funds:**

\$4,000,000.

**Estimated Range of Awards:**

\$130,000–\$175,000 per year.

**Estimated Average Size of Awards:**

\$150,000 per year.

**Estimated Number of Awards:** 20–40.

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

**Project Period:** Up to 36 months under CFDA No. 84.282B. Up to 24 months under CFDA No. 84.282C.

**Note:** Planning and implementation grants awarded by the Secretary to non-SEA eligible applicants will be awarded for a period of up to 36 months, no more than 18 months of which may be used for planning and program design and no more than two years of which may be used for the initial implementation of a charter school. Dissemination grants are awarded for a period of up to two years.

## III. Eligibility Information

**1. Eligible Applicants:** Planning and Initial Implementation (CFDA No. 84.282B): Non-SEA eligible applicants in States with a State statute specifically authorizing the establishment of charter schools and in which the SEA elects not to participate in the CSP or does not have an application approved under the CSP program.

**Note:** *Eligible applicant* is defined in section 5210(3) of the ESEA. The following States currently have approved applications under the CSP: Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin. In these States, non-SEA eligible applicants interested in participating in the CSP should contact the SEA for information related to the State's CSP subgrant competition.

**Dissemination (CFDA No. 84.282C):** Charter schools, as defined in section 5210(1) of the ESEA.

**Note:** A charter school may apply for funds to carry out dissemination activities, whether or not the charter school previously applied for or received funds under the CSP for planning or implementation, if the charter school has been in operation for at least three consecutive years and has demonstrated overall success, including—

- (1) Substantial progress in improving student academic achievement;
- (2) High levels of parent satisfaction; and
- (3) The management and leadership necessary to overcome initial start-up problems and establish a thriving, financially viable charter school.

**2. Cost Sharing or Matching:** These competitions do not involve cost sharing or matching.

## IV. Application and Submission Information

**1. Address to Request Application Package:** Erin Pfeltz, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 4W255, Washington, DC 20202–5970. Telephone: (202) 205–3525 or by e-mail: [erin.pfeltz@ed.gov](mailto:erin.pfeltz@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 with the forms you must submit, are in the application package for this competition.

**Page Limit:** The application narrative (Part III of the application) is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. The Secretary strongly encourages applicants to limit Part III to the equivalent of no more than 50 pages, using the following standards:

- A “page” is 8.5”×11”, on one side only, with 1” margins at the top, bottom, and both sides.
- Double space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.
- Use a font that is either 12 point or larger or no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch).

The suggested page limit does not apply to Part I, the cover sheet; Part II, the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; Part IV, the assurances and certifications; or the one-page abstract, the resumes, the bibliography, or the letters of support. However, you must include all of the application narrative in Part III.

### 3. Submission Dates and Times:

**Applications Available:** July 3, 2006.

**Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:** August 17, 2006.

Applications for grants under these competitions must be submitted electronically using the Grants.gov Apply site (Grants.gov). For information (including dates and times) about how to submit your application electronically or by mail or hand delivery if you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, please refer to section IV.

**6. Other Submission Requirements in this notice.**

We do not consider an application that does not comply with the deadline requirements.

**Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:** September 8, 2006.

**4. Intergovernmental Review:** These competitions are subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. Information about

Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs under Executive Order 12372 is in the application package for these competitions.

**5. Funding Restrictions: Use of Funds for Post-Award Planning and Design of the Educational Program and Initial Implementation of the Charter School.** A non-SEA eligible applicant receiving a grant under this program may use the grant funds only for—

(a) Post-award planning and design of the educational program, which may include (i) refinement of the desired educational results and of the methods for measuring progress toward achieving those results; and (ii) professional development of teachers and other staff who will work in the charter school; and

(b) Initial implementation of the charter school, which may include (i) informing the community about the school; (ii) acquiring necessary equipment and educational materials and supplies; (iii) acquiring or developing curriculum materials; and (iv) other initial operational costs that cannot be met from State or local sources.

**Use of Funds for Dissemination Activities.** A charter school may use these funds to assist other schools in adapting the charter school's program (or certain aspects of the charter school's program), or to disseminate information about the charter school through such activities as—

(a) Assisting other individuals with the planning and start-up of one or more new public schools, including charter schools, that are independent of the assisting charter school and the assisting charter school's developers and that agree to be held to at least as high a level of accountability as the assisting charter school;

(b) Developing partnerships with other public schools, including charter schools, designed to improve student performance in each of the schools participating in the partnership;

(c) Developing curriculum materials, assessments, and other materials that promote increased student achievement and are based on successful practices within the assisting charter school; and

(d) Conducting evaluations and developing materials that document the successful practices of the assisting charter school and that are designed to improve student performance in other schools.

We reference regulations outlining funding restrictions in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice.

**6. Other Submission Requirements:** Applications for grants under these competitions must be submitted

electronically unless you qualify for an exception to this requirement in accordance with the instructions in this section.

**a. Electronic Submission of Applications.** Applications for grants under the Charter School Program, CFDA Numbers 84.282B and 84.282C must be submitted electronically using the Grants.gov Apply site at: <http://www.grants.gov>. Through this site, you will be able to download a copy of the application package, complete it offline, and then upload and submit your application. You may not e-mail an electronic copy of a grant application to us.

We will reject your application if you submit it in paper format unless, as described elsewhere in this section, you qualify for one of the exceptions to the electronic submission requirement and submit, no later than two weeks before the application deadline date, a written statement to the Department that you qualify for one of these exceptions. Further information regarding calculation of the date that is two weeks before the application deadline date is provided later in this section under *Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement*.

You may access the electronic grant application for the Charter School Program at: <http://www.grants.gov>. You must search for the downloadable application package for this program by the CFDA number. Do not include the CFDA number's alpha suffix in your search.

Please note the following:

- When you enter the Grants.gov site, you will find information about submitting an application electronically through the site, as well as the hours of operation.

- Applications received by Grants.gov are time and date stamped. Your application must be fully uploaded and submitted, and must be date/time stamped by the Grants.gov system no later than 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. Except as otherwise noted in this section, we will not consider your application if it is date/time stamped by the Grants.gov system later than 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. When we retrieve your application from Grants.gov, we will notify you if we are rejecting your application because it was date/time stamped by the Grants.gov system after 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date.

- The amount of time it can take to upload an application will vary depending on a variety of factors

including the size of the application and the speed of your Internet connection. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you do not wait until the application deadline date to begin the submission process through Grants.gov.

- You should review and follow the Education Submission Procedures for submitting an application through Grants.gov that are included in the application package for this program to ensure that you submit your application in a timely manner to the Grants.gov system. You can also find the Education Submission Procedures pertaining to Grants.gov at <http://Grants.ed.gov/help/GrantsgovSubmissionProcedures.pdf>.

- To submit your application via Grants.gov, you must complete all of the steps in the Grants.gov registration process (see <http://www.Grants.gov/GetStarted>). These steps include (1) registering your organization, (2) registering yourself as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR), and (3) getting authorized as an AOR by your organization. Details on these steps are outlined in the Grants.gov 3-Step Registration Guide (see <http://www.grants.gov/assets/GrantsgovCoBrandBrochure8X11.pdf>). You also must provide on your application the same D-U-N-S Number used with this registration. Please note that the registration process may take five or more business days to complete, and you must have completed all registration steps to allow you to successfully submit an application via Grants.gov.

- You will not receive additional point value because you submit your application in electronic format, nor will we penalize you if you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, as described elsewhere in this section, and submit your application in paper format.

- You must submit all documents electronically, including all information typically included on the Application for Federal Education Assistance (ED 424), Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs (ED 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications. You must attach any narrative sections of your application as files in a .DOC (document), .RTF (rich text), or .PDF (Portable Document) format. If you upload a file type other than the three file types specified above or submit a password protected file, we will not review that material.

- Your electronic application must comply with any page limit requirements described in this notice.

- After you electronically submit your application, you will receive an automatic acknowledgment from

Grants.gov that contains a Grants.gov tracking number. The Department will retrieve your application from Grants.gov and send you a second confirmation by e-mail that will include a PR/Award number (an ED-specified identifying number unique to your application).

- We may request that you provide us original signatures on forms at a later date.

*Application Deadline Date Extension in Case of Technical Issues with the Grants.gov System:* If you are prevented from electronically submitting your application on the application deadline date because of technical problems with the Grants.gov system, we will grant you an extension until 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, the following business day to enable you to transmit your application electronically, or by hand delivery. You also may mail your application by following the mailing instructions as described elsewhere in this notice. If you submit an application after 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the deadline date, please contact the person listed elsewhere in this notice under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

**CONTACT**, and provide an explanation of the technical problem you experienced with Grants.gov, along with the Grants.gov Support Desk Case Number (if available). We will accept your application if we can confirm that a technical problem occurred with the Grants.gov system and that that problem affected your ability to submit your application by 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. The Department will contact you after a determination is made on whether your application will be accepted.

**Note:** Extensions referred to in this section apply only to the unavailability of or technical problems with the Grants.gov system. We will not grant you an extension if you failed to fully register to submit your application to Grants.gov before the deadline date and time or if the technical problem you experienced is unrelated to the Grants.gov system.

*Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement:* You qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, and may submit your application in paper format, if you are unable to submit an application through the Grants.gov system because—

- You do not have access to the Internet; or
- You do not have the capacity to upload large documents to the Grants.gov system; and
- No later than two weeks before the application deadline date (14 calendar days or, if the fourteenth calendar day

before the application deadline date falls on a Federal holiday, the next business day following the Federal holiday), you mail or fax a written statement to the Department, explaining which of the two grounds for an exception prevent you from using the Internet to submit your application. If you mail your written statement to the Department, it must be postmarked no later than two weeks before the application deadline date. If you fax your written statement to the Department, we must receive the faxed statement no later than two weeks before the application deadline date.

Address and mail or fax your statement to: Erin Pfeltz, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 4W255, Washington, DC 20202-5970. FAX: (202) 205-5630.

Your paper application must be submitted in accordance with the mail or hand delivery instructions described in this notice.

b. *Submission of Paper Applications by Mail.* If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you may mail (through the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial carrier) your application to the Department. You must mail the original and two copies of your application, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the applicable following address:

*By mail through the U.S. Postal Service:* U.S. Department of Education, Application Control Center, Attention: (CFDA Number 84.282B or 84.282C), 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20202-4260 or

*By mail through a commercial carrier:* U.S. Department of Education, Application Control Center—Stop 4260, Attention: (CFDA Number 84.282B or 84.282C), 7100 Old Landover Road, Landover, MD 20785-1506.

Regardless of which address you use, you must show proof of mailing consisting of one of the following:

(1) A legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark,

(2) A legible mail receipt with the date of mailing stamped by the U.S. Postal Service,

(3) A dated shipping label, invoice, or receipt from a commercial carrier, or

(4) Any other proof of mailing acceptable to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

If you mail your application through the U.S. Postal Service, we do not accept either of the following as proof of mailing:

(1) A private metered postmark, or

(2) A mail receipt that is not dated by the U.S. Postal Service.

If your application is postmarked after the application deadline date, we will not consider your application.

**Note:** The U.S. Postal Service does not uniformly provide a dated postmark. Before relying on this method, you should check with your local post office.

c. *Submission of Paper Applications by Hand Delivery.* If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you (or a courier service) may deliver your paper application to the Department by hand. You must deliver the original and two copies of your application, by hand, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address: U.S. Department of Education, Application Control Center, Attention: (CFDA Number 84.282B or 84.282C), 550 12th Street, SW., Room 7041, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-4260.

The Application Control Center accepts hand deliveries daily between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, except Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays.

*Note for Mail or Hand Delivery of Paper Applications:* If you mail or hand deliver your application to the Department:

(1) You must indicate on the envelope and—if not provided by the Department—in Item 4 of the Application for Federal Education Assistance (ED 424) the CFDA number—and suffix letter, if any—of the competition under which you are submitting your application.

(2) The Application Control Center will mail a grant application receipt acknowledgment to you. If you do not receive the grant application receipt acknowledgment within 15 business days from the application deadline date, you should call the U.S. Department of Education Application Control Center at (202) 245-6288.

## V. Application Review Information

*Selection Criteria:* Non-SEA eligible applicants applying for CSP grant funds must address both the statutory application requirements and the selection criteria described in the following paragraphs. Each applicant applying for CSP grant funds may choose to respond to the application requirements in the context of its responses to the selection criteria.

The statutory application requirements for all applicants submitting under CFDA Nos. 84.282B and 84.282C are listed in paragraph (a) in this section.

The selection criteria for non-SEA applicants for *Planning, Program*

*Design, and Implementation Grants (CFDA No. 84.282B)* are listed in paragraph (b) in this section.

The selection criteria for non-SEA applicants for *Dissemination Grants (CFDA No. 84.282C)* are listed in paragraph (c) in this section.

(a) *Application Requirements (CFDA Nos. 84.282B and 84.282C).* (i) Describe the educational program to be implemented by the proposed charter school, including how the program will enable all students to meet challenging State student academic achievement standards, the grade levels or ages of students to be served, and the curriculum and instructional practices to be used;

(ii) Describe how the charter school will be managed;

(iii) Describe the objectives of the charter school and the methods by which the charter school will determine its progress toward achieving those objectives;

(iv) Describe the administrative relationship between the charter school and the authorized public chartering agency;

(v) Describe how parents and other members of the community will be involved in the planning, program design, and implementation of the charter school;

(vi) Describe how the authorized public chartering agency will provide for continued operation of the charter school once the Federal grant has expired, if that agency determines that the charter school has met its objectives;

(vii) If the charter school desires the Secretary to consider waivers under the authority of the CSP, include a request and justification for waivers of any Federal statutory or regulatory provisions that the applicant believes are necessary for the successful operation of the charter school and a description of any State or local rules, generally applicable to public schools, that will be waived for, or otherwise not apply to, the school;

(viii) Describe how the grant funds will be used, including how these funds will be used in conjunction with other Federal programs administered by the Secretary;

(ix) Describe how students in the community will be informed about the charter school and be given an equal opportunity to attend the charter school;

(x) Describe how a charter school that is considered an LEA under State law, or an LEA in which a charter school is located, will comply with sections 613(a)(5) and 613(e)(1)(B) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and

(xi) If the eligible applicant desires to use grant funds for dissemination activities under section 5202(c)(2)(C), describe those activities and how those activities will involve charter schools and other public schools, LEAs, developers, and potential developers.

(b) *Selection Criteria (CFDA No. 84.282B).* The following selection criteria are from the authorizing statute for this program and 34 CFR 75.210 of EDGAR.

The maximum possible score for all the criteria in this section is 130 points.

The maximum possible score for each criterion is indicated in parentheses following the criterion.

In evaluating an application from a non-SEA eligible applicant for Planning, Program Design, and Implementation, the Secretary considers the following criteria:

(i) The quality of the proposed curriculum and instructional practices (20 points).

**Note:** The Secretary encourages the applicant to describe the educational program to be implemented by the proposed charter school, including how the program will enable all students to meet challenging State student academic achievement standards, the grade levels or ages of students to be served, and the curriculum and instructional practices to be used.

(ii) The degree of flexibility afforded by the SEA and, if applicable, the LEA to the charter school (10 points).

**Note:** The Secretary encourages the applicant to include a description of how the State's law establishes an administrative relationship between the charter school and the authorized public chartering agency and exempts the charter school from significant State or local rules that inhibit the flexible operation and management of public schools.

The Secretary also encourages the applicant to include a description of the degree of autonomy the charter school will have over such matters as the charter school's budget, expenditures, daily operation, and personnel in accordance with its State's charter school law.

(iii) The extent of community support for the application (20 points).

**Note:** The Secretary encourages the applicant to describe how parents and other members of the community will be informed about the charter school, and how students will be given an equal opportunity to attend the charter school.

(iv) The ambitiousness of the objectives for the charter school (10 points).

**Note:** The Secretary encourages the applicant to describe the objectives for the charter school and how these grant funds will be used, including how these funds will be used in conjunction with other Federal programs administered by the Secretary, in meeting these objectives.

(v) The quality of the strategy for assessing achievement of those objectives (20 points).

(vi) The likelihood that the charter school will meet those objectives and improve educational results for students during and after the period of Federal financial assistance (10 points).

(vii) The extent to which the proposed project encourages parental involvement (10 points).

**Note:** The Secretary encourages the applicant to describe how parents and other members of the community will be involved in the planning, program design, and implementation of the charter school.

(viii) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of the project director; and the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that traditionally have been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability (10 points).

(ix) The contribution the charter school will make in assisting educationally disadvantaged and other students to achieve to State academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards (20 points).

(c) *Selection Criteria (CFDA No. 84.282C).* The following selection criteria are from the authorizing statute for this program and 34 CFR 75.210 of EDGAR.

The maximum possible score for all the criteria in this section is 110 points.

The maximum possible score for each criterion is indicated in parentheses following the criterion.

In evaluating an application from a non-SEA eligible applicant for a dissemination grant, the Secretary considers the following criteria:

(i) The quality of the proposed dissemination activities and the likelihood that those activities will improve student achievement (30 points).

**Note:** The Secretary encourages the applicant to describe the objectives for the proposed dissemination activities and the methods by which the charter school will determine its progress toward achieving those objectives.

(ii) The extent to which the school has demonstrated overall success, including—

(1) Substantial progress in improving student achievement (10 points);

(2) High levels of parent satisfaction (10 points); and

(3) The management and leadership necessary to overcome initial start-up problems and establish a thriving, financially viable charter school (10 points).

(iii) The extent to which the results of the proposed project will be disseminated in a manner that will enable others to use the information or strategies (20 points).

(iv) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of the project director and the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that traditionally have been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability (10 points).

(v) 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 (20 points).

## VI. Award Administration Information

1. *Award Notices:* If your application is successful, we will notify your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators and send you a Grant Award Notification (GAN). We may also notify you informally.

If your application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we notify you.

2. *Administrative and National Policy Requirements:* We identify administrative and national policy requirements in the application package and reference these and other requirements in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice.

We reference the regulations outlining the terms and conditions of an award in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice and include these and other specific conditions in the GAN. The GAN also incorporates your approved application as part of your binding commitments under the grant.

3. *Reporting:* At the end of your project period, you must submit a final performance report, including financial information, as directed by the Secretary. If you receive a multi-year award, you must submit an annual performance report that provides the most current performance and financial expenditure information as specified by the Secretary in 34 CFR 75.118. For specific requirements on grantee reporting, please go to the ED Performance Report Form 524B at <http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html>.

4. *Performance Measures:* The goal of the CSP is to support the creation and development of a large number of high-quality charter schools that are free from State or local rules that inhibit flexible operation, are held accountable for enabling students to reach challenging State performance standards, and are

open to all students. The Secretary has set three performance indicators to measure this goal: (1) The number of States, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, with charter school laws, (2) the number of charter schools in operation around the Nation, and (3) the percentage of charter school students who are achieving at or above the proficient level on State examinations in mathematics and reading. Additionally, the Secretary has established the following measure to examine the efficiency of the CSP: Federal cost per student in implementing a successful school (defined as a school in operation for three or more years).

All grantees will be expected to submit an annual performance report documenting their contribution in assisting the Department in meeting these performance measures.

## VII. Agency Contact

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Erin Pfeltz, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 4W255, Washington, DC 20202-5970. Telephone: (202) 205-3525 or by e-mail: [erin.pfeltz@ed.gov](mailto:erin.pfeltz@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 this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the program contact person listed in this section.

## VIII. Other Information

**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: June 28, 2006.

**Christopher J. Doherty,**

*Acting Assistant Deputy Secretary Office of Innovation and Improvement.*

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**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Upward Bound Program

**AGENCY:** Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed priority.

**SUMMARY:** The Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education proposes to establish a priority under the Upward Bound Program. We are proposing to establish this priority to focus Federal resources on students most in need of academic assistance and to increase the effectiveness of the Upward Bound Program. We propose this priority to increase the number of low-income, first generation students with the “greatest academic need” for program services that participate in the Upward Bound program, and to provide all Upward Bound participants an opportunity to receive services for four years.

**DATES:** We must receive your comments on or before August 2, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** Address all comments about this proposed priority to Geraldine Smith, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., room 7020, Washington, DC 20006-8512. If you prefer to send your comments through the Internet, use the following address: [TRIO@ed.gov](mailto:TRIO@ed.gov).

You must include the term “Upward Bound Comments” in the subject line of your electronic message.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gaby Watts. Telephone: (202) 502-7545 or via Internet: [gaby.watts@ed.gov](mailto:gaby.watts@ed.gov).

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### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Invitation To Comment

We invite you to submit comments regarding this proposed priority.

We invite you to assist us in complying with the specific requirements of Executive Order 12866 and its overall requirement of reducing