

the effects of the pandemic, in light of evidence that remote learning has negatively affected students' social and emotional well-being.

This package only requests clearance for data collection activities that will occur before March 2022 and impose burden on respondents. These activities, all part of the evaluation of a continuous quality improvement system (the study's second component), involve collecting parent/guardian questionnaires and permission forms, afterschool center coaching logs, and student afterschool attendance records.

Dated: April 27, 2021.

**Stephanie Valentine,**

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

[FR Doc. 2021-09085 Filed 4-29-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No. ED-2021-SCC-0016]

### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Privacy Act Request Form

**AGENCY:** Office of Management (OM), Department of Education (ED).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, ED is proposing an extension without change of a currently approved collection.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before June 1, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for proposed information collection requests should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this information collection request by selecting "Department of Education" under "Currently Under Review," then check "Only Show ICR for Public Comment" checkbox. Comments may also be sent to [ICDocketmgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketmgr@ed.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Elise Cook, 202-401-3769.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Education (ED), in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an

opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the Department's information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. ED is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

*Title of Collection:* Privacy Act Request Form.

*OMB Control Number:* 1880-0546.

*Type of Review:* An extension without change of a currently approved collection.

*Respondents/Affected Public:* Individuals and Households.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 130.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 65.

*Abstract:* The collection is necessary under 5 U.S.C. Section 552a(b) to collect information from individuals requesting information under the Privacy Act (PA). The Department will use the information to provide documents that are responsive to a Privacy Act or FOIA/Privacy Act request under the Freedom of Information Act.

Dated: April 27, 2021.

**Juliana Pearson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2021-09068 Filed 4-29-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED-2021-SCC-0055]

### Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) Match Waiver Request Form

#### Correction

In notice document 2021-06935 appearing on pages 17373 through 17374 in the issue of Friday, April 2, 2021, make the following correction:

On page 17373, in the third column, in the ninth and tenth lines down, change "April 8, 2021" to read "June 1, 2021."

[FR Doc. C1-2021-06935 Filed 4-29-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 0099-10-D**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Applications for New Awards; Hispanic-Serving Institutions STEM and Articulation Program

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Education (Department) is issuing a notice inviting applications (NIA) for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2021 for the Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) STEM and Articulation Program, Assistance Listing Number 84.031C. This notice relates to the approved information collection under OMB control number 1894-0006.

#### DATES:

*Applications Available:* April 30, 2021.

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* June 14, 2021.

*Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:* August 13, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** For the addresses for obtaining and submitting an application, please refer to our Common Instructions for Applicants to Department of Education Discretionary Grant Programs, published in the **Federal Register** on February 13, 2019 (84 FR 3768), and available at [www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-13/pdf/2019-02206.pdf](http://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-13/pdf/2019-02206.pdf).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jymece Seward, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 2B159, Washington, DC 20202-4260. Telephone: (202) 453-6138. Email: [jymece.seward@ed.gov](mailto:jymece.seward@ed.gov).

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) or a text telephone (TTY), call the Federal Relay Service (FRS), toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Full Text of Announcement****I. Funding Opportunity Description**

*Purpose of Program:* The HSI STEM and Articulation Program supports eligible HSIs (as defined in section 502 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA) (20 U.S.C. 1101a)) in developing and carrying out activities described in section 503(b) of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1101b (b)) to increase the number of Hispanic and low-income students attaining degrees in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM); and to develop model transfer and articulation agreements between two-year HSIs and four-year institutions in such fields.

*Background:* Given the growth in the Hispanic population, taking steps to increase the number of Hispanic students with STEM credentials is critical to the future workforce and economy of the United States. The number of Hispanic students graduating with a postsecondary degree has increased in recent years; however, these students continue to be significantly underrepresented in the total number of students earning STEM credentials.

The Department has promoted college retention, affordability, and completion, especially for students of color and low-income students through various policy initiatives. This competition specifically acknowledges the importance of student-centered programs that will increase the number of Hispanic and low-income students who graduate with degrees in STEM fields, as well as the need to promote support systems to ensure that community college students will continue to pursue STEM degrees once enrolled at a four-year institution.

HSIs interested in applying to this grant program should examine the alignment of their mission and current strategic plan with the needs of the target population and surrounding community to develop, enhance, and implement practice and policies that best promote student success, specifically for Hispanic and low-income students.

*Priorities:* This notice contains one absolute priority, two competitive preference priorities, and one invitational priority. The absolute priority is from section 371(b)(2)(B) of the HEA. Competitive Preference Priority 1 is from the Secretary's Final Supplemental Priorities and Definitions for Discretionary Grant Programs, published in the **Federal Register** on March 2, 2018 (83 FR 9096) (Supplemental Priorities). Competitive

Preference Priority 2 is from section 503(b)(5) of the HEA.

*Absolute Priority:* For FY 2021 and any subsequent year in which we make awards from 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:

Projects designed to increase the number of Hispanic and other low-income students attaining degrees in the fields of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics; and to develop model transfer and articulation agreements between 2-year Hispanic-serving institutions and 4-year institutions in such fields.

*Competitive Preference Priorities:* For FY 2021 and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applications from this competition, these priorities are competitive preference priorities. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i), we award an application up to 10 additional points (up to 5 points under each priority), depending on how well the application meets the priorities.

These priorities are:

*Competitive Preference Priority 1—Fostering Flexible and Affordable Paths to Obtaining Knowledge and Skills (up to 5 additional points).*

Projects that are designed to address one or more of the following priority areas:

(a) Improving collaboration between education providers and employers to ensure student learning objectives are aligned with the skills or knowledge required for employment in in-demand industry sectors or occupations (as defined in section 3(23) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014).

(b) Providing work-based learning experiences (such as internships, apprenticeships, and fellowships) that align with in-demand industry sectors or occupations (as defined in section 3(23) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014).

*Competitive Preference Priority 2—Academic Achievement and Retention Strategies (up to 5 additional points).*

Projects designed to develop or enhance tutoring, counseling, and student service programs designed to improve academic success, including innovative and customized instruction courses (which may include remedial education and English language instruction) designed to help retain students and move the students rapidly into core courses and through program completion.

Under this competition we are particularly interested in applications that address the following priority.

*Invitational Priority:* For FY 2021 and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applications from this competition, this priority is an invitational priority. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1) we do not give an application that meets this invitational priority a competitive or absolute preference over other applications.

This priority is:

*Providing Student Supports for Addressing the Impact of COVID-19 on Students' Mental Health and Academic Outcomes.*

*Background:* Recent data suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic has created academic challenges and greatly exacerbated mental health issues among students. For example, in a recent survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 63 percent of 18- to 24-year-olds reported symptoms of anxiety or depression.<sup>1</sup> In addition, the transition to remote learning has introduced academic challenges for all students, particularly students from low-income backgrounds and students of color, English learners, and students with disabilities. For students living in rural communities, access to instruction and other challenges brought on by the pandemic has negatively impacted students' well-being.<sup>2</sup> This invitational priority is intended to address how to address existing and future challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Priority:*

Projects that will provide integrated student support services (also known as wrap-around services) for HSI STEM students to address mental health and academic support due to the COVID-19 pandemic. An applicant should describe in its application how it will collaborate to provide resources that will leverage grant funding to drive resources to support students and communities hit the hardest by COVID-19 and drive evidence-based best practices to address the existing inequities exacerbated by the pandemic. Integrated services meet the whole needs of students from low-income backgrounds and their families, including public benefits, aid for school supplies, transportation costs, mental health services, mentoring, tutoring, and peer support groups, that ensure successful articulation from two-year to

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/pdfs/mm6932a1-H.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.pnas.org/content/118/1/2019378118>; <https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/20/10/harvard-edcast-covid-19s-impact-rural-schools>.

four-year academic programs and successful graduation with a credential.

*Definitions:* The following definitions are from 34 CFR 77.1.

*Baseline* means the starting point from which performance is measured and targets are set.

*Demonstrates a rationale* means a key project component included in the project's logic model is informed by research or evaluation findings that suggest the project component is likely to improve relevant outcomes.

*Evidence-based* means the proposed project component is supported by promising evidence or evidence that demonstrates a rationale.

*Experimental study* means a study that is designed to compare outcomes between two groups of individuals (such as students) that are otherwise equivalent except for their assignment to either a treatment group receiving a project component or a control group that does not. Randomized controlled trials, regression discontinuity design studies, and single-case design studies are the specific types of experimental studies that, depending on their design and implementation (e.g., sample attrition in randomized controlled trials and regression discontinuity design studies), can meet What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) standards without reservations as described in the WWC Handbooks:

(i) A randomized controlled trial employs random assignment of, for example, students, teachers, classrooms, or schools to receive the project component being evaluated (the treatment group) or not to receive the project component (the control group).

(ii) A regression discontinuity design study assigns the project component being evaluated using a measured variable (e.g., assigning students reading below a cutoff score to tutoring or developmental education classes) and controls for that variable in the analysis of outcomes.

(iii) A single-case design study uses observations of a single case (e.g., a student eligible for a behavioral intervention) over time in the absence and presence of a controlled treatment manipulation to determine whether the outcome is systematically related to the treatment.

*Logic model* (also referred to as a theory of action) means a framework that identifies key project components of the proposed project (i.e., the active "ingredients" that are hypothesized to be critical to achieving the relevant outcomes) and describes the theoretical and operational relationships among the key project components and relevant outcomes.

**Note:** In developing logic models, applicants may want to use resources such as the Pacific Education Laboratory's Logic Model Application ([www.ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/pacific/elm.asp](http://www.ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/pacific/elm.asp)).

*Performance measure* means any quantitative indicator, statistic, or metric used to gauge program or project performance.

*Performance target* means a level of performance that an applicant would seek to meet during the course of a project or as a result of a project.

*Project component* means an activity, strategy, intervention, process, product, practice, or policy included in a project. Evidence may pertain to an individual project component or to a combination of project components (e.g., training teachers on instructional practices for English learners and follow-on coaching for these teachers).

*Promising evidence* means that there is evidence of the effectiveness of a key project component in improving a relevant outcome, based on a relevant finding from one of the following:

(i) A practice guide prepared by What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) reporting a "strong evidence base" or "moderate evidence base" for the corresponding practice guide recommendation;

(ii) An intervention report prepared by the WWC reporting a "positive effect" or "potentially positive effect" on a relevant outcome with no reporting of a "negative effect" or "potentially negative effect" on a relevant outcome; or

(iii) A single study assessed by the Department, as appropriate, that—

(A) Is an experimental study, a quasi-experimental design study, or a well-designed and well-implemented correlational study with statistical controls for selection bias (e.g., a study using regression methods to account for differences between a treatment group and a comparison group); and

(B) Includes at least one statistically significant and positive (i.e., favorable) effect on a relevant outcome.

*Quasi-experimental design study* means a study using a design that attempts to approximate an experimental study by identifying a comparison group that is similar to the treatment group in important respects. This type of study, depending on design and implementation (e.g., establishment of baseline equivalence of the groups being compared), can meet WWC standards with reservations, but cannot meet WWC standards without reservations, as described in the WWC Handbooks.

*Relevant outcome* means the student outcome(s) or other outcome(s) the key project component is designed to

improve, consistent with the specific goals of the program.

*What Works Clearinghouse Handbooks* (WWC Handbooks) means the standards and procedures set forth in the WWC Standards Handbook, Versions 4.0 or 4.1, and WWC Procedures Handbook, Versions 4.0 or 4.1, or in the WWC Procedures and Standards Handbook, Version 3.0 or Version 2.1 (all incorporated by reference, see § 77.2). Study findings eligible for review under WWC standards can meet WWC standards without reservations, meet WWC standards with reservations, or not meet WWC standards. WWC practice guides and intervention reports include findings from systematic reviews of evidence as described in the WWC Handbooks documentation.

*Program Authority:* 20 U.S.C.1067q(b)(2)(B).

Although the HSI STEM and Articulation Program authorized under section 371 of the HEA is not part of the Developing HSIs Program authorized by title V of the HEA, the eligibility and activity provisions under the Developing HSIs Program apply to the HSI STEM and Articulation Program pursuant to section 371(a)(2) and (b)(2)(B) of the HEA.

**Note:** Projects will be awarded and must be operated in a manner consistent with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the Federal civil rights laws.

*Applicable Regulations:* (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, 97, 98, and 99. (b) The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Non procurement) in 2 CFR part 180, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3485. (c) The Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards in 2 CFR part 200, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3474. (d) Supplemental Priorities.

## II. Award Information

*Type of Award:* Discretionary grants.  
*Estimated Available Funds:* \$94,100,000.

Contingent upon the availability of funds and the quality of applications, we may make additional awards in subsequent fiscal years from the list of unfunded applications from this competition.

*Estimated Range of Awards:* \$700,000-\$1,000,000.

*Estimated Average Size of Awards:* \$775,000.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 96.

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

*Project Period:* Up to 60 months.

### III. Eligibility Information

1. *Eligible Applicants:* (a) IHEs that qualify as eligible HSIs are eligible to apply for new grants under the HSI STEM and Articulation Program. To be an eligible HSI, an IHE must—

(i) Have an enrollment of needy students, as defined in section 502(b) of the HEA (section 502(a)(2)(A)(i) of the HEA; 20 U.S.C. 1101a(a)(2)(A)(i));

(ii) Have, except as provided in section 522(b) of the HEA, average education and general expenditures that are low, per full-time equivalent (FTE) undergraduate student, in comparison with the average education and general expenditures per FTE undergraduate student of institutions that offer similar instruction (section 502(a)(2)(A)(ii) of the HEA; 20 U.S.C. 1101a(a)(2)(A)(ii));

**Note:** To demonstrate an enrollment of needy students and low average education and general expenditures per FTE undergraduate student, an IHE must be designated as an “eligible institution” in accordance with 34 CFR 606.3 through 606.5 and the notice inviting applications for designation as an eligible institution for the fiscal year for which the grant competition is being conducted.

**Note:** The notice announcing the FY 2021 process for designation of eligible institutions, and inviting applications for waiver of eligibility requirements, was published in the **Federal Register** on March 3, 2021 (86 FR 12665). A notice extending the deadline was published in the **Federal Register** on April 13, 2021 (86 FR 19231). Only institutions that the Department determines are eligible, or are granted a waiver, may apply for a grant in this program.

(iii) Be accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association that the Secretary has determined to be a reliable authority as to the quality of education or training offered, or making reasonable progress toward accreditation, according to such an agency or association (section 502(a)(2)(A)(iv) of the HEA; 20 U.S.C. 1101a(a)(2)(A)(iv));

(iv) Be legally authorized to provide, and provides within the State, an education program for which the institution awards a bachelor’s degree (section 502(a)(2)(A)(iii) of the HEA; 20 U.S.C. 1101a(a)(2)(A)(iii)), or be a junior or community college (section 502(a)(2)(A)(iii) of the HEA; 20 U.S.C. 1101a(a)(2)(A)(iii));

(v) Have an enrollment of undergraduate FTE students that is at least 25 percent Hispanic students at the end of the award year immediately preceding the date of application (section 502(a)(5)(B) of the HEA; 20 U.S.C. 1101a(a)(5)(B));

**Note:** For this program, the “end of the award year immediately preceding the date of application” refers to the end of the fiscal year prior to the application due date. For purposes of this competition, the data that we will use to determine percent enrollment of undergraduate FTE of Hispanic students is from academic year 2019–2020.

(b) An eligible HSI may only submit one grant application in the lead role.

2. a. *Cost Sharing or Matching:* This program does not require cost sharing or matching unless the grantee uses a portion of its grant for establishing or improving an endowment fund. If a grantee uses a portion of its grant for endowment fund purposes, it must match or exceed those grant funds with non-Federal funds (section 503(c)(2) of the HEA; 20 U.S.C. 1101b(c)(2)).

b. *Indirect Cost Rate Information:* This program uses a restricted indirect cost rate. For more information regarding indirect costs, or to obtain a negotiated indirect cost rate, please see [www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/intro.html](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/intro.html).

c. *Administrative Cost Limitation:*

This program does not include any program-specific limitation on administrative expenses. All administrative expenses must be reasonable and necessary and conform to Cost Principles described in 2 CFR part 200 subpart E of the Uniform Guidance.

3. *Subgrantees:* Under 34 CFR 75.708(b) and (c) a grantee under this competition may award subgrants—to directly carry out project activities described in its application—to entities listed in the grant application.

### IV. Application and Submission Information

#### 1. Application Submission

*Instructions:* Applicants are required to follow the Common Instructions for Applicants to Department of Education Discretionary Grant Programs, published in the **Federal Register** on February 13, 2019 (84 FR 3768), and available at [www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-13/pdf/2019-02206.pdf](http://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-13/pdf/2019-02206.pdf), which contain requirements and information on how to submit an application.

2. *Submission of Proprietary Information:* Given the types of projects that may be proposed in applications for the HSI STEM and Articulation Program, your application may include

business information that you consider proprietary. In 34 CFR 5.11 we define “business information” and describe the process we use in determining whether any of that information is proprietary and, thus, protected from disclosure under Exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552, as amended).

An applicant may wish to request confidentiality of business information because successful applications may be made available to the public, if requested.

Consistent with Executive Order 12600, please designate in your application any information that you believe is exempt from disclosure under Exemption 4. In the appropriate Appendix section of your application, under “Other Attachments Form,” please list the page number or numbers on which we can find this information. For additional information please see 34 CFR 5.11(c).

3. *Intergovernmental Review:* This program is 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 this program.

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

5. *Recommended Page Limit:* The application narrative is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. We recommend that you (1) limit the application narrative to no more than 55 pages and (2) use the following standards:

- A “page” is 8.5” x 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, and no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch).

- Use one of the following fonts: Times New Roman, Courier, Courier New, or Arial.

The recommended page limit applies to the Project Narrative, which is your complete response to the selection criteria, and any response to the competitive preference priorities, if applicable. However, the recommended page limit does not apply to the Application for Federal Assistance form

(SF-424); the ED SF-424 Supplement form; the Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs form (ED 524); the assurances and certifications; or the one-page project abstract and supporting budget narrative.

## V. Application Review Information

1. *Selection Criteria:* The selection criteria for this competition are from 34 CFR 75.210. We will award up to 110 points to an application under the selection criteria; the total possible points for each selection criterion are noted in parentheses.

(a) *Quality of the Project Design.* (Maximum 30 points) The Secretary considers the quality of the design of the proposed project. In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) 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. (Up to 15 points)

(2) The extent to which the proposed project represents an exceptional approach to the priority established for the competition. (Up to 5 points)

(3) The extent to which the proposed project demonstrates a rationale (as defined in this notice). (Up to 5 points)

(4) The extent to which the proposed project is supported by promising evidence (as defined in this notice). (Up to 5 points)

**Note:** Applicants may address the “demonstrates a rationale” selection factor through use of a logic model (as defined in this notice). To address the “promising evidence” selection factor, applicants should cite the study or studies used to address “promising evidence” and attach them as part of the application attachments. In addressing “promising evidence,” applicants are encouraged to align the direct student services proposed in this application to evidence-based practices identified in the selected study or studies.

(b) *Quality of Project Services.* (Maximum 30 points) The Secretary considers the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project. In determining the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) The quality and sufficiency of strategies for ensuring equal access and treatment for eligible project participants who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, national origin, gender, age, or disability. (Up to 10 points)

(2) The extent to which services to be provided by the proposed project reflect

up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice. (Up to 10 points)

(3) The likely impact of the services to be provided by the proposed project on the intended recipients of those services. (Up to 10 points)

(c) *Significance.* (Maximum 20 points) The Secretary considers the significance of the proposed project. In determining the significance of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) The potential contribution of the proposed project to increased knowledge or understanding of educational problems, issues, or effective strategies. (Up to 5 points)

(2) The likelihood that the proposed project will result in system change or improvement. (Up to 15 points)

(d) *Quality of the Management Plan.* (Maximum 10 points) The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project. In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) 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. (Up to 5 points)

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

(e) *Quality of the Project Evaluation.* (Maximum 20 points) The Secretary considers the quality of the evaluation to be conducted of the proposed project. In determining the quality of the evaluation, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the proposed project are clearly specified and measurable. (Up to 5 points)

(2) The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the proposed project. (Up to 5 points)

(3) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will, if well-implemented, produce evidence about the project’s effectiveness that would meet the What Works Clearinghouse Evidence Standards with reservations. (Up to 10 points)

2. *Review and Selection Process:* We remind potential applicants that in reviewing applications in any discretionary grant competition, the

Secretary may consider, under 34 CFR 75.217(d)(3), the past performance of the applicant in carrying out a previous award, such as the applicant’s use of funds, achievement of project objectives, and compliance with grant conditions. The Secretary may also consider whether the applicant failed to submit a timely performance report or submitted a report of unacceptable quality.

In addition, in making a competitive grant award, the Secretary requires various assurances, including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23).

A panel of three non-Federal reviewers will review and score each application in accordance with the selection criteria in this notice, as well as the competitive preference priorities. A rank order funding slate will be made from this review. Awards will be made in rank order according to the average score received from the peer review.

*Tiebreaker.* In the event there are two or more applications with the same final score, and there are insufficient funds to fully support each of these applications, the Department will use other information to select applications (34 CFR 75.217). The Department will apply the following procedure to determine which application or applications will receive an award:

*First Tiebreaker:* The first tiebreaker will be the highest average score for the selection criterion “Quality of the Project Design.” If a tie remains, the second tiebreaker will be utilized.

*Second Tiebreaker:* The second tiebreaker will be the highest average score for the selection criterion “Quality of Project Services.” If a tie remains, the third tiebreaker will be utilized.

*Third Tiebreaker:* The third tiebreaker will be the highest average score for the selection criterion “Quality of the Project Evaluation.”

3. *Risk Assessment and Specific Conditions:* Consistent with 2 CFR 200.205, before awarding grants under this program, the Department conducts a review of the risks posed by applicants. Under 2 CFR 200.208, the Secretary may impose specific conditions and, under 2 CFR 3474.10, in appropriate circumstances, high-risk conditions on a grant if the applicant or grantee is not financially stable; has a history of unsatisfactory performance; has a financial or other management system that does not meet the standards in 2 CFR part 200, subpart D; has not fulfilled the conditions of a prior grant; or is otherwise not responsible.

4. *Integrity and Performance System:* If you are selected under this competition to receive an award that over the course of the project period may exceed the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$250,000), under 2 CFR 200.206(a)(2) we must make a judgment about your integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards—that is, the risk posed by you as an applicant—before we make an award. In doing so, we must consider any information about you that is in the integrity and performance system (currently referred to as the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)), accessible through the System for Award Management. You may review and comment on any information about yourself that a Federal agency previously entered and that is currently in FAPIIS.

Please note that, if the total value of your currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from the Federal Government exceeds \$10,000,000, the reporting requirements in 2 CFR part 200, Appendix XII, require you to report certain integrity information to FAPIIS semiannually. Please review the requirements in 2 CFR part 200, Appendix XII, if this grant plus all the other Federal funds you receive exceed \$10,000,000.

## VI. Award Administration Information

1. *Award Notices:* If your application is successful, we notify your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators and send you a GAN; or we may send you an email containing a link to access an electronic version of your GAN. We may notify you informally, also.

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. *Open Licensing Requirements:* Unless an exception applies, if you are awarded a grant under this competition, you will be required to openly license to the public grant deliverables created in whole, or in part, with Department grant funds. When the deliverable consists of modifications to pre-existing

works, the license extends only to those modifications that can be separately identified and only to the extent that open licensing is permitted under the terms of any licenses or other legal restrictions on the use of pre-existing works. Additionally, a grantee or subgrantee that is awarded competitive grant funds must have a plan to disseminate these public grant deliverables. This dissemination plan can be developed and submitted after your application has been reviewed and selected for funding. For additional information on the open licensing requirements, please refer to 2 CFR 3474.20.

4. *Reporting:* (a) If you apply for a grant under this competition, you must ensure that you have in place the necessary processes and systems to comply with the reporting requirements in 2 CFR part 170 should you receive funding under the competition. This does not apply if you have an exception under 2 CFR 170.110(b).

(b) 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 multiyear award, you must submit an annual performance report that provides the most current performance and financial expenditure information as directed by the Secretary under 34 CFR 75.118. The Secretary may also require more frequent performance reports under 34 CFR 75.720(c). For specific requirements on reporting, please go to [www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html](http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html). (c) Under 34 CFR 75.250(b), the Secretary may provide a grantee with additional funding for data collection analysis and reporting. In this case, the Secretary establishes a data collection period.

5. *Performance Measures:* The Secretary has established the following key performance measures for assessing the effectiveness of the HSI STEM and Articulation Program:

a. The percentage change, over the five-year grant period, of the number of Hispanic and low-income full-time STEM field degree-seeking undergraduate students enrolled.

b. The number and percent of Hispanic and low-income first-time, full-time STEM field degree-seeking undergraduate students who were in their first year of postsecondary enrollment in the previous year and are enrolled in the current year who remain in a STEM field degree/credential program.

c. The number and percentage of Hispanic and low-income first-time, full-time degree-seeking undergraduate

students enrolled at four-year HSIs graduating within six years of enrollment with a STEM field degree.

d. The number and percentage of Hispanic and low-income first-time, full-time degree-seeking undergraduate students enrolled at two-year HSIs graduating within three years of enrollment with a STEM field degree/credential.

e. The number and percentage of Hispanic and low-income students transferring successfully to a four-year institution from a two-year institution and retained in a STEM field major.

f. The number of Hispanic and low-income students participating in grant-funded student support programs or services.

g. The number of Hispanic and low-income students who participated in grant-supported services or programs in good academic standing.

h. The number of Hispanic and low-income STEM field major transfer students on track to complete a STEM field degree within three years from their transfer date.

i. The number of Hispanic and low-income students who participated in grant-supported services or programs and completed a degree or credential.

6. *Continuation Awards:* In making a continuation award under 34 CFR 75.253, the Secretary considers, among other things: whether a grantee has made substantial progress in achieving the goals and objectives of the project; whether the grantee has expended funds in a manner that is consistent with its approved application and budget; and, if the Secretary has established performance measurement requirements, the performance targets in the grantee's approved application.

In making a continuation award, the Secretary also considers whether the grantee is operating in compliance with the assurances in its approved application, including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23).

## VII. Other Information

*Accessible Format:* 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, audiotape, 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 [www.govinfo.gov](http://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.

**Michelle Asha Cooper,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.*

[FR Doc. 2021-09079 Filed 4-29-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

#### Combined Notice of Filings #1

Take notice that the Commission received the following electric rate filings:

*Docket Numbers:* ER10-2960-012; ER10-1595-015; ER10-1598-015; ER10-1616-015; ER10-1618-015; ER18-1821-007; ER18-2418 004; ER19-2231-004; ER19-2232-004.

*Applicants:* Astoria Generating Company, L.P., Chief Conemaugh Power, LLC, Chief Conemaugh Power II, LLC, Chief Keystone Power, LLC, Chief Keystone Power II, LLC, Crete Energy Venture, LLC, Great River Hydro, LLC, Lincoln Generating Facility, LLC, New Covert Generating Company, LLC, Walleye Power, LLC, Rolling Hills Generating, L.L.C.

*Description:* Amendment to June 30, 2020 and March 1, 2021 Triennial Market Power Analysis for the Northeast Region and Notice of Change in Status of Astoria Generating Company, L.P., et al.

*Filed Date:* 4/22/21.

*Accession Number:* 20210422-5251.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/13/21,

*Docket Numbers:* ER20-1697-001.

*Applicants:* Midcontinent

Independent System Operator, Inc., American Electric Power Service Corporation.

*Description:* Compliance filing: 2021-04-23\_AEP Deficiency Response re

Order 864 Compliance to be effective N/A.

*Filed Date:* 4/23/21.

*Accession Number:* 20210423-5093.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/14/21.

*Docket Numbers:* ER20-1886-001.

*Applicants:* PJM Interconnection, L.L.C., Appalachian Power Company, Indiana Michigan Power Company, Kentucky Power Company, Kingsport Power Company, Ohio Power Company, Wheeling Power Company, American Electric Power Service Corporation.

*Description:* Compliance filing: AEP submits Response to Deficiency Letter in ER20-1886 and ER20-1888 to be effective N/A.

*Filed Date:* 4/23/21.

*Accession Number:* 20210423-5016.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/14/21.

*Docket Numbers:* ER20-1888-001.

*Applicants:* PJM Interconnection, L.L.C., AEP Appalachian Transmission Company, Inc., AEP Indiana Michigan Transmission Company, AEP Kentucky Transmission Company, Inc., AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc., American Electric Power Service Corporation, AEP West Virginia Transmission Company.

*Description:* Compliance filing: AEP submits Response to Deficiency Letter in ER20-1886 and ER20-1888 to be effective N/A.

*Filed Date:* 4/23/21.

*Accession Number:* 20210423-5025.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/14/21.

*Docket Numbers:* ER20-2574-001.

*Applicants:* Southwest Power Pool, Inc.

*Description:* Compliance filing: Deficiency Response in ER20-2574—AEP West Op Cos Order No. 864 Comp. Filing to be effective N/A.

*Filed Date:* 4/23/21.

*Accession Number:* 20210423-5062.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/14/21

*Docket Numbers:* ER20-2577-001.

*Applicants:* Southwest Power Pool, Inc.

*Description:* Compliance filing: Deficiency Response in ER20-2577—AEP West Trans Cos Order No. 864 Comp. Filing to be effective N/A.

*Filed Date:* 4/23/21.

*Accession Number:* 20210423-5057.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/14/21.

*Docket Numbers:* ER21-1726-000.

*Applicants:* Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative, Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company, Pascoag Utility District, Vermont Department of Public Service.

*Description:* Joint Petition for Advance Waiver, et al. of Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative, et al.

*Filed Date:* 4/21/21.

*Accession Number:* 20210421-5206.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/5/21.

*Docket Numbers:* ER21-1736-000.

*Applicants:* El Paso Electric Company.

*Description:* § 205(d) Rate Filing: Service Agreement No. 352, Simultaneous Exchange with TransAlta to be effective 6/11/2021.

*Filed Date:* 4/22/21.

*Accession Number:* 20210422-5195.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/13/21.

*Docket Numbers:* ER21-1737-000.

*Applicants:* Indianapolis Power & Light Company.

*Description:* § 205(d) Rate Filing: IPL Reactive Power Supplemental Filing and Motions to be effective 6/9/2021.

*Filed Date:* 4/22/21.

*Accession Number:* 20210422-5201.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/13/21.

*Docket Numbers:* ER21-1739-000.

*Applicants:* AEP Texas Inc.

*Description:* § 205(d) Rate Filing:

AEPTX-Appaloosa Run Wind Interconnection Agreement to be effective 4/12/2021.

*Filed Date:* 4/23/21.

*Accession Number:* 20210423-5008.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/14/21.

*Docket Numbers:* ER21-1740-000.

*Applicants:* The Connecticut Light and Power Company.

*Description:* Tariff Cancellation: Cancellation Preliminary Engineering and Design Agreement—Gravel Pit Solar LLC to be effective 4/23/2021.

*Filed Date:* 4/23/21.

*Accession Number:* 20210423-5022.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/14/21.

*Docket Numbers:* ER21-1741-000.

*Applicants:* Southwest Power Pool, Inc.

*Description:* § 205(d) Rate Filing: 3095R3 Missouri River Energy Services NITSA and NOA to be effective 10/1/2020.

*Filed Date:* 4/23/21.

*Accession Number:* 20210423-5024.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/14/21.

*Docket Numbers:* ER21-1742-000.

*Applicants:* Tampa Electric Company.

*Description:* Request for Waiver of Rate Schedule Provisions, et al. of Tampa Electric Company.

*Filed Date:* 4/22/21.

*Accession Number:* 20210422-5252.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/3/21.

*Docket Numbers:* ER21-1743-000.

*Applicants:* Southwest Power Pool, Inc.

*Description:* § 205(d) Rate Filing: 2562R9 Kansas Municipal Energy Agency NITSA and NOA to be effective 4/1/2021.

*Filed Date:* 4/23/21.

*Accession Number:* 20210423-5067.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 5/14/21.