

of clarification, and other concerns, if any, pertaining to each application.

The Secretary assigns each application to one of several groups based on the application's overall level of quality. Starting with the highest quality group and moving down in unbroken order, the Secretary then identifies the groups of applications of sufficiently high quality to be considered for funding. The Secretary may request each applicant whose application was identified as being in a group of sufficiently high quality applications to submit additional information or materials to address the concerns and questions, if any, identified by the peer review panels. Such requests are strictly limited to clarifications of a conceptual or technical nature, and are not meant to fill major gaps in information that reviewers identify in applications.

A second peer review panel then reevaluates each application in a group identified as being of sufficiently high quality, taking into account any additional information or materials, to determine the extent to which each application addresses the selection criteria. The Secretary then reassigned each reevaluated application to one of several groups based on the application's overall level of quality.

In the final stage of the selection process, the Secretary selects for funding those applications of highest quality based on the results of the second review panel. The Secretary may also consider the extent to which each application demonstrates an effective response to the learning technology needs of areas with a high number or percentage of disadvantaged students or the greatest need for educational technology.

#### Application Deadline

In order to ensure timely receipt and processing of applications, the Secretary takes exception to 34 CFR 75.102(b) by requiring that for an application to be considered for funding it must be received on or before the deadline date announced in the application notice published in this issue of the Federal Register. The Secretary will not consider an application for funding if it is not received by the deadline date unless the applicant can show proof that the application was (1) Sent by registered or certified mail not later than five days before the deadline date; or (2) sent by commercial carrier not later than two days before the deadline date. An applicant must show proof of mailing in accordance with 34 CFR 75.102 (d) and (e). Applications delivered by hand must be received by 2:00 p.m.

(Washington, D.C. time) on the deadline date. For the purposes of this competition, the Secretary does not apply 34 CFR 102(b) which requires an application to be mailed, rather than received, by the deadline date.

#### *Waiver of Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*

In accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553), it is the practice of the Department to offer interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed regulations that are not taken directly from statute. Ordinarily, this practice would have applied to the selection criteria, selection procedures, and application procedures in this notice. However, in order to make timely grant awards in fiscal year (FY) 1995, the Assistant Secretary, in accordance with section 437(d)(1) of the General Education Provisions Act, has decided to issue this notice of selection criteria, selection procedures, and application procedures, which will apply only to the FY 1995 grant competition.

#### *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980*

These selection criteria contain information collection requirements. As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, the Department will submit a copy of these selection criteria to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for its review. (44 U.S.C. 3504(h))

The Department uses the information to make informed evaluations of grant applications. Annual public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to be as follows:

(1) Selection criteria—average 24 hours per response for 500 respondents.

These estimates include time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

Organizations and individuals desiring to submit comments on the information collection requirements should direct them to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Room 3002, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503; Attention: Daniel J. Chenok.

#### *Intergovernmental Review*

This program is subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12373 and the regulations in 34 CFR Part 79. The objective of the executive order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism by relying on processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and

review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

In accordance with the order, this document is intended to provide early notification of the Department's specific plans and actions for this program.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 6846.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 84.303, Challenge Grants for Technology in Education)

Dated: March 3, 1995.

Sharon P. Robinson,

*Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement.*

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#### **[CFDA No. 84.303]**

#### **Challenge Grants for Technology in Education; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 1995**

*Purpose of Program:* The Challenge Grants for Technology in Education Program provides grants to consortia that are working to improve and expand new applications of technology to strengthen the school reform effort, improve student achievement, and provide sustained professional development of teachers, administrators, and school library media personnel.

*Eligible Applicants:* Only consortia may receive grants under this program. Consortia shall include at least one local educational agency (LEA) with a high percentage or number of children living below the poverty line. They may also include other local educational agencies, State educational agencies, institutions of higher education, businesses, academic content experts, software designers, museums, libraries, and other appropriate entities.

Note: In each consortium a participating LEA shall submit the application on behalf of the consortium and serve as the fiscal agent for the grant.

**Deadline for Receipt of Applications:**  
June 2, 1995

**Requested Deadline for Receipt of Letters of Intent to Apply:** April 4, 1995

**Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:**  
August 1, 1995

**Applications Available:** March 13, 1995  
**Available Funds:** \$27,000,000

**Estimated Range of Awards:** \$500,000 to \$3,000,000 per year

**Estimated Average Size of Awards:**  
\$1,000,000 per year

**Estimated Number of Awards:** 14-18  
**Project Period:** 5 years

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