

application package in an accessible format. The Department will provide the requestor with an accessible format that may include Rich Text Format (RTF), text format (txt), a thumb drive, an MP3 file, braille, large print, audiotape, compact disc, or other accessible format.

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**Adam Schott,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Programs, Delegated the Authority to Perform the Functions and Duties of the Assistant Secretary, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education.*

[FR Doc. 2023-24999 Filed 11-13-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED-2023-SCC-0118]

### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights Program Assurances

**AGENCY:** Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), Department of Education (ED).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Department is proposing an extension without change of a currently approved information collection request (ICR).

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before December 14, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for proposed information collection requests should be submitted within 30 days of publication of this notice. Click on this

link [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain) to access the site. Find this information collection request (ICR) by selecting "Department of Education" under "Currently Under Review," then check the "Only Show ICR for Public Comment" checkbox. [Reginfo.gov](http://Reginfo.gov) provides two links to view documents related to this information collection request. Information collection forms and instructions may be found by clicking on the "View Information Collection (IC) List" link. Supporting statements and other supporting documentation may be found by clicking on the "View Supporting Statement and Other Documents" link.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Samuel Pierre, 202-987-1928.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department 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:** Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights Program Assurances.

**OMB Control Number:** 1820-0625.

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

**Respondents/Affected Public:** State, Local, and Tribal Governments.

**Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:** 57.

**Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:** 9.

**Abstract:** Section 509 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Rehabilitation Act), as amended by the Title IV of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and its implementing Federal Regulations at 34 CFR part 381, require the PAIR grantees to submit an application to the RSA Commissioner in order to receive assistance under Section 509 of the Rehabilitation Act. The Rehabilitation Act requires that the application contain Assurances to which the grantees must comply. Section 509(f) of the Rehabilitation Act specifies the Assurances. All 57 PAIR grantees are required to be part of the protection and

advocacy system in each State established under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 6041 *et seq.*).

Dated: November 8, 2023.

**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. 2023-25080 Filed 11-13-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Applications for New Awards; High School Equivalency Program

**AGENCY:** Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Education (Department) is issuing a notice inviting applications for fiscal year (FY) 2024 for the High School Equivalency Program (HEP), Assistance Listing Number 84.141A. This notice relates to the approved information collection under the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number 1894-0006.

**DATES:**

*Applications Available:* November 17, 2023.

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* January 16, 2024.

*Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:* March 13, 2024.

*Pre-Application Webinar Information:* The Department will hold a pre-application workshop via webinar for prospective applicants. The date and time of the workshop will be announced on the Department's website at: <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-migrant-education/high-school-equivalency-program/applicant-information-high-school-equivalency-program/>.

**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 December 7, 2022 (87 FR 75045) and available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/12/07/2022-26554/common-instructions-for-applicants-to-department-of-education-discretionary-grant-programs>. Please note that these Common Instructions supersede the version published on December 27, 2021.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dylan Hart-Medina, Office of Migrant

Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 987-1705. Email: [Dylan.Hart-Medina@ed.gov](mailto:Dylan.Hart-Medina@ed.gov).

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability and wish to access telecommunications relay services, please dial 7-1-1.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Full Text of Announcement

#### I. Funding Opportunity Description

**Purpose of Program:** The HEP is designed to assist migratory or seasonal farmworkers (or immediate family members of such workers) to obtain the equivalent of a secondary school diploma and subsequently to gain improved employment, enter military service, or be placed in an institution of higher education (IHE) or other postsecondary education or training.

**Priorities:** This competition includes one competitive preference priority and one invitational priority. In accordance with 34 CFR 75.105(b)(2)(ii) and (iv), the competitive preference priority is from section 418A(e) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA) (20 U.S.C. 1070d-2(e)) and 34 CFR 206.31.

**Competitive Preference Priority:** For FY 2024 and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applications from this competition, this priority is a competitive preference priority. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i), we award up to an additional 15 points to an application for this competitive preference priority, depending on how well the application meets this priority.

This priority is:

*Consideration of Prior Experience.*  
(Up to 15 points)

Projects that are expiring (HEP grantees in their final budget period that received their current HEP award in FY 2019) will be considered for additional points under this competitive preference priority. In accordance with section 418A(e) of the HEA, the Department will award up to 15 points for this priority. In accordance with 34 CFR 206.31(a), the Secretary will consider the applicant's experience in implementing an expiring HEP project, with respect to:

(a) Whether the applicant served the number of participants described in its approved application;

(b) The extent to which the applicant met or exceeded its funded objectives with regard to project participants, including the targeted number and percentage of—

(1) Participants who received a general educational development (GED) credential; and

(2) GED credential recipients who were reported as entering postsecondary education programs, career positions, or the military; and

(c) The extent to which the applicant met administrative requirements, including recordkeeping, reporting, and financial accountability under the terms of the previously funded award.

**Note:** Although 34 CFR 206.31(a)(2)(i) and (ii) refer to general educational development (GED) credentials, the Department recognizes that there are multiple examinations through which high school equivalency (HSE) can be earned and, for the purposes of this notice, uses GED interchangeably with HSE.

**Invitational Priority:** For FY 2024 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:*

*Meeting Students' Social, Emotional, and Academic Needs.*

Projects that are designed to improve students' social, emotional, academic, and career development, with a focus on underserved students, through one or both of the following:

(a) Creating a positive, inclusive, and identity-safe climate at institutions of higher education through fostering a sense of belonging and inclusion for students who are migratory or seasonal farmworkers or immediate family members of such workers.

(b) Fostering partnerships, including across government agencies (e.g., housing, human services, employment agencies), local educational agencies, community-based organizations, adult learning providers, and postsecondary education institutions, to provide comprehensive services to students who are migratory or seasonal farmworkers or immediate family members of such workers and their families that support students' social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs, and that are inclusive with regard to race, ethnicity, culture, language, and disability status.

**Definitions:** The definitions of "migrant farmworker" and "seasonal farmworker" are from 34 CFR 206.5. The definitions of "demonstrates a rationale," "experimental study," "logic model," "project component," "promising evidence," "quasi-

experimental design study," "relevant outcome," and "What Works Clearinghouse Handbooks (WWC Handbooks)" are from 34 CFR 77.1.

**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.

**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.

**Migrant farmworker** means a seasonal farmworker—as defined in this notice—whose employment required travel that precluded the farmworker from returning to his or her domicile (permanent place of residence) within the same day.

*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 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 Handbook.

*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.

*Seasonal farmworker* means a person whose primary employment was in farmwork on a temporary or seasonal basis (that is, not a constant year-round activity) for a period of at least 75 days within the past 24 months.

*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.

*Note:* The What Works Clearinghouse Procedures and Standards Handbook (Version 4.1), as well as the more recent What Works Clearinghouse Handbooks released in August 2022 (Version 5.0), are available at <https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/Handbooks>.

*Program Authority:* 20 U.S.C. 1070d–2.

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

*Applicable Regulations:* (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations in 34 CFR parts 75, 77, 79, 81, 82, 84, 86, 97, 98, and 99. (b) The Office of Management and Budget Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) 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) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 206. (e) The Migrant Education Program (MEP) definitions in 34 CFR 200.81. (f) The National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) definitions in 20 CFR 685.110 and eligibility regulations in 20 CFR 685.320.

*Note:* The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to IHEs only.

*Note:* The MEP definitions and NFJP definitions and eligibility regulations apply to individuals seeking to qualify for HEP based on past participation in the MEP or NFJP.

## II. Award Information

*Type of Award:* Discretionary grants.

*Estimated Available Funds:* The Administration has requested \$9,366,857 for new awards for this program for FY 2024. The actual level of funding, if any, depends on final congressional action. However, we are inviting applications to allow enough time to complete the grant process if

Congress appropriates funds for this program.

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

*Estimated Range of Awards:* \$180,000–\$475,000.

*Estimated Average Size of Awards:* \$475,000.

*Maximum Award:* We will not make an award exceeding \$475,000 for a single budget period of 12 months. Under 34 CFR 75.104(b) the Secretary may reject, without consideration or evaluation, any application that proposes a project funding level that exceeds the stated maximum award amount.

*Minimum Award:* The Department will not make an award for less than the amount of \$180,000 for a single budget period of 12 months. Under section 418A of the HEA, the Secretary is prohibited from making an award for less than the stated award amount. Therefore, we will reject any application that proposes a HEP award that is less than the stated minimum award amount.

*Note:* This approach is intended to promote fairness and transparency in the competitive process.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 20.

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

*Project Period:* Up to 60 months (five 12-month budget periods). Under section 418A(e) of the HEA, except under extraordinary circumstances, the Secretary must award grants for a five-year period. Under 34 CFR 75.117(b), applicants must submit a budget narrative accompanied by a budget form prescribed by the Secretary that provides budget information for each budget period of the proposed project period. Therefore, we may reject any application that does not propose a five-year project period as reflected on the applicant’s ED 524 form, Section A, and budget narrative form, submitted as a part of the application.

## III. Eligibility Information

1. *Eligible Applicants:* An IHE (as defined in section 101 and 102 of the HEA) or a private nonprofit (as those terms are defined in 34 CFR 77.1) organization may apply for a grant to operate a HEP project. If a private nonprofit organization other than an IHE applies for a HEP grant, that organization must plan the project in cooperation with an IHE and must propose to operate some aspects of the project with the facilities of that IHE.

*Note:* If you are a nonprofit organization, under 34 CFR 75.51, you may demonstrate your nonprofit status by providing: (1) proof that the Internal Revenue Service currently recognizes the applicant as an organization to which contributions are tax deductible under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; (2) a statement from a State taxing body or the State attorney general certifying that the organization is a nonprofit organization operating within the State and that no part of its net earnings may lawfully benefit any private shareholder or individual; (3) a certified copy of the applicant's certificate of incorporation or similar document if it clearly establishes the nonprofit status of the applicant; or (4) any item described above if that item applies to a State or national parent organization, together with a statement by the State or parent organization that the applicant is a local nonprofit affiliate.

2a. *Cost Sharing or Matching:* This competition does not require cost sharing or matching. However, consistent with 34 CFR 75.700, which requires an applicant to comply with its approved application, an applicant that proposes non-Federal matching funds and is awarded a grant must provide those funds for each year that the funds are proposed.

b. *Indirect Cost Rate Information:* This program uses a training indirect cost rate. This limits indirect cost reimbursement to an entity's actual indirect costs, as determined in its negotiated indirect cost rate agreement, or eight percent of a modified total direct cost base, whichever amount is less. For more information regarding training indirect cost rates, see 34 CFR 75.562. 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 the following types of entities: IHEs and nonprofit organizations. The grantee may award subgrants to entities it has identified in an approved application or that it selects through a competition

under procedures established by the grantee.

4. *Other:* a. *Budget:* Projects funded under this competition must budget for a three-day Office of Migrant Education annual meeting for HEP Directors in the Washington, DC area during each year of the project period. Such expenses are allowable uses of grant funds and may be included in the proposed project budget. This meeting may be held virtually if conditions warrant such format.

b. *Build America, Buy America Act:* This program is not subject to the Build America, Buy America Act (Pub. L. 117–58) domestic sourcing requirements.

#### 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 December 7, 2022 (87 FR 75045) and available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/12/07/2022-26554/common-instructions-for-applicants-to-department-of-education-discretionary-grant-programs>. Please note that these Common Instructions supersede the version published on December 27, 2021. Under 34 CFR 206.20, applicants are required to make additional submissions with their application. Those requirements are available at [www.ecfr.gov/current/title-34/subtitle-B/chapter-II/part-206/subpart-C/section-206.20](http://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-34/subtitle-B/chapter-II/part-206/subpart-C/section-206.20).

2. *Submission of Proprietary Information:* Given the types of projects that may be proposed in applications for HEP, 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).

Because we plan to make successful applications available to the public, you may wish to request confidentiality of business information.

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 competition 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 competition.

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 25 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 or 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 does not apply to the cover sheet; the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; the assurances and certifications; or the one-page abstract, the resumes, the bibliography, or the letters of support. However, the recommended page limit does apply to all of the application narrative. An application will not be disqualified if it exceeds the recommended page limit.

#### V. Application Review Information

1. *Selection Criteria:* The selection criteria for this competition are from 34 CFR 75.210 and are as follows:

- (a) Need for project (Up to 10 points).

(1) The Secretary considers the need for the proposed project.

(2) In determining the need for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the magnitude of the need for the services to be provided or the activities to be carried out by the proposed project. (Up to 10 points)

(b) Quality of the project design (Up to 24 points).

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the design of the proposed project.

(2) In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the

Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the proposed project are clearly specified and measurable. (Up to 7 points)

(ii) 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 5 points)

(iii) The extent to which the proposed project will establish linkages with other appropriate agencies and organizations providing services to the target population. (Up to 5 points)

(iv) The extent to which the proposed project demonstrates a rationale (as defined in this notice). (Up to 7 points)

(c) Quality of project services (Up to 24 points).

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project.

(2) In determining the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project, the Secretary considers 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, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability. (Up to 3 points)

(3) In addition, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project are appropriate to the needs of the intended recipients or beneficiaries of those services. (Up to 7 points)

(ii) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project involve the collaboration of appropriate partners for maximizing the effectiveness of project services. (Up to 7 points)

(iii) The likely impact of the services to be provided by the proposed project on the intended recipients of those services. (Up to 7 points)

(d) Quality of project personnel (Up to 10 points).

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project.

(2) In determining the quality of project personnel, the Secretary considers the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability. (Up to 3 points)

(3) In addition, the Secretary considers the qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel. (Up to 7 points)

(e) Adequacy of resources (Up to 12 points).

(1) The Secretary considers the adequacy of resources for the proposed project.

(2) In determining the adequacy of resources for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The adequacy of support, including facilities, equipment, supplies, and other resources, from the applicant organization or the lead applicant organization. (Up to 4 points)

(ii) The relevance and demonstrated commitment of each partner in the proposed project to the implementation and success of the project. (Up to 4 points)

(iii) The extent to which the costs are reasonable in relation to the objectives, design, and potential significance of the proposed project. (Up to 4 points)

(f) Quality of the project evaluation (Up to 20 points).

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the evaluation to be conducted of the proposed project.

(2) In determining the quality of the evaluation, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) 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 10 points)

(ii) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes. (Up to 5 points)

(iii) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will, if well implemented, produce promising evidence (as defined in this notice) about the project's effectiveness. (Up to 5 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).

Additional factors we consider in selecting an application for an award are in section 418A of the HEA. In accordance with section 418A, the Secretary makes HEP awards based on the number, quality, and promise of the applications. Additionally, in accordance with section 418A, if final FY 2024 HEP and College Assistance Migrant Program appropriations exceed \$40,000,000, the Secretary will consider the need to provide an equitable geographic distribution of HEP awards. The Secretary may consider the need to provide equitable geographic distribution of HEP awards when—

1. Two or more applicants receive the same score at the funding cutoff for this competition;

2. The Secretary determines that a geographic region is overserved by current HEP projects;

3. The Secretary determines that a geographic region is underserved by current HEP projects; or

4. Two or more applicants propose to operate similar HEP projects in the same geographical region.

When evaluating a potentially overserved or underserved geographic region, the Secretary may consider factors such as migrant or seasonal farmworker population data for a State or region, approximate distance between current and proposed projects, the type of entity of the current or proposed project (e.g., private nonprofit organization, 2-year IHE, 4-year IHE), and the number of students proposed to be served by the current or proposed HEP project.

3. *Risk Assessment and Specific Conditions:* Consistent with 2 CFR 200.206, before awarding grants under this competition 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.

5. *In General:* In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget's guidance located at 2 CFR part 200, all applicable Federal laws, and relevant Executive guidance, the Department will review and consider applications for funding pursuant to this notice inviting applications in accordance with:

(a) Selecting recipients most likely to be successful in delivering results based on the program objectives through an objective process of evaluating Federal award applications (2 CFR 200.205);

(b) Prohibiting the purchase of certain telecommunication and video surveillance services or equipment in alignment with section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2019 (Pub. L. 115–232) (2 CFR 200.216);

(c) Providing a preference, to the extent permitted by law, to maximize use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States (2 CFR 200.322); and

(d) Terminating agreements in whole or in part to the greatest extent authorized by law if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities (2 CFR 200.340).

## 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 Grant Award Notification (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).

5. *Performance Measures:* For the purposes of reporting under 34 CFR

75.110, the Department developed the following performance measures to evaluate the overall effectiveness of HEP: (1) the percentage of HEP participants exiting the program having received a HSE diploma, and (2) the percentage of HSE diploma recipients who enter postsecondary education or training programs, upgraded employment, or the military. These measures are referred to as HEP performance measures 1 and 2, respectively.

Applicants must propose annual targets for these measures and establish annual student enrollment targets in their applications. Applicants should identify these targets within their application abstracts. The national target for performance measure 1 for FY 2024 is that 69 percent of HEP participants exit the program having received an HSE credential. The national target for performance measure 2 for FY 2024 is that 80 percent of HEP HSE diploma recipients will enter postsecondary education or training programs, upgraded employment, or the military. The national targets for subsequent years may be adjusted based on additional baseline data.

Peer reviewers evaluate how well applicants propose to meet their application's goals and objectives. Peer reviewers will score related selection criteria on the basis of how well an applicant addresses these performance measures in addition to any other goals and objectives included in the application. Therefore, applicants will want to consider how to demonstrate a sound capacity to provide reliable data on the performance measures, including the project's annual performance targets for addressing the performance measures, as is required by the OMB-approved annual performance report that is included in the application package. All grantees will be required to submit, as part of their annual performance report, information with respect to these performance measures.

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, whether the grantee has made substantial progress in achieving 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:** On request to the program contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, 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), text format (txt), a thumb drive, an MP3 file, braille, large print, audiotape, 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.

**Adam Schott,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Programs, Delegated the Authority to Perform the Functions and Duties of the Assistant Secretary, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education.*

[FR Doc. 2023–25001 Filed 11–13–23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000–01–P**

## ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

### Sunshine Act Meetings

**AGENCY:** Election Assistance Commission.

**ACTION:** Sunshine Act notice; notice of public meeting agenda.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) will conduct a public meeting to discuss the 2023 Voluntary Electronic Poll Book Pilot Program and consider next steps for the program.

**DATES:** Monday, December 4, 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. EST.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be virtual and livestreamed on the U.S. Election Assistance Commission's YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpN6i0g2rIF4ITWhwvBwwZw>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kristen Muthig, Telephone: (202) 897–9285, Email: [kmuthig@eac.gov](mailto:kmuthig@eac.gov).

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Purpose:** In accordance with the Government in the Sunshine Act (Sunshine Act), Public Law 94–409, as amended (5 U.S.C. 552b), the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) will conduct a public meeting to discuss the 2023 EAC Voluntary Electronic Poll Book Pilot Program and consider next steps for the program.

**Agenda:** The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) will consider the adoption of the Voluntary Electronic Poll Book Pilot Program as a standing program at the agency. To facilitate this conversation, the EAC Commissioners will hear from the EAC's Election Supporting Technology Evaluation Program (ESTEP) staff on feedback they have received on the pilot and recommendations for next steps for implementation.

**Background:** Under the authority of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), the EAC created the Election Supporting Technology Evaluation Program (ESTEP) to establish requirements and guidelines specific to election technologies that are not covered under the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VMSG). The e-poll book pilot is the first in a series of pilots conducted by the ESTEP program, which will also examine voter registration databases, election night reporting systems, and electronic ballot delivery systems.

The e-poll book pilot program testing took place between January and August 2023. The pilot involved two VSTLs, Pro V&V and SLI Compliance, that tested e-poll book devices from five commercial manufacturers, and two in-house developers. These systems were tested against the Voluntary Electronic Poll Book Requirements (Version 0.9) developed by ESTEP in consultation with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), cybersecurity and accessibility experts, and other key stakeholders.

The full agenda will be posted in advance on the EAC website: <https://www.eac.gov>.

**Status:** This meeting will be open to the public.

**Camden Kelliher,**

*Deputy General Counsel, U.S. Election Assistance Commission.*

[FR Doc. 2023–25135 Filed 11–9–23; 11:15 am]

**BILLING CODE 4810–71–P**

## ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

### Request for Comment: Election Supporting Technology Evaluation Program Manufacturer Registration Form

**AGENCY:** U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice, request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, and as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) gives notice that it is requesting from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for the information collection of one Election Supporting Technology Evaluation Program form. The information collected is to be used to improve the quality of election-supporting technology used in federal elections, and to collect necessary key information on election-supporting technology manufacturers and their systems. Participation in this program is voluntary.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by 5 p.m. eastern on Friday, January 12, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** To view the Election Supporting Technology Evaluation Program form, see: [https://www.eac.gov/voting-equipment/Election\\_Supporting\\_Technology\\_Evaluation\\_Program](https://www.eac.gov/voting-equipment/Election_Supporting_Technology_Evaluation_Program). Comments on the proposed form should be submitted electronically via <https://www.regulations.gov> (docket IDs: EAC–2023–0003). Written comments on the proposed information collection can also be sent to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, 633 3rd Street NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20001, Attn: Election Supporting Technology Evaluation Program.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Elizabeth Beatrice, Election Technology Specialist, Election Supporting Technology Evaluation Program, Washington, DC, (202)–748–2298. Email: [estep@eac.gov](mailto:estep@eac.gov).

All requests and submissions should be identified by the title of the information collection.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**