

# **Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools; Overview Information; Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Program; Notice Inviting Applications For New Awards For Fiscal Year (FY) 2006**

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.215E.

**Dates:** Applications Available: February 22, 2006. Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: April 10, 2006. Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: June 7, 2006.

**Eligible applicants:** Local educational agencies (LEAs).

**Estimated available funds:** \$17,000,000. Contingent upon the availability of funds, the Secretary may make additional awards in FY 2007 from the rank-ordered list of unfunded applicants from this competition.

**Estimated Range of Awards:** \$250,000-\$400,000.

**Maximum Award:** Section 5421(a)(5) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. 7245 (ESEA), limits the amount of a grant under this program in any one year to a maximum of \$400,000.

**Estimated Number of Awards:** 45.

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

**Project Period:** Up to 36 months.

## **Full Text of Announcement**

**Purpose of Program:** The purpose of the Elementary and Secondary School Counseling program is to support efforts by LEAs to establish or expand elementary and secondary school counseling programs.

**Priority:** In accordance with 34 CFR 75.105(b)(2)(iv), this priority is from Section 5421 of the ESEA, 20 U.S.C. 7245.

**Absolute Priority:** For FY 2006 and any subsequent year in which we make awards based on the rank-ordered list of unfunded applicants 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: **The establishment or expansion of elementary school counseling programs.** Under 34 CFR part 77, an elementary school is a day or residential school that provides elementary education, as determined under State law. Applicants must also address the requirements in Section 5421(c)(2) of the ESEA. A copy of the statute authorizing this competition is included in the application package.

**Program Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 7245.

**Applicable Regulations:** The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 97, 98, 99, and 299.

## **II. Award Information**

**Type of Award:** Discretionary grants.

**Estimated Available Funds:** \$17,000,000. Contingent upon the availability of funds, the Secretary may make additional awards in FY 2007 from the rank-ordered list of unfunded applicants from this competition.

**Estimated Range of Awards:** \$250,000--\$400,000.

**Maximum Award:** Section 5421(a)(5) of the ESEA limits the amount of

a grant under this program in any one year to a maximum of \$400,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 45.

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

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

### **III. Eligibility Information**

1. Eligible Applicants: LEAs.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching: This program does not involve cost sharing or matching but does involve supplement-not-supplant funding provisions. Section 5421(b)(2)(G) of the ESEA requires applicants under the program to assure that program funds will be used to supplement, and not supplant, any other Federal, State, or local funds used for providing school-based counseling and mental health services to students.

3. Other: Section 5421(g)(2) of the ESEA requires that for any fiscal year in which the amount available for this program is less than \$40,000,000 the Secretary makes grants to LEAs only to establish or expand counseling programs in elementary schools. The FY 2006 appropriation for this program is \$34,650,000. Therefore, under this notice applicants must propose projects that establish or expand counseling programs only in elementary schools.

4. Performance Measures: The Secretary has established the following performance measures for assessing the effectiveness of the Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Program: (1) The percentage of grantees closing the gap between their student/mental health professional ratios and the student/mental health professional ratios recommended by the statute; and (2) the median percentage decrease among grantees in the number of student disciplinary referrals in the schools participating in the program. These two measures constitute the Department's indicators of success for this program. Consequently, applicants for a grant under this program are advised to give careful consideration to these two outcomes in conceptualizing the design, implementation, and evaluation of their proposed project. If funded, applicants will be asked to collect and report data in their annual performance reports about progress toward these goals. The Secretary will also use this information to respond to reporting requirements concerning this program established in Section 5421(f) of the ESEA.