

groups, community groups, and individuals.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: July 24, 1995.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: September 22, 1995.

Applications Available: June 19, 1995.

Available Funds: \$3.2 million.

Estimated Range of Awards:

Implementation Grants: \$210,000–\$310,000; Research and Development Grants: \$80,000–\$200,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards:

Implementation Grants: \$260,000; Research and Development Grants: \$140,000.

Estimated Number of Awards:

Implementation Grants: 10; Research and Development Grants: 4.

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

Project Period: Up to 48 months.

Applicable Regulations: The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, and 86.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department will award two types of grants: (1) grants for the *implementation* of gender equity programs in schools; and (2) *research and development* grants to develop model equity programs. Examples of authorized activities under the program include—

Implementation Grants

(a) Assisting educational agencies and institutions to implement policies and practices to comply with title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972;

(b) Training for teachers, counselors, administrators, and other school personnel, especially preschool and elementary school personnel, in gender-equitable teaching and learning practices;

(c) Leadership training for women and girls to develop professional and marketable skills to compete in the global marketplace, improve self-esteem, and benefit from exposure to positive role models;

(d) School-to-work transition programs, guidance and counseling activities, and other programs to increase opportunities for women and girls to enter a technologically demanding workplace and, in particular, to enter highly skilled, high-paying careers in which women and girls have been underrepresented;

(e) Enhancing educational and career opportunities for those women and girls who suffer multiple forms of discrimination, based on sex and on race, ethnic origin, limited-English proficiency, disability, socioeconomic status, or age;

(f) Assisting pregnant students and students rearing children to remain in or to return to secondary school, graduate, and prepare their preschool children to start school;

(g) Evaluating exemplary model programs to assess the ability of such programs to advance educational equity for women and girls;

(h) Introduction into the classroom of textbooks, curricula, and other materials designed to achieve equity for women and girls;

(i) Programs and policies to address sexual harassment and violence against women and girls and to ensure that educational institutions are free from threats to the safety of students and personnel;

(j) Nondiscriminatory tests of aptitude and achievement and of alternative assessments that eliminate biased assessment instruments from use;

(k) Programs to increase educational opportunities, including higher education, vocational training, and other educational programs for low-income women, including underemployed and unemployed women, and women receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children benefits;

(l) Programs to improve representation of women in educational administration at all levels; and

(m) Planning, development, and initial implementation of—

(i) Comprehensive institution or districtwide evaluation to assess the presence or absence of gender equity in educational settings;

(ii) Comprehensive plans for implementation of equity programs in State and local educational agencies and institutions of higher education, including community colleges; and

(iii) Innovative approaches to school-community partnerships for educational equity.

Research and Development Activities

(a) Research and development of innovative strategies and model training programs for teachers and other education personnel;

(b) The development of high-quality and challenging assessment instruments that are nondiscriminatory;

(c) The development and evaluation of model curricula, textbooks, software, and other educational materials to ensure the absence of gender stereotyping and bias;

(d) The development of instruments and procedures that employ new and innovative strategies to assess whether diverse educational settings are gender equitable;

(e) The development of instruments and strategies for evaluation,

dissemination, and replication of promising or exemplary programs designed to assist local educational agencies in integrating gender equity in their educational policies and practices;

(f) Updating high-quality educational materials previously developed through Women's Educational Equity Act grants;

(g) The development of policies and programs to address and prevent sexual harassment and violence to ensure that educational institutions are free from threats to safety of students and personnel;

(h) The development and improvement of programs and activities to increase opportunity for women, including continuing educational activities, vocational education, and programs for low-income women, including underemployed and unemployed women, and women receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children; and

(i) The development of guidance and counseling activities, including career education programs, designed to ensure gender equity.

Selection Criteria

The selection criteria for implementation grants and research and development grants, respectively, are included, in full, in the WEEA application package. These selection criteria were established based on the Department's Notice of Optional Procedure for Conducting Fiscal Year 1995 Grant Competitions Under the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994, which was published in the **Federal Register** on March 7, 1995.

The respective criteria provide that the Secretary may award up to 100 points for the selection criteria for that competition. The selection criteria for each competition include all the EDGAR selection criteria in 34 CFR 75.210. The Secretary has also established the following additional selection criteria for the respective competitions by assigning the number of points indicated to particular WEEA statutory provisions identified below. The Secretary awards points under these criteria according to how well the applicant addresses the statutory provision:

Additional Implementation Grant Criteria

(a) *Project as a component of a comprehensive plan*—20 U.S.C. 7235(a)(2)(C)—(5 points).

(b) *Implementing an institutional change strategy*—20 U.S.C. 7235(a)(2)(D)—(5 points).

(c) *Meeting local needs*—20 U.S.C. 7235(a)(2)(B)—(5 points).