

schools, and representatives of parents, students and teachers in implementing consolidated plans. Many officials, agencies and organizations at all levels are interested in the potential benefits of developing consolidated plans, and the Department strongly desires to include all those interested in the discussion of what plans should contain. The Department likely will use a range of direct and indirect means of conveying information and soliciting reaction.

Q11. When does the Department anticipate that State and local officials and others will receive specific instructions about what to include in the first-year consolidated plan, and the time-line for submission and review?

A11. The Department is aware that early and careful planning about the content of good first-year consolidated plans will require early notice about their expected content. The Department intends to distribute more information on the content of consolidated plans during January, so that States have sufficient time to (1) think carefully about how a consolidated plan can propel new dynamic thinking about real program coordination (2) how [sic] their consolidated planning supports reform strategies that they may be developing under Goals 2000, and (3) prepare a proposed plan and solicit and review public comment on its content if they choose to submit a consolidated plan.

The Department expects to issue final guidance on the content and format of the preliminary consolidated plan by mid-February, as well to announce any other programs that may be included in it. While

no schedule for submission and review of preliminary plans has yet been developed, the Department would like that schedule to be the same as schedules established for submission and approval of individual FY 1995 program applications.

Q12. Does the IASA contain any requirement that a State discuss the content of a preliminary consolidated plan with the public before submitting it to the Secretary?

A12. Yes. The Act requires a State to offer a reasonable opportunity for the public to comment on its consolidated plan, and to consider that comment, before submitting the plan to the Secretary. This requirement would apply both to the preliminary consolidated plans and to the final consolidated plans. Public comment on a consolidated plan does not necessarily, by itself, meet any other individual program requirements for public comment.

**Appendix B—General Assurances
Applicable to Each Program Covered by the
Preliminary (First Year) Consolidated Plan**

- Each program will be administered in accordance with all applicable statutes, regulations, program plans, and applications.
- The control of funds provided under each program and title to property acquired with program funds will be in a public agency, in a nonprofit private agency, institution, or organization, or in an Indian tribe if the law authorizing the program provides for assistance to these entities.
- The public agency, nonprofit private agency, institution, or organization, or Indian tribe will administer the funds and property to the extent required by the authorizing law.

- The State will adopt and use proper methods of administering each program, including—

(A) The enforcement of any obligations imposed by law on agencies, institutions, organizations, and other recipients responsible for carrying out each program;

(B) The correction of deficiencies in program operations that are identified through audits, monitoring, or evaluation; and

(C) The adoption of written procedures for the receipt and resolution of complaints alleging violations of law in the administration of each program.

- The State will cooperate in carrying out any evaluation of each program conducted by or for the Secretary or other Federal officials.

- The State will use fiscal control and fund accountability procedures that will ensure proper disbursement of, and accounting for, Federal funds paid to the State under each program.

- The State will—

(A) Make reports to the Secretary as may be necessary to enable the Secretary to perform the Secretary's duties under each program; and

(B) Maintain records, provide information to the Secretary, and afford access to the records as the Secretary may find necessary to carry out the Secretary's duties.

- The State has afforded a reasonable opportunity for public comment on the plan and has considered this comment.

[FR Doc. 95-868 Filed 1-12-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P