DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Direct Grant Programs and Fellowship Programs

AGENCY: Department of Education. **ACTION:** Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year 1996.

SUMMARY: The Secretary invites applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 1996 under many of the Department's direct grant and fellowship programs and announces deadline dates for the transmittal of applications under these programs. This combined application notice contains fiscal and programmatic information for potential applicants under the Department's programs announced in this issue of the **Federal Register**. This notice also lists any FY 1996 programs previously announced in the **Federal** Register, as well as FY 1996 programs to be announced at a later date.

DATES: Dates of Application Notices:
The actual or estimated date for publication of the application notice for a given program is listed in column three of Chart 1. For any previously announced program, column three of Chart 1 also includes the Federal Register volume and page reference to that notice. If a program has yet to publish an application notice, an estimated date (est.) or TBA (to be announced) is listed in column three of Chart 1.

Deadline Dates for Transmitting
Applications: The actual or estimated deadline date for transmitting applications under a program is listed in column four of Chart 1.

Other Dates for Programs Announced in This Notice: For programs and competitions announced in this notice, the chart for each principal office (Charts 2 through 7) includes the following dates for each program or competition: the date on which applications will be available, the deadline for submission of applications, and—for programs subject to Executive Order (EO) 12372 (Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs)—the deadline date for transmittal of State Process Recommendations by State Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) and comments by other interested parties.

Other Dates for Programs Not Announced in This Notice: For programs and competitions not announced in this notice—that is, those published elsewhere in this edition of the **Federal Register**, those previously published, and those to be announced later—the application notice for each program or competition, as published (or to be published) in the **Federal**

Register, includes the following dates: the date of availability of applications, the deadline for submission of applications, and—for programs subject to EO 12372—the deadline date for transmittal of State Process Recommendations by SPOCs and comments by other interested parties.

ADDRESSES: For Applications or Further Information: The address and telephone number for obtaining applications for, or further information about, an individual program are in the application notice for that program.

For Programs under the Office of Educational Research and Improvement: As explained in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this preamble, application notices for new awards under programs and competitions of the Office of **Educational Research and Improvement** (OERI) are to be published later. In the meantime, as an aid to customers, each principal component of OERI is providing an address and facsimile (FAX) machine number that interested parties may use to be put on a mailing list to receive information—such as an application package—when that information becomes available. For these addresses and FAX numbers see lists of OERI programs and competitions

For Users of TDD or FIRS: Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the TDD number, if any, listed in the individual application notices. If a TDD number is not listed for a given program, individuals who use a TDD may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

For Intergovernmental Review: The address for transmitting recommendations and comments under Executive Order 12372 is in the appendix to this notice. The appendix also contains the addresses of individual SPOCs.

For Electronic Access to Information: Information about the Department's funding opportunities, including copies of application notices for discretionary grant competitions, can be viewed on the Department's electronic bulletin board (ED Board), telephone (202) 260-9950; or on the Internet Gopher Server at GOPHER.ED.GOV (under Announcements, Bulletins and Press Releases) or World Wide Web site (at http://www.ed.gov/). However, the official application notice for a discretionary grant competition is the notice published in the Federal Register.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department's first combined application notice was published in September 1989. It was based on the idea subsequently affirmed by numerous parties in the educational communitythat placing as many application notices as possible in a single notice would assist potential applicants in planning projects and activities. In the intervening years, other issues affecting the application and grant award processes were identified, including the view of a number of potential applicants that the Department's schedule for grant awards did not allow grantees sufficient time to implement departmentally assisted projects before the start of the academic year.

As part of the Administration's goal to "reinvent" the Federal Government and the Department's determination to improve the timeliness of grant awards, the Secretary last year adopted a number of changes in the way grant competitions are announced and grants awarded under the Department's programs.

In order to announce and award grants to accommodate the academic year, the Secretary determined that grants should be awarded by June 1 preceding the academic year, to the maximum extent possible. To allow applicants more time to prepare applications and the Department the necessary time to process those applications, the Secretary further determined that application announcements should be published earlier.

Consistent with this policy, this section of the combined application notice contains those application announcements that the Department is able to publish at this time, and references any application notices for FY 1996 that were published before this combined notice.

Among the programs and competitions omitted from this notice are those governed by statutes that are undergoing congressional reauthorization. These include programs administered by the Office of Vocational and Adult Education.

This notice also does not include programs of the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI). Under the statute reauthorizing OERI—the Educational Research, Development, Dissemination, and Improvement Act of 1994—the Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement must develop standards for these programs in consultation with the National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board. On June 7, 1995 the Assistant Secretary published in the