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EXHIBIT 1  
DATE 2-14-05  
HB 372

U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Washington, DC 20202-6200

**Application for an  
Improving Literacy Through School Libraries  
Grant**

**CFDA Number 84.364A**



**Closing Date**

**March 14, 2005**

**Approved OMB Number : 1890-0009**

**Expiration Date: 6/30/2005**

## **Paperwork Burden Statement**

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## **Introduction**

This is a complete application package for applicants seeking Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 funding under the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries Program, authorized under Title I, Part B, Subpart 4, section 1251 of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

We award competitive grants to eligible LEAs to improve the reading achievement of students by providing them with access to up-to-date books and school library materials; technologically advanced school library media centers; and professionally certified school library media specialists.

The FY 2005 appropriation for this program is approximately \$19,800,000. We anticipate making 100 awards ranging from \$30,000 to \$350,000.

## **Program Description**

The Improving Literacy Through School Libraries (LSL) Program promotes comprehensive local programs to improve student reading achievement by improving school library services.

School libraries can play a key role in improving literacy when collaboration among instructional and school library media staff is strengthened, instructional materials and resources aligned with the local curriculum are added, and student access to libraries is increased by the extension of school library hours of operation.

What makes a well-designed and effective school library media program?

- Book collections and other media resources that are aligned with the curriculum; are well-stocked and varied; and reflect the collaborative efforts of teachers and school library media specialists.
- Opportunities for students to use the library before and after school (as well as on weekends) and use technology to improve access while in school.
- School library media specialists that work closely with teachers in curriculum planning and with students in using their library skills to improve academic achievement.
- Technology which provides computer access to resources outside the school, including other libraries, as well as university and public libraries.

While ongoing research is expected to provide further information, studies already demonstrate a positive relationship between effective school library media centers and student achievement in reading.

## **Eligibility**

The statute specifies that eligible applicants are Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) in which at least 20 percent of the students it serves are from families with incomes below the poverty line.

### **1) Local Educational Agency**

The applicant must be an LEA, as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Generally, State Educational Agencies (SEAs) designate LEAs for purposes of Federal education programs. Listed below are the types of school districts that may apply for the program and the information they are required to provide in their application. School districts are the most familiar form of LEAs. School Districts applying for this program must provide, in the Eligibility Form, their National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) district identification number from the Common Core of Data (CCD) as can be found on the NCES Web site:

<http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/districtsearch/>

- Some charter schools in some states such as AR, AZ, CA, CT, DE, IL, IN, LA, MA, MI, MN, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, TX, UT, WI, and Washington, DC are also considered LEAs. Charter Schools should check with their chartering agency to see if they are considered an LEA. Charter Schools applying for this grant must include information on their LEA designation in the abstract of their application.
- Regional Service Agencies in many states are considered LEAs by the SEA. These entities may apply as part of a consortium with eligible LEAs in their service areas. They may also apply directly for the schools they administer if they meet the family poverty eligibility requirement discussed below. Regional Service Agencies must provide, in the Eligibility Form, a clear listing of all districts who are participating in their application as well as the districts' NCES identification numbers.
- State Administered Schools, such as Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, State Arts Schools, etc., may also be eligible to apply if they are considered LEAs by the SEA. State Administered Schools applying for this grant must include information on their LEA designation in the abstract of their application as well as their NCES identification number on the Eligibility Form.

### **2) Family Poverty Rate**

The second eligibility criterion is that the LEA must have at least 20% of its students from families below the poverty line. The family poverty rate is the base poverty rate. It is based on Census Bureau data. (Note: this is not the same as free and reduced priced lunch statistic and is usually a much lower percentage.)

- School district family poverty rates are posted on the web at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/lsl/eligibility.html> for each competition. If a school district's family poverty rate is 20% or above it is eligible to apply. School districts must provide their family poverty rate on the Eligibility Form.
- Charter Schools that are considered LEAs must have their family poverty rate computed by the SEA, Federal Program, or Title I office. You must contact that

office in your State to have them compute the family poverty rate for your organization. Note: a charter school must meet the eligibility requirement of at least 20 percent of the students served from families with incomes below the poverty line. The correspondence with the State Education Agency must be included in the application.

- Regional Service Units that are LEAs applying for schools or districts they administer must have the family poverty rate computed for those schools. They need to contact the SEA, Federal Program, or Title I office. If the computed family poverty rate is 20% or above *for each LEA*, the regional service unit is eligible to apply. Regional Service Units must provide a clear listing of all districts applying for program funding, as well as their family poverty rates, on the Eligibility Form.
- A State Administered School that is an LEA must have the family poverty rate computed for that school. The school needs to contact the SEA, Federal Program, or Title I office. If the computed family poverty rate is 20% or above, the school is eligible to apply. State Administered Schools must include information on their family poverty rate in signed documentation from their SEA, and include the information on the Eligibility Form.

## **Application Deadline**

The deadline for submitting an application is **March 14, 2005**. You should review the instructions in this application package for meeting this deadline.

**Applications for grants under the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program must be submitted electronically using e-Application available through the Department's e-Grants system, accessible through the e-Grants portal page at: <http://e-grants.ed.gov>.**

## **Program Priority and Selection Criteria**

### ***1) Invitational Priority***

The program has established an invitational priority in its Notice Inviting Applications in the appendix of this package. The Secretary strongly encourages applicants to focus their efforts on elementary schools to maximize the impact of the project on improving reading achievement. 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.

### ***2) Selection Criteria***

Each proposal will be reviewed by three peer reviewers outside ED. Reviewers will be asked to score applications based upon the selection criteria identified below and to make an overall recommendation regarding each proposal. Reviewers will evaluate applications solely on the basis of the criteria identified below. The maximum score for all of these criteria is 100 points. The maximum score for each criterion is indicated in parentheses.