

MASSACHUSETTS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

Mass Workforce Issuance

100 DCS 25.142

☐ Policy

☒ Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
Workforce Development Board Chairs
Workforce Development Board Directors
Title I Administrators
Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers
DCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Alice Sweeney, Director
Department of Career Services

Date: December 21, 2016

Subject: Education Innovation and Research Program Funding Opportunities

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Development Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce development partners of \$180,000,000 in funding opportunities through the Department of Education (DOE), Office of Innovation and Improvement, announced in the Federal Register, Thursday, December 15, 2016.

Background: The Education Innovation and Research (EIR) Program, established under section 4611 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), provides funding to create, develop, implement, replicate, or take to scale entrepreneurial, evidence-based, field-initiated innovations to improve student achievement and attainment for high-need students; and rigorously evaluate such innovations. The EIR program is designed to generate and validate solutions to persistent educational challenges and to support the expansion of effective solutions to serve substantially larger numbers of students.

The central design element of the EIR program is its multi-tier structure that links the amount of funding that an applicant may receive to the quality of the evidence supporting the efficacy of the proposed project, with the expectation that projects that build this evidence will advance through EIR's grant tiers. Applicants proposing innovative projects that are supported by limited evidence can receive

relatively small grants to support the development, iteration, and initial evaluation of the practice); applicants proposing projects supported by evidence from rigorous evaluations, such as large randomized controlled trials, can receive larger grant awards to support expansion across the country.

This structure provides incentives for applicants to:

- (1) Explore new ways of addressing persistent challenges that other educators can build on and learn from;
- (2) build evidence of effectiveness of their practices; and
- (3) replicate and scale successful practices in new schools, districts, and states while addressing the barriers to scale, such as cost structures and implementation fidelity.

Three funding opportunities have been announced: Early-phase Grants, Mid-phase Grants and Expansion Grants. Eligible applicants for these grants include:

- (a) A Local Educational Agency (LEA);
- (b) A State educational agency;
- (c) The Bureau of Indian Education;
- (d) A consortium of State educational agencies or LEAs;
- (e) A nonprofit organization; and
- (f) A State educational agency, an LEA, a consortium, or the Bureau of Indian Education, in partnership with –
 - 1) A nonprofit organization;
 - 2) A business;
 - 3) An educational service agency; or
 - 4) An institution of higher education

Please see official award announcements for complete list.

Funding Opportunity Name:	Early-phase Grants
CFDA Number:	<u>84.411C</u>
Notice of Intent to Apply:	February 13, 2017
Application Deadline:	April 13, 2017
Estimated Number of Awards:	24-38
Estimated Average Award:	\$700,000 - \$800,000/year
Estimated Size of Entire Award:	\$3,750,000 - \$4,000,000
Period of Performance:	Up to 60 months

Funding Opportunity Name:	Mid-phase Grants
CFDA Number:	<u>84.411B</u>
Notice of Intent to Apply:	February 13, 2017
Application Deadline:	April 13, 2017
Estimated Number of Awards:	15-20
Estimated Average Award:	\$1,400,000 - \$1,600,000/year
Estimated Size of Entire Award:	\$7,750,000 - \$8,000,000
Period of Performance:	Up to 60 months

Funding Opportunity Name: Expansion Grants
CFDA Number: [84.411A](#)
Notice of Intent to Apply: February 13, 2017
Application Deadline: April 13, 2017
Estimated Number of Awards: 3-5
Estimated Average Award: \$2,750,000 - \$3,000,000/year
Estimated Size of Entire Award: \$14,500,000 - \$15,000,000
Period of Performance: Up to 60 months

Absolute Priorities		
<i>Early-Phase</i>	<i>Mid-Phase</i>	<i>Expansion</i>
1) Supporting High-Need Students 2) Improving School Climate 3) Promoting Diversity 4) Increasing Postsecondary Preparedness 5) Improving the Effectiveness of Principals 6) Re-engagement of Disconnected Youth	1) Supporting High-Need Students 2) Improving Early Learning and Development Outcomes 3) Social Behavioral Competencies 4) Improving Low-Performing Schools 5) Evidence-Driven Practices	1) Supporting High-Need Students 2) Evidence-Driven Practices

Action

Requested: Please share with managers, staff and partners as appropriate.