Applications for New Awards; Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans Program

AGENCY: Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Education (Department) is issuing a notice inviting applications for new individual development awards for fiscal year (FY) 2019 for the Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans (PPOHA) Program, Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number 84.031M. This notice relates to the approved information collection under OMB control number 1894-0006.

DATES:

Applications Available: [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: [INSERT DATE 45 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: [INSERT DATE 105 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: For the addresses for obtaining and submitting an application, please refer to our Common Instructions for

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Maria E. Carrington, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 260-10, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 453-7339. Email: Maria.Carrington@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) or a text telephone (TTY), call the Federal Relay Service (FRS), toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purposes of Program: The purposes of the PPOHA Program are to: (1) expand postbaccalaureate educational opportunities for, and improve the academic attainment of, Hispanic students; and (2) expand the postbaccalaureate academic offerings, as well as enhance the program quality, in the institutions of higher education (IHEs) that are educating the majority of Hispanic college students and helping large numbers of Hispanic and low-income students complete postsecondary degrees.
Background: While more Hispanics are pursuing a postsecondary education than ever before, college attainment rates among Hispanics still lag behind those for other groups. As of 2017, among Hispanics ages 25 to 29, just 19 percent had obtained a bachelor’s degree or higher. By comparison, among the same age group, about 23 percent of blacks, 42 percent of whites, and 61 percent of Asian/Pacific Islanders had a bachelor’s degree or higher.¹

For many students that do receive a bachelor’s degree, enrolling and persisting through a graduate program can be daunting, especially for first-generation students. The PPOHA program supports institutions that seek to develop, enhance, and promote postbaccalaureate opportunities for Hispanic students.

Priorities: This notice contains two competitive priorities and one invitational priority. The first competitive preference priority is from the authorized activities for the PPOHA Program in section 513(7) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA). The second competitive preference priority is from the Secretary’s Final Supplemental Priorities and Definitions for Discretionary Grant Programs (83 FR 9096) (Supplemental

Priorities), which was published in the Federal Register on March 2, 2018.

Competitive Preference Priorities: For FY 2019 and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applications from this competition, these priorities are competitive preference priorities. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i), we award an application up to five additional points for each priority. Applicants may respond to one or both of the competitive preference priorities, for a total of up to 10 additional points.

These priorities are:

Competitive Preference Priority 1 (Up to 5 additional points).
Projects that propose collaboration with other institutions of higher education to expand postbaccalaureate certificate and postbaccalaureate degree offerings.

Competitive Preference Priority 2 (Up to 5 additional points).
Projects that are designed to support instruction in personal financial literacy, knowledge of markets and economics, knowledge of higher education financing and repayment (e.g., college savings and student loans), or
other skills aimed at building personal financial understanding and responsibility.

**Invitational Priority:** For FY 2019 and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applications from this competition, this priority is an invitational priority. 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.

**This priority is:**

**Projects Designed To Promote the Development and/or Enhancement of Professional Science Master’s (PSM) Degrees with Industry Recognized Certifications.**

Under this priority, we are particularly interested in projects that are designed to establish, improve, or expand PSM degree programs, which combine traditional academic training with specialized knowledge and skills that: (a) closely align with the expectations and needs of business and industry and (b) prepare students for direct entry into a variety of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) career options in business and industry, Federal government, or non-profit organizations.

**Definitions:** The following definitions are from 34 CFR 77.1.
Demonstrates a rationale means a key project component included in the project’s logic model is informed by research or evaluation findings that suggest the project component is likely to improve relevant outcomes.

Logic model (also referred to as theory of action) means a framework that identifies key project components of the proposed project (i.e., the active “ingredients” that are hypothesized to be critical to achieving the relevant outcomes) and describes the theoretical and operational relationships among the key project components and relevant outcomes.

Note: In developing and designing logic models, applicants may want to use resources such as the Pacific Education Laboratory’s Education Logic Model Application (http://relpacific.mcrel.org/resources/elm-app/ or http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED544779.pdf).

Project component means an activity, strategy, intervention, process, product, practice, or policy included in a project. Evidence may pertain to an individual project component or to a combination of project components (e.g., training teachers on instructional practices for English learners and follow-on coaching for these teachers).
Relevant outcome means the student outcome(s) or other outcome(s) the key project component is designed to improve, consistent with the specific goals of the program.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1102-1102c; 1161aa-1.


II. Award Information

Type of Award: Discretionary grants.

Estimated Available Funds: $11,051,370.

Contingent upon the availability of funds and the quality of applications, we may make additional awards in
subsequent fiscal years from the list of unfunded applications from this competition.

Estimated Range of Awards: $350,000-$600,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: $500,000.

Maximum Awards: We will not make an award for a PPOHA Program individual development grant exceeding $600,000 for a single budget period of 12 months.

Estimated Number of Awards: 21.

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

Note: During the competition timeframe, applicants should periodically check the PPOHA Program website for announcements regarding technical assistance sessions for potential applicants, as well as any other competition program updates. The address is: www2.ed.gov/programs/ppoha/index.html

Project Period: Up to 60 months.

III. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants: IHEs that offer a postbaccalaureate certificate or postbaccalaureate degree program and qualify as eligible Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) under section 502 of the HEA.

Applicants also must meet the following criteria from the Final Requirements:
Eligibility Criteria (Use of 34 CFR 606.2(a) and (b), 606.3 through 606.5): To qualify as an eligible HSI for the PPOHA Program under sections 502 and 512(b) of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1101a and 1102a), an IHE must--

(a) Have an enrollment of needy students, as defined in section 502(b) of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1101a(b)) (cross-referenced in section 502(a)(2)(A)(i) of the HEA; 20 U.S.C. 1101a(a)(2)(A)(i));

(b) Have, except as provided in section 522(b) of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1103a(b)), average educational and general expenditures that are low, per full-time equivalent (FTE) undergraduate student, in comparison with the average educational and general expenditures per FTE undergraduate student of institutions that offer similar instruction (section 502(a)(2)(A)(ii) of the HEA; 20 U.S.C. 1101a(a)(2)(A)(ii));

Note: To demonstrate an enrollment of needy students and low average educational and general expenditures per FTE undergraduate student, an IHE must be designated as an “eligible institution” in accordance with 34 CFR 606.3 through 606.5 and the notice inviting applications for eligibility designation for the fiscal year for which the grant competition is being conducted.

(c) Be accredited by a nationally recognized
accrediting agency or association that the Secretary has
determined to be a reliable authority as to the quality of
education or training offered, or making reasonable
progress toward accreditation, according to such an agency
or association (section 502(a)(2)(A)(iv) of the HEA; 20

(d) Be legally authorized to provide, and provide
within the State, an educational program for which the
institution awards a bachelor's degree (section
1101a(a)(2)(A)(iii)); and

(e) Have an enrollment of undergraduate FTE students
that is at least 25 percent Hispanic students at the end of
the award year immediately preceding the date of
application (section 502(a)(5)(B) of the HEA; 20 U.S.C.
1101a(a)(5)(B)).

Note 1: Funds for the PPOHA Program will be awarded
each fiscal year; thus, for this program, the “end of the
award year immediately preceding the date of application”
refers to the end of the fiscal year prior to the
application due date. The end of the fiscal year occurs on
September 30 for any given year.

Note 2: In considering applications for grants under
this program, the Department will compare the data and
documentation the institution relied on in its application with data reported to the Department’s Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), the IHE’s State-reported enrollment data, and the institutional annual report. If different percentages or data are reported in these various sources, the institution must, as part of the 25 percent assurance verification, explain the reason for the differences. If the IPEDS data show that less than 25 percent of the institution’s undergraduate FTE students are Hispanic, the burden is on the institution to show that the IPEDS data are inaccurate. If the IPEDS data indicate that the institution has an undergraduate FTE less than 25 percent, and the institution fails to demonstrate that the IPEDS data are inaccurate, the institution will be considered ineligible.

For purposes of this competition, the data that we will use to determine percent enrollment for school year is 2017-2018.

**Note 3:** In addition, for the purpose of establishing eligibility under 34 CFR 606.5 for this FY 2019 competition, the notice inviting applications for eligibility designation for FY 2019 was published in the *Federal Register* on January 29, 2019 (84 FR 451). Only institutions that submitted the required application and
received designation through that process are eligible to submit an application for this competition.

2. a. **Cost Sharing or Matching:** This program does not require cost sharing or matching.

   b. **Supplement-Not-Supplant:** This program involves supplement-not-supplant funding requirements.

3. **Subgrantees:** A grantee under this competition may not award subgrants to entities to directly carry out project activities described in its application.

4. **Other:**

   (a) **Limit on Number of Individual Development Grants.** An eligible HSI will not be awarded more than one grant under the PPOHA Program (20 U.S.C. 1102c).

   (b) **Limit on Applications From an Eligible Institution.** In any fiscal year, an eligible institution may submit only one application for a grant under the PPOHA Program. This restriction is intended to ensure that more HSIs have an opportunity for assistance under title V, part B of the HEA.

IV. Application and Submission Information

1. **Application Submission Instructions:** Applicants are required to follow the Common Instructions for Applicants to Department of Education Discretionary Grant Programs, published in the *Federal Register* on February 13,
2019 (84 FR 3768) and available at www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-13/pdf/2019-02206.pdf, which contain requirements and information on how to submit an application.

2. **Intergovernmental Review:** This program is subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. Information about Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs under Executive Order 12372 is in the application package for this program.

3. **Funding Restrictions:** We reference regulations outlining funding restrictions in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice.

4. **Recommended Page Limit:** The application narrative (Part III of the application) is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. We recommend that you (1) limit the application narrative to no more than 50 pages and (2) use the following standards:

   - A “page” is 8.5" x 11", on one side only, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides.
   - Double space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative. Titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures,
and graphs, are excluded.

- Use a font that is either 12 point or larger, and no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch).
- Use one of the following fonts: Times New Roman, Courier, Courier New, or Arial.

The recommended page limit does not apply to Part I, the cover sheet; Part II, the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; Part IV, the assurances and certifications; or the one-page abstract and the bibliography. However, the recommended page limit does apply to all of the application narrative.

Note: The Budget Information-Non-Construction Programs Form (ED 524) Sections A-C are not the same as the narrative response to the Budget section of the selection criteria.

V. Application Review Information

1. Selection Criteria: The selection criteria for this program are from section 34 CFR 75.210 and are as follows. Applicants should address each of the selection criteria separately for each proposed activity. The total weight of the selection criteria is 100 points; the weight of each criterion is noted in parentheses.

   (a) Need for project. (Maximum 5 points) The Secretary considers the need for the proposed project. In
determining the need for the proposed project, the Secretary considers:

(i) The magnitude of the need for the services to be provided or the activities to be carried out by the proposed project. (up to 2 points)

(ii) The extent to which specific gaps or weaknesses in services, infrastructure, or opportunities have been identified and will be addressed by the proposed project, including the nature and magnitude of those gaps or weaknesses. (up to 3 points)

(b) Quality of the project design. (Maximum 15 points) The Secretary considers the quality of the design of the proposed project. In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers:

(i) The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the proposed project are clearly specified and measurable. (up to 5 points)

(ii) The extent to which the design of the proposed project is appropriate to, and will successfully address, the needs of the target population or other identified needs. (up to 5 points)

(iii) The extent to which the proposed project demonstrates a rationale (as defined in this notice) (up to 5 points)
(c) **Quality of project services.** (Maximum 20 points)

The Secretary considers the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project. In determining the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project, the Secretary considers the quality and sufficiency of strategies for ensuring equal access and treatment for eligible project participants who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability. In addition, the Secretary considers:

(i) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project are appropriate to the needs of the intended recipients or beneficiaries of those services. (up to 10 points)

(ii) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project reflect up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice. (up to 5 points)

(iii) The extent to which the design for implementing and evaluating the proposed project will result in information to guide possible replication of project activities or strategies, including information about the effectiveness of the approach or strategies employed by the project. (up to 5 points)

(d) **Significance.** (Maximum 5 points)
The Secretary considers the significance of the proposed project. In determining the significance of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the extent to which the proposed project is likely to build local capacity to provide, improve, or expand services that address the needs of the target population.

(e) Adequacy of resources. (Maximum 15 points) The Secretary considers the adequacy of resources for the proposed project. In determining the adequacy of resources for the proposed project, the Secretary considers:

(i) The extent to which the budget is adequate to support the proposed project. (up to 5 points)

(ii) The potential for the incorporation of project purposes, activities, or benefits into the ongoing program of the agency or organization at the end of Federal funding. (up to 10 points)

(f) Quality of project personnel. (Maximum 5 points) The Secretary considers the quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project. In determining the quality of project personnel, the Secretary considers the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.
In addition, the Secretary considers the extent to which the time commitments of the project director and principal investigator and other key project personnel are appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives of the proposed project. (up to 5 points)

(g) Quality of the management plan. (Maximum 20 points) The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project. In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers:

(i) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks. (up to 10 points)

(ii) The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project. (up to 10 points)

(h) Quality of the project evaluation. (Maximum 15 points) The Secretary considers the quality of the evaluation to be conducted of the proposed project. In determining the quality of the evaluation, the Secretary considers:
(i) The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the proposed project. (up to 5 points)

(ii) The extent to which the methods of evaluation include the use of objective performance measures that are clearly related to the intended outcomes of the project and will produce quantitative and qualitative data to the extent possible. (up to 5 points)

(iii) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes. (up to 5 points)

2. Review and Selection Process: We remind potential applicants that in reviewing applications in any discretionary grant competition, the Secretary may consider, under 34 CFR 75.217(d)(3), the past performance of the applicant in carrying out a previous award, such as the applicant’s use of funds, achievement of project objectives, and compliance with grant conditions. The Secretary may also consider whether the applicant failed to submit a timely performance report or submitted a report of unacceptable quality.

In addition, in making a competitive grant award, the
Secretary requires various assurances including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23).

A panel of three non-Federal reviewers will review and score each application in accordance with the selection criteria in 34 CFR 75.210. A rank order funding slate will be made from this review and the competitive preference priority points. Awards will be made in rank order according to the average score received from the peer review.

In the event there are two or more applications with the same final score, and there are insufficient funds to fully support each of these applications, the Department will use other information to select applications (as noted in 34 CFR 75.217). This information is included below. The Department will apply the following procedure to determine which application or applications will receive an award:

First Tiebreaker: The first tiebreaker will be the highest average score for the selection criterion “Quality of Project Services.” If a tie remains, the second tiebreaker will be utilized.
Second Tiebreaker: The second tiebreaker will be the highest average score for the selection criterion “Quality of Project Design.” If a tie remains, the third tiebreaker will be utilized.

Third Tiebreaker: The third tiebreaker will be the highest average score for the selection criterion “Quality of Project Evaluation.”

3. Risk Assessment and Specific Conditions: Consistent with 2 CFR 200.205, before awarding grants under this program the Department conducts a review of the risks posed by applicants. Under 2 CFR 3474.10, the Secretary may impose specific conditions and, in appropriate circumstances, high-risk conditions on a grant if the applicant or grantee is not financially stable; has a history of unsatisfactory performance; has a financial or other management system that does not meet the standards in 2 CFR part 200, subpart D; has not fulfilled the conditions of a prior grant; or is otherwise not responsible.

4. Integrity and Performance System: If you are selected under this competition to receive an award that over the course of the project period may exceed the simplified acquisition threshold (currently $250,000), under 2 CFR 200.205(a)(2) we must make a judgment about your integrity, business ethics, and record of performance
under Federal awards—that is, the risk posed by you as an applicant—before we make an award. In doing so, we must consider any information about you that is in the integrity and performance system (currently referred to as the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)), accessible through the System for Award Management. You may review and comment on any information about yourself that a Federal agency previously entered and that is currently in FAPIIS.

Please note that, if the total value of your currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from the Federal Government exceeds $10,000,000, the reporting requirements in 2 CFR part 200, Appendix XII, require you to report certain integrity information to FAPIIS semiannually. Please review the requirements in 2 CFR part 200, Appendix XII, if this grant plus all the other Federal funds you receive exceed $10,000,000.

VI. Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices: If your application is successful, we notify your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators and send you a Grant Award Notification (GAN); or we may send you an email containing a link to access an electronic version of your GAN. We may notify you informally, also.
If your application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we notify you.

2. **Administrative and National Policy Requirements:**
   We identify administrative and national policy requirements in the application package and reference these and other requirements in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice.

   We reference the regulations outlining the terms and conditions of an award in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice and include these and other specific conditions in the GAN. The GAN also incorporates your approved application as part of your binding commitments under the grant.

3. **Open Licensing Requirements:** Unless an exception applies, if you are awarded a grant under this competition, you will be required to openly license to the public grant deliverables created in whole, or in part, with Department grant funds. When the deliverable consists of modifications to pre-existing works, the license extends only to those modifications that can be separately identified and only to the extent that open licensing is permitted under the terms of any licenses or other legal restrictions on the use of pre-existing works. Additionally, a grantee that is awarded competitive grant
funds must have a plan to disseminate these public grant deliverables. This dissemination plan can be developed and submitted after your application has been reviewed and selected for funding. For additional information on the open licensing requirements please refer to 2 CFR 3474.20.

4. Reporting: (a) If you apply for a grant under this competition, you must ensure that you have in place the necessary processes and systems to comply with the reporting requirements in 2 CFR part 170 should you receive funding under the competition. This does not apply if you have an exception under 2 CFR 170.110(b).

(b) At the end of your project period, you must submit a final performance report, including financial information, as directed by the Secretary. If you receive a multiyear award, you must submit an annual performance report that provides the most current performance and financial expenditure information as directed by the Secretary under 34 CFR 75.118. The Secretary may also require more frequent performance reports under 34 CFR 75.720(c). For specific requirements on reporting, please go to www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html.

(c) Under 34 CFR 75.250(b), the Secretary may provide a grantee with additional funding for data collection
analysis and reporting. In this case the Secretary establishes a data collection period.

5. **Performance Measures:** The Secretary has established the following key performance measures for assessing the effectiveness of the PPOHA Program:

   (a) The percentage change, over the five-year grant period, of the number of full-time degree-seeking graduate and professional students enrolled at HSIs currently receiving an award under this program.

   (b) The percentage change, over the five-year grant period, of the number of master’s, doctoral, and first-professional degrees and postbaccalaureate certificates awarded at HSIs currently receiving an award under this program; and

   (c) Cost per successful outcome: the Federal cost per master’s, doctoral, and first-professional degree and postbaccalaureate certificate awarded at HSIs currently receiving an award under this program.

6. **Continuation Awards:** In making a continuation award under 34 CFR 75.253, the Secretary considers, among other things: whether a grantee has made substantial progress in achieving the goals and objectives of the project; whether the grantee has expended funds in a manner that is consistent with its approved application and
budget; and, if the Secretary has established performance measurement requirements, the performance targets in the grantee’s approved application. In making a continuation award, the Secretary also considers whether the grantee is operating in compliance with the assurances in its approved application, including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23).

VII. Other Information

Accessible Format: Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document and a copy of the application package in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc) on request to one of the persons listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.

Electronic Access to This Document: The official version of this document is the document published in the Federal Register. You may access the official edition of the Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations at www.govinfo.gov. At this site you can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the Federal Register, in text or Portable Document
Format (PDF). To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site.

You may also access documents of the Department published in the Federal Register by using the article search feature at: www.federalregister.gov. Specifically, through the advanced feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.

Dated: June 5, 2019.

Diane Auer Jones,
Principal Deputy Under Secretary,
Delegated to Perform the Duties of Under Secretary and Assistant Secretary for the Office of Postsecondary Education.

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