Ohio | Department of Education

COMPETITIVE REVIEW PROCESS

Issue Date: March 11, 2009 **Revised:** March 11, 2009
Source: Federal Programs
Keywords: Competitive grants; DER, district efficiency rating; grant review; monitoring; Enhancing education Through Technology; 21st CCLC, 21st Century Community Learning Centers; Even Start; Adult Basic Literacy Education; ABLE; Ohio Integrated System Model; OISM; Reading First; Public Charter Schools; Public Preschool; Homeless; McKinney Vento; Career Technical Adult Education

Summary: Process for competitive applications entered in the CCIP and at ODE.

COMPETITIVE REVIEW PROCESS

Applications will first be reviewed by ODE to ensure eligibility and application requirements are met. All criteria must include the details of sites, contact information, locations, staffing, goals, action steps, strategies, budgeting and all questions in the RFP. If your application is incomplete, it will not be read at the official grant reading.

ODE will select a cadre of grant reviewers representative of professionals knowledgeable of the field and/or eligible applicants and provide them training during the grant reading that clearly articulates the program goals and priorities. This will include extensive directions on the use of the scoring instrument / rubric, as well as scoring and reviewing a calibration application.

During the grant reading, review teams, consisting of three or more peer reviewers, will be formed to read and discuss the application. **During this time, the review team will assure that no conflict of interest exists among the reviewers or the application being scored.** Each grant will be reviewed and scored by three (or more) different peer reviewers using common scoring criteria. Peer review scores will be applied to a statistical program that normalizes individual peer reviewers' scores. The score sheets will undergo a comprehensive analysis by a blinded third-party contractor to determine the ranking of each application. The applications with the highest rankings will be recommended for funding.

DER

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) has developed a District Efficiency Rating (DER) intended to increase district efficiency and accuracy in meeting reporting requirements. The DER rating scale includes multiple indicators that are routine in nature and have reliable data collection sources.

The indicators represent timely submission of data to ODE. These data are easily accessible and defendable.
Districts will have an independent rating based on the proportion of applicable indicators met. This rating will indicate district efficiency in timeliness and accuracy of reporting. Fiscal year (FY) 2008 will be the 'shadow year' for implementing the DER intended to provide districts an opportunity make any necessary improvements in reporting practices.
FY 09 DER scores will be used as a criterion in determining the CCIP competitive grant application awards for FY 10. The DER is a public document accessible in the CCIP Documents Library Accountability Section.

NOTIFICATION OF AWARD

It is anticipated that the competitive peer review process will be completed and final decisions will be made prior to July 15, 2009. Applicants will receive written notification of funding decisions. An electronic notification will be sent to school superintendents and treasurers through the CCIP.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

ODE will generate the initial 10 percent payment cash request (PCR) for approved applicants via the CCIP format. Subsequently, up to 10 percent of the grant total may be requested by a recipient each month through the CCIP's PCR format.

PROGRAM REPORTING AND MONITORING

As a part of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Consolidated State Application requirements, ODE is responsible for creating a system to oversee and monitor programs. The agency is currently developing a tiered approach to monitoring. This may include reviews of program progress and fiscal reports, and periodic desk audits and on-site reviews. Upon finalization of the agency-wide monitoring system, ODE will notify all grantees of the process and fully explain all expectations.

Grantees will be required to submit interim and year-end progress reports, according to individual program goals and objectives, as outlined in their application. Periodic updates will be requested.