



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APR 30 2010

TO: Bridget Dooling  
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget

THROUGH: Tomakie Washington  
Regulatory Information Management Services  
U.S. Department of Education

FROM: Thelma Meléndez de Santa Ana, Ph.D. *TM*  
Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education

SUBJECT: Emergency Clearance of Teacher Incentive Fund Application

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The U.S. Department of Education's (Department) Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) has developed an application for the Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) program. The application encompasses two competitions, the Main Competition and the Evaluation Competition. The competitions will be funded from funds allocated to TIF under American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Division A, Title VIII, Pub. L. No. 111-5 (ARRA) and the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, Division D, Title III, Pub. L. 111-117. The ARRA was signed into law by the President on February 17, 2009. The ARRA provided \$200 million for TIF. Approximately \$139 million of the \$200 million will be used to make new awards. In addition, the Department plans to award \$300 million in new TIF awards from the program's fiscal year (FY) 2010 appropriation. As a result, the Department will award approximately \$439 million in new TIF awards.

TIF is a competitive grant program. The purpose of the TIF program is to support projects that develop and implement performance-based compensation systems (PBCSs) for teachers and principals in order to increase educator effectiveness and student achievement in high-need schools. Furthermore, the ARRA requires the Department's Institute of Education Sciences to conduct a rigorous national evaluation, utilizing randomized controlled methodology to the extent feasible, to assess the impact that PBCSs for teachers

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and principals have on teacher and principal recruitment and retention in high-need schools and subjects.

The Department is requesting that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) clear the application on an emergency basis. In addition, a request is being made to waive the public comment period for this ARRA-related emergency since there is a tremendous need to make the TIF application available. Receiving OMB's approval on an emergency basis is essential to awarding funds to develop PBCSs that award teachers and principals who demonstrate effectiveness by improving student achievement in high-need schools.

OESE staff members have worked with the Department's Budget Service and the Office of the General Counsel to develop an application that is consistent with the intent and purpose of the legislation.

The Department plans to award grants to applicants (State educational agencies (SEAs), local educational agencies (LEAs), charter schools with LEA status, or non-profits partnered with SEAs, LEAs, or charter schools) on a competitive basis. As noted above, the Department will award grants through both the Main Competition and the Evaluation Competition. All ARRA and FY 2010 program funds must be obligated by September 30, 2010. Receiving OMB's approval on an emergency basis is essential to providing applicants with the opportunity to apply for funds. Applicants for both the Main and Evaluation competitions will be required to respond to a set of priorities, requirements, and selection criteria. Applicants under the Evaluation competition will need to respond to additional requirements.

If we are able to obtain emergency approval from OMB, the Department intends to make applications available on the date that we publish the Notice of Final Priorities, Requirements, Definitions, and Selection Criteria and the Notice Inviting Applications, which should be on May 14, 2010, with a 45 day period to apply.

**ED is requesting OMB approval by May 18, 2010.**

Thank you for your prompt consideration of my request. If you have questions, please contact Carolyn Lampila at [Carolyn.Lampila@ed.gov](mailto:Carolyn.Lampila@ed.gov).