

MEMORANDUM

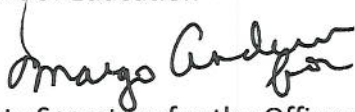
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT

Date: July 8, 2010

TO: Bridget Dooling/Sharon Mar
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
U.S. Department of Education

THROUGH: Kate Mullan
Regulatory Information Management Services
U.S. Department of Education

FROM: Jim Shelton 
Assistant Deputy Secretary for the Office of Innovation and Improvement

SUBJECT: Information Collection Requests for
Investing in Innovation
Discretionary Grant Program-ARRA Stimulus Grant

The U.S Department of Education's (ED) Office of Innovation and Improvement (OII) has developed an application package for a new program, the Investing in Innovation Fund (i3) Program. The i3 program was established in the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009", which was signed into law by the President on February 17, 2009. The i3 program provides \$650 million for the Investing in Innovation Fund (i3), a competitive grant program designed to encourage and reward LEAs, nonprofits and consortia of schools who are developing fresh ideas, growing promising programs and scaling what works in an effort to dramatically improve our nation's schools. The Department is requesting approval of the i3 grant program application so that the LEAs and nonprofits may apply for these funds.

On January 28, 2010, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) cleared the application on an emergency basis with the expiration date of 9/30/2010. At this time, the Department is requesting that this application be approved for a full three-year renewal. This application includes only the Notice of Final Priorities (NFP), standard forms, basic instructions including the Eligible Applicant Information Summary Sheet and two Eligibility checklists. There is a demonstrated need for i3 funds to provide LEAs, non-profit organizations, and school consortia support in developing and bringing to scale cutting-edge and innovative ideas that are

evidence-based and will give our students the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to excel in the future. Receiving OMB's approval is essential to awarding the i3 ARRA stimulus funds quickly.

Since the passage of ARRA, OII staff has been working diligently to complete this grant competition which will award three types of grants within the Investing in i3 program. These highly sought after grants include, "Scale-up" grants, "Validation" grants and "Development" grants differ on two key points which include their level of evidence and their capacity to scale. In particular, for the Development grants, which require limited to no evidence, we have received approximately 1,700 applications from the field. The review process includes a comprehensive assessment of evidence that applicants submit as well as the proposed evaluation designs.

ED plans to award grants to applicants through a normal discretionary grant making process for each year Congress approves funding for this program. We request that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) clear this information for the next three years. All funds will be awarded prior to September 30, 2010 which will allow recipients sufficient time to plan for the use of funds.

ED is requesting OMB approval by September 30, 2010

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please contact Tyra Stewart at (202) 260-1847 or tyra.stewart@ed.gov.