



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: MAR 04 2011
Josh Brammer
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget

THROUGH: James Hylar/Stephanie Valentine
Regulatory Information Management Services
U.S. Department of Education

FROM: Alex Goniprow *AG*
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management and Planning
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

SUBJECT: Transmittal – OMB 83-C Package for the Teacher Incentive Fund Program
(#1810-0700)

I am forwarding under OMB 83-C a change to the estimated burden hours for the application package for the Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) discretionary grant competition. The current application package was approved (OMB #1810-0700) for three years in January 2011 and will not expire until January 31, 2014.

The Department needs to make the change described in this memo in order to remove portions of the application package that do not apply to the TIF FY 2011 competition and subsequent competitions.

In FY 2010 the Department received additional funds for the TIF program through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and was directed by Congress to use a portion of those funds to perform an evaluation of the program. For the FY 2010 competition, the Department allowed applicants to apply for TIF funds under two subcompetitions: a non-evaluation (“main”) competition and an evaluation competition, where applicants proposed projects that met certain criteria necessary for a scientific evaluation of the program. The application package as approved required all applicants to respond to the priorities, selection criteria, and requirements for the main TIF competition; in addition, applicants choosing to apply for the evaluation competition were required to address additional priorities, selection criteria and requirements.

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The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

In FY 2011, the Department will not be conducting an evaluation competition; therefore, the Department has changed the application package to remove all references to the evaluation competition and the additional requirements, priorities, and selection criteria that applicants needed to address to be part of the evaluation. All other requirements, priorities, and selection criteria remain the same.

The elimination of the evaluation competition components will reduce the applicants' estimated burden hours. In the supporting statement included in the three year clearance package, the Department estimated burden at 248 hours per applicant and 120 applicants for a total of 29,760 hours. The Department estimated that applicants for the evaluation competition required approximately five additional hours to meet the additional application requirements pertaining to the evaluation competition. In the FY 2010 competition, 16 out of 95 applicants applied for the evaluation competition, which amounted to approximately 17% of the applicants. Assuming that approximately 17% of the applicants (20 applicants) for the FY 2011 competition would have applied for the evaluation competition, the Department anticipates a total reduction in burden of 100 hours. Thus, the Department anticipates a total burden of 29,660 hours at approximately 247 hours per applicant for the FY 2011 competition.

The Department has also made formatting changes to eliminate the standard formatting used for ARRA program applications and insert standard formatting used for applications from the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. These formatting changes do not impact the content or burden of the application.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.