

April 10, 2009

Florida Teacher Quality Grants Program

Frequently Asked Questions – deadline April 20, 2009

Frequently Asked Questions relative to the Florida Teacher Quality Grants Program Request for Proposal (RFP)

Course Credit

Are course offerings that provide credit for graduate level acceptable in the grant?

Yes, this is acceptable.

Eligible Applicants

Is there any advantage to working with multiple LEAs for the Florida Teacher Quality Grant Program?

Please refer to page two (2) of the RFP. Applicants are not required to have more than one LEA, but may include another LEA.

An eligible partnership is required and must include:

- *A private or state IHE and the division of the institution that delivers a state-approved teacher preparation program pursuant to F.S. 1004.04*
- *The College of Arts and Sciences of the above IHE*
- *A high need LEA, as defined by Federal regulations, has over 20% or 10,000 in poverty status, based on the most recent census data. (See Attachment A for qualified districts)*

In addition, an eligible partnership may also include:

- *An educational service agency such as a consortium of school districts*
- *Another LEA*
- *An educational service agency*
- *A nonprofit educational organization*
- *Another IHE through its College of Arts and Sciences and College or School of Education teacher preparation*
- *A nonprofit cultural organization*

Funding Purpose and Priorities

Can we request funds for programming modules to be tested and used by teachers in the classrooms? Can we request funds for providing teachers with tablet laptops while using these modules in the classroom?

*Please **carefully** refer to page one (1) of the RFP Funding Purpose and Priorities and pages eight and nine (8-9) for Budget and Budget criteria.*

Do all three cycles require the same content area(s)?

Please refer to page one (1) of the RFP Funding Purpose and Priorities. The RFP states that the purpose of awards granted is to assist teachers in gaining access to professional development in one or more of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards core academic areas of Language Arts, Social Studies, Fine Arts, Mathematics, and Science.

The priorities are:

- *a description of the professional development that is researched-based and of high quality;*
- *a description of rigorous content that is specific to the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards with content-specific pedagogical elements;*
- *a description of professional development activities and effective strategies to help teachers promote learning for historically underserved and underrepresented populations.*

The RFP does not provide any restrictions on the core academic areas for the cycles.

Program Design and Implementation

Can an IHE be used to develop courses of study?

Please refer to page five (5) of the RFP: Project Design and Implementation, Goal 1. Collaboration partnerships between the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Education and the LEA are required.

Project Need

The grant states that “The focus must be on literacy in the core academic areas of Language Arts, Social Studies, Fine Arts, Mathematics and Science.” Do all of these content areas have to be addressed with regards to literacy?

The purpose of awards granted is to assist teachers in gaining access to professional development in one or more of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards core academic areas of Language Arts, Social Studies, Fine Arts, Mathematics, and Science.

The focus of literacy in the core academic area(s) is required for only those core academic areas addressed in the partnership’s project.

Targeted Population(s)

Is this grant for secondary education programs?

Please refer to page two (2) of the RFP Targeted Population(s). Teachers of Language Arts, Social Studies, Fine Arts, Mathematics, and Science in a high need LEA (See Attachment A) in partnership with an IHE. Teachers in other LEAs who are teaching in low performing schools may also participate.

Please refer to page four (4) of the RFP Project Abstract or Summary FIXED REQUIREMENT Instructions that require the application to demonstrate the proposed project’s plan to:

- *Supplement efforts of high need LEAs and IHEs in the preparation and ongoing professional development of qualified and effective core subject area teachers; in each section of the proposal, the application must reflect collaboration among the LEAs, the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and Colleges of Education within the IHE.*
- *Support sustained and intensive high-quality projects to improve teacher content knowledge and teaching skills in the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in Language Arts, Social Studies, Fine Arts, Mathematics, and Science.*
- *Address the unique characteristics of the population to be served. Where applicable, each proposal should address the goal statements in terms of the target population served: K-12 educators.*

The intent of this grant is to improve and increase teacher content knowledge and teaching skills in the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in Language Arts, Social Studies, Fine Arts, Mathematics and Science for K-12 educators.

Eligible Applicants

“An eligible partnership is required and must include: The College of Arts and Sciences of the above Institution of Higher Education.” Our community college offers applicable courses required to meet General Education requirements for the state. The majority of students admitted to Florida’s public state universities earned their AA degrees at our community colleges. Therefore, they do all offer arts and sciences coursework. Therefore, would our community college meet this requirement as stated?

This does not meet the requirement as stated by the federal guidelines. The federal guidelines state: An eligible partnership is required and must include:

- ***A private or state IHE and the division of the institution that delivers a state-approved teacher preparation program pursuant to F.S. 1004.04***
- ***The College of Arts and Sciences of the above IHE***
- ***A high need LEA, as defined by Federal regulations, has over 20% or 10,000 in poverty status, based on the most recent census data. (See Attachment A for qualified districts)***

However, a community college without a College of Arts and Sciences can join a partnership that does include a private or state IHE that delivers both a state-approved teacher preparation program and College of Arts and Sciences.

The federal guidelines state:

In addition, an eligible partnership may also include:

- ***An educational service agency such as a consortium of school districts***
- ***Another LEA***
- ***An educational service agency***
- ***A nonprofit educational organization***
- ***Another IHE through its College of Arts and Sciences and College or School of Education teacher preparation***
- ***A nonprofit cultural organization***