



Math and Science Partnerships Grant

Webinar

Iowa Department of Education

January 2014

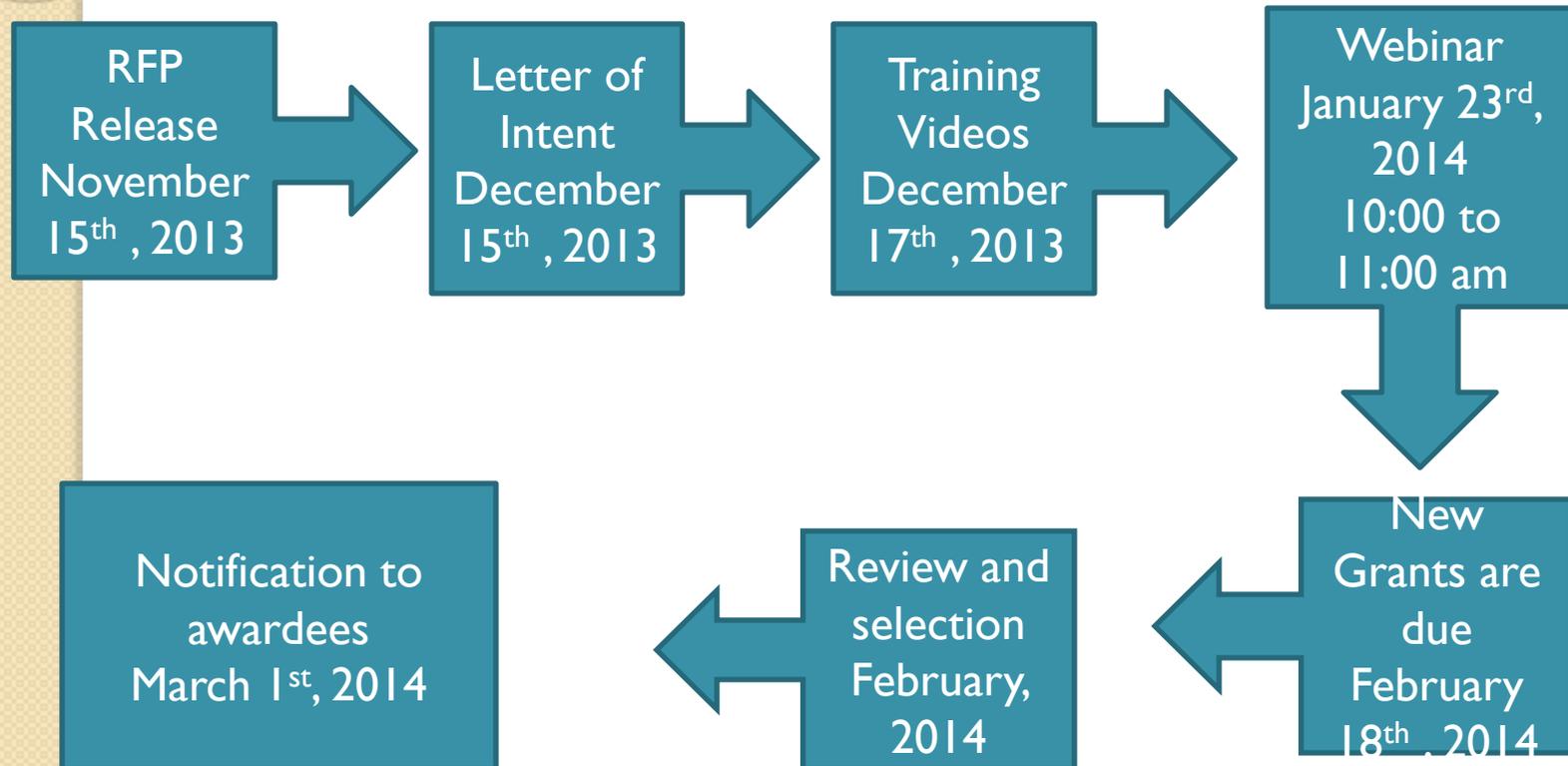
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Agenda

- Welcome
- RFP Timeline
- Highlights of Application
- Monitoring
- Grant Fraud
- Budget and Finance
- Expectations

Competition Timeline



Important dates

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| November 15, 2013 | Release of the 2014 statewide MSP grant application. |
| December, 2013 | Videos |
| December 15, 2013 | Letter of intent submitted to the Iowa Department of Education. |
| January, 2014 | Live Webinar |
| February 18, 2014 | Grant application postmark deadline. |
| February, 2014 | Review of grant applications Iowa Mathematics and Science Partnerships 2014 Statewide Grant Application. |
| March 1, 2014 | Approval of awards/applicants notified. |
| March 1, 2014 | Grant period begins |
| March, 2014 | Grant contracts finalized |
| April 2014 | MSP Grantees Annual Meeting |

Where to direct your questions

- All questions should be directed to Isbelia Arzola at isbelia.arzola@iowa.gov or (515) 242-3954.

Please, submit your applications electronically and mail it by February 18th, 2014. We are requesting an electronic copy of the application (in word format) – it is recommended you provide this on CD or flash drive with your paper application

Please, mail applications to:

Isbelia Arzola

Iowa Department of Education

Grimes State Office Building

400 E 14th Street

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Content contacts and information

Yvette McCulley – Science

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What is the Purpose of the Program?

- The Iowa Mathematics and Science Partnerships (MSP) grant program is authorized under Title II, Part B of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) Act of 2001. The MSP Program is a federal formula grant program that funds collaborative partnerships between science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) departments at institutions of higher education (IHEs), Area Education Agencies (AEAs), and high-need school districts. These partnerships provide intensive, innovative, content-rich professional development to teachers and other educators, with the goal of improving classroom instruction and, ultimately, student achievement in Math and Science.
- Partnerships may request up to \$200,000 per year for project costs. Due to the availability of funds during the current funding cycle, 5-6 projects will be selected for the first year of funding from the current competition (Science, Math, STEM). Awards will be based on highest scores according to the evaluation scale.

Who is eligible to apply?

- Each partnership must initially include:
 - At least one high-need Iowa LEA, other high need LEAs will be identified in cooperation with Area Education Agencies after the grant award.
 - At least one Engineering, Mathematics, or Science department of a 4 year Institution of Higher Education (IHE);
 - A teacher education department of a four-year institution of higher education.
 - At least one Area Education Agency served by the project.

May an entity be a partner in more than one MSP application at the same time?

- It depends. For example, XXX Public Schools may be involved in a proposal to provide professional development and a second one to develop science curriculum. However, multiple proposals, involving the same school district(s) in a single application cycle, that propose the same activity or services to the same teachers, are not allowed.

With respect to fiscal agents, should we assume that the fiscal agent is the institution not the person. Does that mean that only one proposal can come from the HEA? Or that only one proposal at HEA can be funded? But since project directors come from institutions and the RFP says that the project director can only be on one proposal, then that implies that an institution could have more than one proposal submission and potentially more than one funded. Can you please clarify?

- You are correct in defining a difference between the fiscal agent and a project director. Multiple projects can be proposed by an eligible applicant. The intention of the language included in the RFP is to make sure that one person, the project director, is providing adequate time and resources to the project.

Required components

- Addressing state-wide needs
- Applicant Partnership requirements
 - Poverty level
- **and**
 - ESEA status:
- **and**
 - Proficiency

What is the definition of High Need LEA?

- An LEA may qualify as high need by meeting the following criteria:
 - Poverty level: At least 40% or more of its students qualify for free or reduced cost meals as reported to the Iowa Department of Education;
- **and** in which
 - ESEA status: The LEA is considered a District In Need of Assistance;
- **and** in which
 - Proficiency: 85% or fewer of its students are proficient on the Iowa Assessment or Iowa Assessment Mathematics, Science, and Reading grade 4 tests; the Iowa Assessment Mathematics, Science and Reading Grade 8 tests; and the ITED Mathematics, Science, and Reading Grade 11 tests.

Are paraprofessionals eligible to be served by this grant?

- No. By federal statute, only certificated teachers may be served by the professional development component.

Use of the Iowa Professional Development Model Required

- Projects must be based on the Iowa Professional Development Model. The IPDM provides guidance and technical assistance for implementing district and school-wide professional development to accomplish gains in student achievement.

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Highlights of the Application

- **Private and Public School Consultation.**
As the designated Applicant Agency, you may consult the private school(s) within the boundaries of the school(s) that this application proposes to serve, and document that a meaningful consultation has occurred. Meaningful consultation (Federal Statutory)
- . Private elementary or secondary schools in the partner districts must be invited to participate in the project and the planning team.**

Are private schools eligible to participate?

- Private schools are eligible to participate. The core partnership, however, is between a local educational agency and an institution of higher education, but other entities may also participate in the project. Non-public (private) schools may participate if located within the geographic boundaries of a public school district that receives a MSP grant.

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- **A minimum of 100 contact hours per year is required of project teams.**
 - Funded MSP statewide grants will be awarded for a period of three years (March 1, 2014 – February 28, 2017)
 - Subject to availability of federal funds,
 - Annual review
 - Successful attainment of project objectives,
 - Timely completion of reporting requirements.

Use of Funds

- Grant funds may be used to
 - Pay stipends and subsistence (travel, and lodging) costs for educators attending workshops; (participating LEAs only)
 - Funds may also be used for needed substitute reimbursements.
 - Funds must not be used to pay for food or any beverages
 - Funds may be used to obtain supplemental materials and resources needed by LEAs to perform project objectives.
 - Funds should supplement and not supplant local funds.
 - Funds may not be used to pay for stipends and substitute reimbursements for the same participant during the same time period.
 - Project participation may be used to fulfill Iowa educators' continuing professional development requirements.
 - Grant funds may be used to pay tuition for projects offering graduate credit. However, if tuition support is requested, participants are not eligible for stipends. Funds may not be used to pay for equipment, defined for this grant as tangible non-expendable personal property having a useful life of more than one year.

Non-allowable costs:

- Costs for tuition to receive college credit are the responsibility of the teacher participants, and may not be paid for with MSP grant funds.
- Out-of-state travel (unless authorized by Iowa Department of Education)
- Equipment/materials for student use.
- Food and beverages.
- Any costs not allowable for federal programs per EDGAR or as determined by Iowa Department of Education.

Can grant funds be used to purchase equipment?

- MSP funds are intended for professional development and building the capacity of math and science teachers, not to purchase equipment. However, proposals may include requests for equipment for workshop instructor use in demonstrations. Equipment for teacher participants is not allowed unless justification is provided, including an explanation of how existing local resources are insufficient to provide these items. Equipment for student use is not allowable under any circumstance.

Highlights of the Application

- Unclaimed funds Redistribution
 - For Grantees covered under this agreement, the Iowa Department of Education reserves the right to redistribute any unclaimed grant funds at the end of each fiscal year or at the end of a grant annual cycle.
 - This contractual clause will allow us to redistribute funds so we do not have to return any funds back to the USED.

Highlights of the Application

- Follow the written guidelines. Do not go by verbal comments. Sometimes, information about specific grants are not handy, so verbal feedback provided is considered as “possible” scenario.
- Sustainability
 - Applicants are required to provide a sustainability plan in their application documenting that a committed, collaborative partnership has been developed. The plan must include a specific description of the investments that each partner plans to make for securing local contribution.

Highlights of the Application

- Grantees audits
 - Check on sustainability
 - Integrity of the grant
 - Partnerships verification
 - Amendments
 - Evidence of goals met
 - Monitoring
 - Visits and observations

Highlights of the Application

Termination of grants:

Grants are subject to availability of federal funds.

Grants can be terminated with a 10 day notice

Supplementing: not Supplant: Funds received shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, funds that would otherwise be used for proposed activities.

Highlights of the Application

- Monitoring
- Annual Meeting

Grant Fraud Statutes

- Federal grant dollars are susceptible to several forms of financial theft, most commonly in the form of specific federal violations, including:
 - Embezzlement
 - Theft or bribery concerning programs receiving Federal funds
 - False Statements
 - False Claims
 - Mail fraud and Wire Fraud

Each of these violations of law are subject to criminal prosecution, fines, restitution, and civil penalties.

What is Grant Fraud?

- **Fraud occurs when education grants are not applied for, received, or spent for their intended purposes,** generally through theft, misappropriation, or false statements.
- Fraud can occur in applying for a grant, such as if **false information is provided on the grant application.**
- **Fraud can occur** during performance of a grant, such as through false assertions on a performance report, theft, or misappropriation of grant funds, or certain types of lack of performance under the grant.
- **Fraud also happens when** grantees try to cover up underlying problems by creating false documents, by destroying documents, or by not being truthful with investigators or others.

Grant Fraud

- Penalties for committing fraud
 - Penalties for fraudulent use of federal education funds are severe, and can include prison sentences, fines, damages, restitution (paying back what was stolen), and debarment from receiving federal funds.

Questions

- Direct application questions to Isbelia Arzola at isbelia.arzola@iowa.gov
- FAQs will be posted on IDE website

Thanks