



Office of Elementary, Secondary and Specialized Education

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
FY 2015 Teacher Quality Improvement Grant Program

Notice of Funds Availability

The District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is soliciting applications for the development and provision of professional development programs aimed at enhancing student achievement in eligible Local Educational Agencies (LEAs). The purpose of these professional development programs will be to ensure that teachers, highly qualified paraprofessionals, and, if appropriate, principals have subject matter knowledge in the core academic subjects they teach, and build upon the skills necessary to help students master core academic subjects. The Teacher Quality Improvement Grant Program is authorized under Part A, Subpart 3 of Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended – Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting Fund.

Available Funding for Awards: The amount available for this award period is approximately \$269,000.

Anticipated Number and Amount of Awards: Historically, grants have ranged in the amount of \$50,000 to approximately \$175,000.

Award Period: The grant period will be from the date of award until September 30th, 2016.

Eligibility: The Teacher Quality Improvement Grant Program is a partnership grant. An eligible application must include the following principal partners at a minimum:

- (1) a private or State IHE and the division of the institution that prepares teachers and principals;
- (2) a school of arts and sciences; and
- (3) a high need LEA.

State Application Priority: The District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) has aligned federal priorities of the Teacher Quality Improvement grant program with the following areas of focus, identified as OSSE priorities for this grant funding opportunity. Grant applications that are awarded funding during the FY 2015 cycle will describe proposed programs which substantially address one or both of the following focus areas:

1. **Professional development programs aimed at supporting the creation of high-quality induction systems for new teachers of core subject areas.** Prospective applicants may consider developing a corps of highly-effective master educators with the intent of helping new teachers and other teachers not rated highly effective, to become

highly effective. Funding may also be used to support implementation or revision of already-existing induction systems. These initiatives shall target a majority of teachers and/or principals rated as effective or minimally effective per the LEA's evaluation system, with professional development geared toward moving these teachers toward earning highly effective ratings

- 2. Professional development programs aimed at supporting teachers rated as effective or minimally effective in improving to highly effective, per the LEA's evaluation system.** Applicants may consider using funding to supplement existing teacher residency programs. Funding will target a majority of teachers teaching out of field, and/or out of compliance with DC regulations related to teacher licensure and/or federal requirements pertaining to highly qualified teachers. Prospective applicants may consider forming a consortium of LEAs for residency placements and to provide broad supports for teacher residents.
- 3. Professional development programs aimed at supporting LEA use of student learning objectives (SLOs).** Funding may be used to better prepare administrators and teachers to deconstruct learning standards, identify priority content, create high-quality goals and objectives, and measure student progress in tested and non-tested grades and in core subject areas. Prospective applicants may also consider forming a consortium of LEAs, led by an LEA experienced in using student learning objectives that will help other LEAs to successfully implement SLOs through provision of targeted professional development and by modeling best practices.
- 4. Professional Development programs aimed at facilitating implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) in DC LEAs and schools.** Applicants will target a cadre of highly effective STEM teachers within the high need LEA, or a consortium of high-need LEAs to participate in NGSS-specific training, who will return to their schools and LEAs to lead NGSS-specific professional development to other STEM teachers. Applications should demonstrate a strong intention to provide opportunities for participants to have direct contact with individuals and organizations that represent STEM fields such as scientists, mathematicians, engineers, etc. Programs designed under this option will demonstrate how they intend to be used as a model to support effective instruction across the District of Columbia.

The OSSE will no longer accept paper applications for the Teacher Quality Improvement grant. The Request for Applications (RFA) will be released Monday, November 17th, 2014 through OSSE's new Enterprise Grants Management System (EGMS). The online system and training videos may be accessed by visiting <http://osse.dc.gov/service/enterprise-grants-management-system-egms>. **The deadline for online application submission is Friday, January 23rd, 2015 by 5:00 p.m.**

A Pre-Application Webinar will be held on Wednesday, December 3rd, 2014 from 1:00pm to 2:30pm. You may RSVP by emailing Tanisha Brown at tanisha.brown@dc.gov. **It is strongly recommended that applying organizations attend the pre-application webinar.**

Applicants may email questions to Tanisha Brown at tanisha.brown@dc.gov.