



# STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
*Colorado Commission on Higher Education*

Bill Ritter, Jr.  
Governor

David E. Skaggs  
Executive Director

## No Child Left Behind Act 2001 Improving Teacher Quality, Title II Request for Proposal 2007-2008

### GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE GRANT

The No Child Left Behind Act 2001, Improving Teacher Quality, Title II Professional Development Program is a federal program that supports professional development activities for teachers. “The purpose of Title II, Part A, *Improving Teacher Quality State Grants* is to increase the academic achievement of all students by helping schools and districts improve teacher and principal quality and ensure that all teachers are highly qualified.”<sup>1</sup> Under this program, the Colorado Department of Higher Education (DHE) is authorized to administer the competitive grants to institutions of higher education in partnership with local education agencies. In 2007-2008, DHE will award grants to improve teacher quality and increase the number of “highly qualified” teachers.

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### ELIGIBLE PROPOSALS

**Eligibility is limited to partnerships comprised of, minimally,**

- (1) a public or private college or university authorized to prepare teachers or principals or both;
- (2) a postsecondary college or school of arts and sciences; and,
- (3) a high-need local education agency (LEA) ([see Addendum A for a list of eligible districts](#)), that is a public or private school district or agency,
  - (a) that serves 10,000 or more children from families below the poverty line **or** for which not less than 20 percent of children served by the district or agency are from families with incomes below the poverty line<sup>2</sup> (please see <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe/district.html> for the most current poverty information for school districts) **AND**
  - (b) in which a high percentage of teachers are not teaching in the academic subjects or grade levels that the teachers were trained to teach; **or** in which a high percentage of teachers

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<sup>1</sup> United States Department of Education Non-Regulatory Guidance Title II, Part A, Improving Teacher Quality State Grants, January 16, 2004.

<sup>2</sup> Free and Reduced Lunch eligibility may not be used as a substitute criterion.

have emergency, provisional, or temporary certification or licensing.

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**SELECTION  
CRITERIA**

The selection committee will evaluate proposals against teacher education performance standards, the Colorado model content standards, and the points below:

- **Quality Partnerships** – The objective of a partnership should be to implement scientifically validated professional development approaches that increase student achievement that meet the needs of students and teachers in high-need local education agencies. At a minimum, all partnerships must include authorized teacher preparation programs, a high-need local education agency, and a school of arts and sciences. In addition, eligible partnerships may also include another local educational agency, a public charter school, an elementary or secondary school, an educational service agency, a nonprofit educational organization, another institution of higher education, a school of arts and sciences at another institution of higher education, a nonprofit cultural organization, a pre-kindergarten program, a teacher organization, or a business.
- **Coverage** – Federal law requires that grant activities are equitably distributed by geographic areas within a state and ensure that all regions within a state are served. Colorado regions identified by the DHE for the purpose of meeting this criterion are Denver Metro, Northeastern Colorado, Southeastern Colorado, Southwestern Colorado and the Western Slope/Mountains.
- **Impact** – Proposals should demonstrate noteworthy progress toward the goal of ensuring that all teachers are highly qualified and have the knowledge and skills necessary to help all students improve academically.

**DHE  
PREFERENCES**

In addition to the above criteria, the DHE is interested in proposed partnerships that address the following:

- Curricula that instruct teachers in high-need schools how to use data from student academic achievement assessments (e.g. CSAP and ACT) to improve instructional practices and student academic achievement, with expected results transferable to other school districts and leading to improved training for teacher candidates;
- Induction and mentoring programs for first-year teachers in low-income school districts that emphasize the needs of underserved students (low-income, minority, and male students) and strategies to improve student academic achievement;
- Enabling highly qualified paraprofessionals (those who possess an associate's degree or higher) to obtain the education necessary to become certified and licensed teachers;
- Local or school-based courses that allow current teachers in rural areas to

enroll in and complete content coursework and become “highly qualified” instructors and offered to such teachers at no cost;

- New courses, or existing sections made available at convenient times and locations, offered to teachers at no cost, that allow current teachers to enroll in and complete content coursework in order to become “highly qualified: instructors in math and science;
  - New courses that offer professional development for elementary reading instructors to employ reading materials from core social studies disciplines (civics/government, economics, geography and history) in reading instruction.
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**PROPOSAL  
REQUIREMENTS**

Proposals need to include, in narrative form, a brief description of the teacher project’s implementation plan and priorities; the project's objectives, including activities that will address these objectives; proposed participants; and a detailed budget. Proposals should include letters of support from the partnering organizations.

Proposed objectives should be specific, achievable and measurable. The narrative should describe how the project aligns with content standards, assessment practices and the use of current educational technologies.

Proposals **may not exceed 8 double-spaced pages**, not including supplementary information such as vitae, budgets, and the like, which may be included in addendums.

Previously funded grant proposals may be re-submitted for continuance.

**“50% RULE”**

**“No single participant in an eligible partnership may use more than 50 percent of the *Title II, Part A* funds made available to the partnership.”**

Special Rule (G-29) of the Improving Teacher Quality State Grants Non-Regulatory Guidance states the following: Section 2132(c) of the law requires that no single participant in an eligible partnership, (i.e. no single high-need LEA, no single IHE and its division that prepares teachers and principals, no single school of arts and sciences, and no other single partner) may “use” more than 50 percent of the total revenues of a particular grant. This provision focuses not on which partner receives the funds, but on which partner directly benefits from them.

**REQUIRED  
SECTIONS AND  
DOCUMENTS**

1. Abstract: a project abstract of not more than 200 words.
2. Project Description: a description of proposed objectives and activities and how they relate to each other; the nature of faculty involvement in project activities and how it will foster collaboration between education and arts and sciences faculty.
3. Budget: a completed budget form; an explanation of how budget items are associated with project objectives; budget percentage for each partner. Indirect

costs are limited to eight percent of direct costs.

4. Completed Transmittal Form (Attached)
5. Completed Budget Form (Attached)
6. Completed Certificate of Assurances (Attached): signed by the chief executive officer of the college or university
7. Vita(e) (in Addendum): proposals should include one-page vitae for the project director and key project staff

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**PROPOSAL AND  
APPLICATION  
DEADLINE:  
AUGUST 31, 2007**

Proposals must be submitted by the higher education institution's academic vice president to the Colorado Department of Higher Education by 5:00 p.m., **August 31, 2007**. All proposals need to be submitted electronically in Microsoft Word format with "NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND GRANT PROPOSAL" in the subject line of the e-mail message to: **Heather DeLange (heather.delange@cche.state.co.us)**.

**AWARD  
AMOUNT AND  
CONDITIONS**

The nature and scope of the proposed project will determine the size of the award. The DHE may reduce proposed budgets or impose additional special conditions to any funded project or both. There is no maximum budget limit but awards will be considered in light of historical funding.

**GRANT PERIOD**

The funding period for these grants will be **OCTOBER 1, 2007 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2008**. Due to the timing of the release of this RFP, funding will be based on availability from the U.S. Department of Education.

**NOTIFICATION**

The Department will notify the selected grant recipients by **SEPTEMBER 28, 2007**.

**REPORTING  
AND AUDIT**

The director of each project selected for funding must complete a performance report using the major performance objectives of the No Child Left Behind program and a final accounting report. The financial records of each funded project shall be made available for inspection or audit on reasonable notice from the DHE.

**DHE CONTACT  
INFORMATION**

Questions regarding the RFP may be addressed to:

Heather DeLange ([heather.delange@cche.state.co.us](mailto:heather.delange@cche.state.co.us)), Grant Administrator

-or-

Julie Carnahan ([Julie.carnahan@cche.state.co.us](mailto:Julie.carnahan@cche.state.co.us)), Chief Academic Officer

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