

# U.S DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Office of Postsecondary Education](#)

Higher Education Programs

1990 K Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20006

[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

## Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE)

Federal programs administered under OPE are designed to broaden access to higher education and strengthen the capacity of colleges and universities. Grant project funds are primarily awarded to institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations and state agencies.

***Programs in this guide are organized by their primary purpose with a brief description of the program, funding target and the website link for additional information.***

***Federal funding projects that provide opportunity for increased student success and institutional impact through implementation of AVID for Higher Education Initiatives are highlighted in text.***

### APPLICATION SCHEDULE

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/opeprogramguide.html>

<http://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/find/edlite-forecast.html#chart6>

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/news.html#comp>

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/hephighlights.html>

## OPE Higher Education Programs (HEP)

Higher Education Programs administers programs that broaden access to higher education and strengthen the capacity of colleges and universities. HEP also coordinates a number of higher education-related activities with states. HEP grant projects are awarded primarily to institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations and agencies, and state agencies.

HEP includes the following components:

**1- Student Service** funds projects to facilitate access for low-income, first generation students and individuals with disabilities; to encourage attainment of higher education to low-income students in elementary, middle, and secondary schools; and to promote quality graduate education to meet national needs.

- There are eight **Federal TRIO Programs** to support progress from middle school to post baccalaureate degree.
- **GEAR UP: Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs**

**2- Institutional Service** programs are administered to improve academic quality, institutional management and fiscal stability; and to strengthen physical plants and endowments for institutions of higher education.

- The ***Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education*** promotes reform, innovation and improvement through grants to colleges, universities and non-profit institutions and agencies.

**3- State Service** works through individual state departments of education, state licensing agencies, and others to promote communication and cooperation. Grants administration supports the state efforts at improving access to and the quality of higher education.

- Reports are developed on the quality of teacher preparation and teacher service obligations required under several Department of Education programs.

## **Student Service Initiatives**

Helping All Americans Reach Postsecondary Education: Support under these initiatives takes place long before students enroll in institutions of higher education. Students must begin to prepare for college early in their K-12 education; and for First Generation College students getting information, encouragement and academic support is especially important.

Supporting Undergraduate Students: Once students are enrolled in postsecondary institutions, they may still need support in the form of special services in addition to financial aid to stay in school and succeed. Among the OPE programs addressing needs for special services are eight TRIO programs.

**The Federal TRIO Programs** are facilitated through outreach and student support programs designed to identify and serve individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. These programs listed below assist low-income, first-generation college students and individuals with disabilities as they progress through the academic pipeline, from middle school to post baccalaureate programs. In addition, there is a training program for directors and staff of TRIO projects. <http://www.ed.gov/programs/trio/index.html>

**1. Student Support Services (SSS) (undergraduate program)**

**2. Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement (undergraduate program)**

3. Educational Opportunity Centers (pre-college)

4. Talent Search (pre-college)

5. Upward Bound (UB) (pre-college)

6. Upward Bound Math-Science (UB M-S) (pre-college)

7. Veterans Upward Bound (UPV) (pre-college)

8. Training Program for TRIO Project Staff (staff development)

### *Potential Grantees*

Institutions of higher education, public and private agencies and organizations including community-based organizations with experience in serving disadvantaged youth and secondary schools; combinations of these may also apply for grants.

Students served by these programs must meet eligibility requirements and be accepted into a funded project that serves the institution or school that the student is attending or the area in which the student lives.

### **1. Student Support Services (SSS)**

Projects funded provide undergraduate student participants with **co-curricular academic**, financial, personal counseling, **mentoring and tutoring** to encourage student persistence and degree completion. Eligible students are first-generation college students from low-income families or students with disabilities. Individual student grant funds may also be available to current SSS participants who qualify and receive Federal Pell Grant funds. <http://www.ed.gov/programs/triostudsupp/index.html>

*Potential grantees: Institutions of higher education, both individually and in consortia.*

### **2. Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program**

Funding for these projects provide intensive **co-curricular support** designed specifically to prepare undergraduate participants from disadvantaged backgrounds, who have demonstrated high academic potential, to attend graduate programs. This "high-touch" programming involves participation in research and **scholarly activities with campus faculty**, and targeted counseling, **mentoring, and tutoring** intended to prepare students for graduate studies.

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/triomcnair/index.html>

*Potential Grantees: Institutions of higher education, individually and in consortia.*

### **3. Educational Opportunity Centers (EOCs)**

Pre-College Initiatives/**Possible AHE pipe-line programs**

Description: This project funds centers that promote "college as attainable", providing counseling and information about college admission and attendance to qualified adults who want to enter and/or continue a post secondary education program. Educational Opportunity Centers help participants apply to college and also financial aid.

*Potential Grantees: Institutions of higher education, public and private agencies or organizations, a combination of those, and in exceptional cases, secondary schools.*

### **4. Veterans Upward Bound**

Pre-College Initiatives/**Possible AHE pipe-line programs**

The Veterans Upward Bound project is designed to motivate and assist veterans in the development of the academic skills necessary to be accepted and succeed in a program of postsecondary education. Assessment and enhancement of basic skills is facilitated through counseling, mentoring, tutoring and academic instruction in the core subject

areas. The primary goal of the program is to increase the rate at which veteran participants enroll in and complete postsecondary education programs.

*Potential Grantees: Institutions of Higher Education, public and private agencies and organizations including community-based organizations with experience in serving disadvantaged youth, combinations of such institutions, agencies and organizations, and as appropriate to the purpose of the program secondary schools.*

## **5. Talent Search**

Pre-College Initiatives/**Possible AHE pipe-line programs**

Talent Search funds projects that identify individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds with the potential to succeed in higher education. Guidance, encouragement and support are provided through academic, career, and financial counseling, encouraging participants to graduate from high school and go on to the postsecondary education institution of their choice. Talent Search projects also support high school dropouts on a path to re-enter the educational system and complete their education.

*Potential Grantees: Institutions of Higher Education, public and private agencies or organizations, a combination of those, and in exceptional cases, secondary schools.*

## **6. Upward Bound**

Pre-College Initiatives/**Possible AHE pipe-line programs**

Projects are funded to support high school students from low-income families, first generation military veterans and first generation college students (neither parent has a four-year degree) as they prepare for college. All Upward Bound projects provide instruction in math, laboratory science, composition, literature and foreign language, and individual and group interactions.

*Potential Grantees: Institutions of Higher Education, public and private agencies or organizations, a combination of those, and in exceptional cases, secondary schools.*

## **7. Upward Bound Math-Science**

Pre-College Initiatives/**Possible AHE pipe-line programs**

Funded projects strengthen the math and science skills of participating students from low-income families, from families in which neither parent has a four-year degree, first-generation military veterans who are preparing for postsecondary education. Projects are designed for participants to examine and develop their potential in math and science; and to pursue postsecondary degrees in those fields.

*Potential Grantees: Institutions of higher education, public and private organizations, a combination of those, and in exceptional cases, secondary schools.*

## **GEAR UP: Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs**

Pre-College Initiatives/**Possible AHE pipe-line programs**

This project provides grants to community-based partnerships and states for facilitating outreach and support services designed to encourage more young people to have high expectations for their personal education, assist to prevent drop-out proneness, encourage good study skills and take purposeful courses to prepare them for college.

*Potential Grantees: Community-based partnerships with at least one postsecondary institution, at least one school district acting on behalf of (one or more) middle schools and high schools in low-income communities, and at least two other public or private organizations; also, state agencies designated by a governor.*

## **Other Student Services Programs that do not fit AHE**

- TRIO Staff Training Program
- Thurgood Marshall Legal Educational Opportunity Program
- Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Program
- Jacob Javits Fellowship Program & Advisory Board
- *Erma Byrd Scholarship Program*

## **Institutional Services**

Institutional Service (IS) administers programs authorized under Title III, Title V, and Title VII of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. Dr. Leonard Haynes is the Senior Director of Institutional Service.

The Aid for Institutional Development programs, commonly referred to as the Title III programs) support improvements in educational quality, management and financial stability at qualifying postsecondary institutions. Funding is focused on institutions that enroll large proportions of minority and financially disadvantaged students with low per-student expenditures. From its inception, one of the primary missions of the Title III programs has been to support the nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The Title III programs have been expanded to support American Indian Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities and Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions, as well as other minority-serving institutions. The Title III programs also include the Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program.

The Title V programs strengthen institutions serving Hispanic and other low-income students. The Title V programs, as well as the Title III programs, provide financial assistance to help institutions solve problems that threaten their ability to survive, to improve their management and fiscal operations, and to build endowments. Title VII, Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), supports the implementation of innovative educational reform ideas, evaluates how well they work, and shares findings with the larger education community.

Currently there are AHE sites funded with Title V\_grant funds.

## **Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education Programs-FIPSE**

FIPSE is a Department of Education unit housed within the Office of Postsecondary Education. FIPSE is mandated to "improve postsecondary educational opportunities" across a broad range of concerns. FIPSE supports the implementation of innovative educational reform ideas, evaluates their value, and then shares findings with the larger education community for possible replication and/or scaling.

[www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/fipse/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/fipse/index.html)

### **FIPSE conducts a number of competitive grant competitions each year.**

The competitive discretionary grant programs for FIPSE are selective; with funding is determined utilizing peer review. The following are common characteristics of competitive grant programs:

- Projects focus on **broad postsecondary education issues or challenges** instead of on special interest groups or prescribed solutions.
- Projects address specific local initiatives; however, the applicant is tasked with proposing solutions that **have the potential for national influence**.
- **Projects are comprehensive**; addressing problems at various ranges of institutions and groups of learners.
- Projects are **action-oriented, learner-centered** and involve taking risks to pilot **new ideas, strategies or approaches** rather than basic research.

*Potential Grantees: Applicants for FIPSE competitions include a wide variety of nonprofit agencies and institutions offering education after high school, such as colleges and universities (public and private, two- and four-year, undergraduate and graduate), technical and business schools, testing agencies, professional associations, employers and unions, state and local education agencies, student organizations, cultural institutions, and community groups. FIPSE supports new as well as established organizations, but it cannot award grants to unaffiliated individuals or for-profits.*

### **FIPSE Initiatives**

1. Comprehensive Program
2. Centers of Excellence for Veteran Student Success
3. Off-Campus Community Service
4. Pilot Program for Course Material Rental
5. Training for Real time Writers
6. Congressionally-directed Grants
7. Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Programs

**Like all federal agencies, FIPSE's ability to run competitions each year is determined by congressional appropriations and program priorities that are set by Congress or the Department of Education.**

### **Flagship Program – The FIPSE Comprehensive Program**

This program supports **innovative projects** responding to issues of national and global significance. Projects funded signify possible national reform for **improving the quality of postsecondary education, increasing student success**. FIPSE also welcomes proposals for novel strategies establishing an international dimension of issues related to all aspects of postsecondary education, including foreign language acquisition, the social sciences, health sciences, and information technology.

*Potential Grantees: A wide range of non-profit providers of educational services.*

### **Centers of Excellence for Veteran Student Success**

Support for the creating model programs to support veteran student success in postsecondary education, facilitated with coordinating services addressing academic, financial, physical, and social needs of veteran students.

*Potential Grantees: Institutions of higher education.*

### **Congressionally-directed Grants**

FIPSE also manages Congressionally-directed Grants, commonly known as "earmarks." For these awards, FIPSE functions as the processing and monitoring for the Office of Postsecondary Education. These funds are provided by Congress with bill or report language directing support of projects or programs. They are non-competitive discretionary grants and do not use peer review. FIPSE is required to monitor recipients to ensure earmarked funds are used in accordance with congressional intent and applicable laws and regulations.

### **Improving Access to High Quality Education Through Institutional Development and Support**

– These initiatives help ensure that every American has access to quality higher education. Through institutional development and **support programs**, OPE's funding supports institutions serving a large proportion of disadvantaged students by building academic and administrative capacity.

### **Applicable to AHE- Student Success and Teacher Preparation Initiatives**

- Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions Program
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities Capital Finance Program
- Hispanic-Serving Institutions Stem and Articulation Program (Title III)
- Native American-Serving Non-Tribal Institutions Program
- Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities
- Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian
- Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (Title V)
- Promoting Post baccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans
- Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities Program, (Title III, Part B)

- Strengthening Historically Black Graduate Institutions Program (Title III, Part B)
- Minority Science and Engineering Improvement (Title III, Part E)
- Predominantly Black Institutions Undergraduate Discretionary Grant Program
- Predominantly Black Institutions Undergraduate Formula Grant Program
- Predominantly Black Institutions Masters Degree Program
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities Masters Degree Programs

#### **Do not fit with AHE**

- B. J. Stupak Olympic Scholarships
- College Housing and Academic Facilities Loan Program
- Annual Interest Subsidy Grants (Title VII, Higher Education Act, as amended, Title V Housing Act of 1950)

#### **Related Websites**

- <http://www.ed.gov/programs/dueshbgi/index.html>
- <http://www.ed.gov/programs/duesit3b/index.html>
- <http://www.ed.gov/programs/camp/index.html>
- <http://www.ed.gov/programs/duesmsi/index.html>
- <http://www.ed.gov/programs/dueshbgi/index.html>
- <http://www.ed.gov/programs/duesit3b/index.html>
- <http://www.ed.gov/programs/teacherqual/index.html>

#### **Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (Title V)**

This program helps eligible IHEs enhance and expand their capacity to serve Hispanic and low-income students by providing funds to improve and strengthen the **academic quality**, institutional stability, management, and fiscal capabilities of eligible institutions. Funds may be used for such purposes as **faculty development**; development and improvement of academic programs, **academic tutoring, and student support services**.

*Potential Grantees: Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs), Institutions must be designated eligible for this program, and each must meet the 25 percent undergraduate fulltime equivalent (FTE) enrollment requirement as defined in Sec. 502 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.*

#### **Strengthening Institutions (Title III)**

Provides grants for improving and strengthening the academic quality, management, and fiscal stability necessary for supporting institutional capacity building; to serve increased numbers of low-income and under-represented population's. Support for the **development of faculty and pre-service teachers**; English Language Learners and innovative **supplemental services** encouraging persistence.

*Potential Grantees: Institutions of higher education serving a substantial proportion of students receiving Federal Financial Aid. Specific sums are also available for American*

*Indian Tribally-Controlled Colleges and Universities; and for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions.*

### **Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)**

Provides grants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) for establishing or strengthening their physical plant, management capabilities, **academic resources**, and endowment-building capacity. Funds may be used for **student services**, educational equipment acquisition, facility construction, **and faculty/staff development**.

*Potential Grantees: Historically Black Colleges and Universities, as designated by law.*

### **Strengthening Historically Black Graduate Institutions**

Project awards grants to Historically Black Graduate Institutions for **improving and strengthening academic quality**, institutional management, access, and fiscal stability.

*Potential Grantees: Historically Black Graduate Institutions, as designated by law.*

### **Minority Science and Engineering Improvement**

Provides funds to foster long-range improvement in science and engineering education programs for minorities and increase the flow of underrepresented minorities, particularly minority women, into science and engineering careers.

*Potential Grantees: Institutions of Higher Education whose minority enrollment exceeds 50 percent; professional scientific societies; nonprofit science organizations; and non-minority institutions of higher education providing needed services to a group of eligible minority institutions.*

### **Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution Program**

Supports institutions of education in their effort to increase their self-sufficiency by **improving academic programs**, institutional management, and fiscal stability

*Potential Grantees: Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions of higher education*

### **Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions Program**

Supports institutions of education in their effort to increase their self-sufficiency by **improving academic programs**, institutional management, and fiscal stability

*Potential Grantees: Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions*

### **Predominantly Black Institutions Program - Formula Grants**

Makes formula grant awards to institutions **to plan, develop, undertake and implement programs to enhance the institution's capacity to serve more low- and middle-income Black American students**; to expand higher education opportunities for eligible students by encouraging college preparation and student

persistence in secondary school and postsecondary education; and to strengthen the financial ability of the institution to serve the academic needs of these students.

*Potential Grantees: Institutions of higher education that meet the definition of a Predominantly Black Institution*

### **Predominantly Black Institutions Program - Competitive Grants**

Supports the strengthening of predominantly Black institutions to carry out programs in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics; health education; internationalization or globalization; **teacher preparation**; or improving educational outcomes of African-American males through competitive grants.

*Potential Grantees: Institutions of Higher Education that meet the definition of a Predominantly Black Institution.*

### **Promoting Post baccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans**

Provides funding for projects designed to increase post baccalaureate educational opportunities and **improve academic attainment** of Hispanic students. Project goals include improving the quality of academic program offerings for institutions educating the majority of Hispanic college students; helping large numbers of Hispanic and low-income students complete postsecondary degrees.

*Potential Grantees: Institutions of Higher Education that offer a post baccalaureate certificate or degree program and qualify as eligible Hispanic-Serving Institutions*

### **Masters Degree Programs at Predominantly Black Institutions**

To improve graduate education opportunities at the master's level in mathematics, engineering, physical or natural sciences, computer science, information technology, nursing, allied health or other scientific disciplines where African American students are under-represented.

*Potential Grantees: With the enactment of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) of 2008, only five predominantly Black institutions are eligible to receive funding.*

### **Master's Degree Programs at Historically Black Colleges and Universities**

To improve graduate education opportunities at the master's level in mathematics, engineering, physical or natural sciences, computer science, information technology, nursing, allied health or other scientific disciplines where African American students are underrepresented. Funding will be provided to the institutions listed under the eligibility section.

*Potential Grantees: With the enactment of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) of 2008, 18 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) will receive funding.*

## State Service Initiatives

**Improving Teaching at All Levels** - Quality instruction is essential for student learning at all levels of education. Postsecondary institutions have been charged with the training of teachers for elementary and secondary schools. Programs contributing to "Teacher Quality" address **teacher education**; funding of Fulbright-Hays International Programs promotes quality instruction through funding of opportunities for faculty research and educational experiences abroad.

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/teacherqual/index.html>

### **Applicable to AHE- Teacher Preparation Initiative**

- College Access Challenge Grant Program
- Teachers for a Competitive Tomorrow Masters Program
- Teachers for a Competitive Tomorrow Bachelors Program
- Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant Program Loan & Erma Byrd Program Recoveries and administration of grants made before 2009
- Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program,
- The Department of Education issued grants to the states to provide scholarships to outstanding secondary school graduates who demonstrated an interest in teaching careers at the pre-school, elementary, or secondary level.

### **Do not fit with AHE**

- Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program
- Demonstration Projects to Ensure Students with Disabilities Receive a Quality Higher Education
- Intellectual Disabilities – Regular
- Intellectual Disabilities – Coop Arrangement

### **College Access Challenge Grant Program**

Fosters partnerships among federal, state, and local governments and philanthropic organizations through matching challenge grants that are aimed at increasing number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

*Potential Grantees: State Agencies*

### **Teachers for a Competitive Tomorrow**

The TCT initiative includes two types of discretionary grant programs for baccalaureate degree programs and for master's degree programs to develop and implement programs to provide integrated courses of study in science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), or critical foreign languages, and teacher education; to develop and implement two- or three-year, part-time master's degree programs in STEM or critical foreign language education for teachers; and to develop programs for professionals in STEM or

critical foreign language education that lead to a master's degree in teaching that results in teacher certification.

*Potential Grantees: An institution of higher education as defined under Section 101A of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, on behalf of a department of STEM or a critical foreign language, or on behalf of a department or school with a competency-based degree program that includes teacher certification may receive funding under this program.*

### **Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants for States** \*

Funds state efforts to improve the quality of their teaching force through comprehensive changes in state policies and **practices for teacher preparation**, licensure, certification, and professional development.

*Potential Grantees: State authorities responsible for teacher certification and preparation.*

### **Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants for Recruitment** \*

Funds efforts to recruit and prepare highly competent teachers for high-need local school districts by identifying and recruiting potential teachers and designing **high-quality teacher preparation and induction programs** tailored to the needs of the community and the teacher candidates.

*Potential Grantees: States as well as partnerships that include an institution of higher education's teacher preparation program, its school of arts and sciences, and a local high-need school district.*

### **Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants for Partnerships** \*

Supports partnerships to **improve student learning** by bringing about **fundamental change and improvement in the way teachers are prepared** for service in local high-need school districts.

*Potential Grantees: Partnerships that include a higher education institution's teacher preparation program, its school of arts and science, and a local high-need school district.*

\* The Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 made substantial changes to this program. The new Teacher Quality Partnership Program is now administered by the Department's Office of Innovation and Improvement at [www.ed.gov/programs/tqpartnership/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/programs/tqpartnership/index.html). The OPE Web site for this program is for grantees funded prior to FY 2009 with project periods ending around September 2011.