



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Reopening; Application Period for Certain Applicants Under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Program Competition

AGENCY: Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Education (Department) reopens the competition for FY 2021, for certain eligible applicants described elsewhere in this notice, under the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need program, Assistance Listing Number 84.200A. The Department takes this action to allow more time for the preparation and submission of applications by eligible applicants affected by the severe winter weather in Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas, where the President has issued a disaster declaration. The reopening of the application deadline date for this competition is intended to help affected eligible applicants compete fairly with other eligible applicants under this competition.

DATES:

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications for Applicants Meeting the Eligibility Criteria in this Notice: March 15, 2021.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: May 25, 2021.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rebecca Ell, U.S

Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, 2B214,
Washington, DC 20202-4260. Telephone: (202) 453-6348.
Email: Rebecca.ell@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) or a text telephone (TTY), call the Federal Relay Service (FRS), toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

On January 15, 2021, we published the notice inviting applications (NIA) for new awards for the FY 2021 Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need competition in the *Federal Register* (86 FR 4024). Under the NIA, applications were due on March 1, 2021.

We are reopening this competition for eligible applicants in Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas, for which the President has issued a disaster declaration, to allow those applicants more time to prepare and submit applications. For applicants that meet the eligibility criteria in this notice, we are reopening the competition until March 15, 2021. We are also extending the intergovernmental review deadline until May 25, 2021.

Eligibility: The reopening of the competition in this notice applies to eligible applicants under the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need program, Assistance Listing Number 84.200A, that are located in an area for which the President has issued an emergency declaration

(see www.fema.gov/disasters/), in Louisiana (FEMA Disaster designation 3556), Oklahoma (FEMA Disaster designation 3555), and Texas (FEMA Disaster designation 3554).

In accordance with the NIA, eligible applicants for this competition are:

(a) Any academic department of an institution of higher education (IHE) that provides a course of study that—

(i) Leads to a graduate degree in an area of national need; and

(ii) Has been in existence for at least four years at the time of an application for a grant under this competition; or

(b) An academic department of an IHE that—

(i) Satisfies the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section; and

(ii) Submits a joint application with one or more eligible non-degree-granting institutions that have formal arrangements for the support of doctoral dissertation research with one or more degree-granting institutions.

Note: All information in the NIA for this competition remains the same, except for, with respect to eligible applicants, the deadline for the transmittal of applications and the deadline for intergovernmental review.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1135-1135e.

Accessible Format: On request to the program contact person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT, individuals with disabilities can obtain this document and a copy of the application package in an accessible format. The Department will provide the requestor with an accessible format that may include Rich Text Format (RTF) or text format (txt), a thumb drive, an MP3 file, braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc, or other accessible format.

Electronic Access to This Document: The official version of this document is the document published in the *Federal Register*. You may access the official edition of the *Federal Register* and the Code of Federal Regulations at www.govinfo.gov. At this site you can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the *Federal Register*, in text or Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site.

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Tiwanda Burse,
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Management & Planning, Office of
Postsecondary Education,

*Delegated authority to perform
functions and duties of the
Assistant Secretary for the Office
of Postsecondary Education.*

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