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STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

November 4, 2002

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., Chairman

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for the 2003-2004 New and Continuation
William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Program Grants

William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Programs (Even Start), authorized through Title I, Part B, Subpart 3 of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, is designed to improve the educational opportunities of low-income families by integrating early childhood education, adult literacy or adult basic education, parenting education and parent/child interaction into a unified family literacy program. It is anticipated that the Michigan Department of Education will receive approximately \$8.9 million for 2003-2004, \$8.3 million of which must be awarded for new and continuation grants. Projects must be designed to build on community resources, and must have a primary collaboration between a school district, intermediate school district or public school academy and a non-profit community-based organization, public agency, institution of higher education, or other non-profit organization.

In accordance with the legislation, grants may be awarded for a total of four years, provided the recipient is making sufficient progress toward meeting its program objectives and state indicators. Continuation grants may not be denied without notice to the recipient and an opportunity for a hearing. Recipients may apply for a second competitive grant at the end of four years, and for a third competitive grant at the end of eight years. Recipients must demonstrate their commitment to the project by providing an increasing local match.

It is anticipated that the 34 current projects eligible for continuation in 2003-2004 will meet the criteria to be continued and that there will be sufficient funds for four to 26 new projects.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the criteria for the 2003-2004 New and Continuation William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Program Grants as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 4, 2002.

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MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Criteria for the William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Programs

The State Board of Education has adopted as its Strategic Goal "Attain substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement for all students, with primary emphasis on chronically underperforming schools." In addition, the State Board has adopted the following five Strategic Initiatives to implement the goal:

- Ensuring Excellent Educators
- Elevating Educational Leadership
- Embracing the Information Age
- Ensuring Early Childhood Literacy
- Integrating Communities and Schools

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will include priority consideration of the Strategic Goal and the Strategic Initiatives.

BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF GRANT

Competitive Formula New Continuation

The purpose of Even Start is to improve the educational opportunities of low-income families by integrating early childhood education, adult literacy or adult basic education, parenting education and parent/child interaction into a unified family literacy program. Additionally, the expectation is that the program "promote the academic achievement of children and adults" and "assist children and adults from low-income families to achieve to challenging State content standards and challenging State student achievement standards." The ultimate anticipated outcome is that the children whose families have been enrolled in Even Start will have at least an even start in their school careers, with the hope that they might experience substantial school success. Criteria were last approved by the State Board of Education in February 2001, with a minor modification approved in October 2001. Forty partnerships are operating programs during the 2002-2003 program year.

LEGISLATION

Attachment A contains the program statute. Even Start is authorized by Title I, Part B, Subpart 3 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, reauthorized under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, P.L.107-110. Specific selection criteria are referenced in Section 1238.

RATIONALE FOR CRITERIA

The State Board of Education has embraced five core strategies to ensure **substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement in chronically underperforming schools**. Even Start has a primary focus and intentional outcome of **ensuring early childhood literacy**. Comprehensive family literacy programs have been found to be an effective strategy to improve student performance. A synthesis of local evaluations of Even Start projects has found a consistent pattern of positive gains on children's preschool development (St. Pierre et al., 2000). Family literacy programs provide a setting (both in center-based and home-based models) in which parents can be supported in learning the components that lead to positive literacy development of their children. In addition, the legislation requires that a partnership be formed between a local education agency and a community-based nonprofit entity. Thus, the grants also support the State Board strategy of **integrating communities and schools**.

CRITERIA

Defined in Legislation Defined in Department's Grant Proposed by Staff

Legislation requires awards be granted to those applicants who:

- Are most likely to be successful in meeting the purpose of Even Start.
- Are most likely to be effective in implementing the required program elements.
- Propose service to an area that has a high need for the services.
- Will provide services for at least a three-year range within the ages of birth through seven.
- Demonstrate the greatest possible cooperation and coordination between a variety of relevant service providers in all phases of the program.
- Include a cost-effective budget given the scope of the project.
- Demonstrate the ability to provide the non-federal share that is required.
- Are representative of urban and rural regions of the State.
- Show the greatest promise for providing models that may be adopted by other family literacy projects and other local educational agencies.

In addition, priority must be given to viable projects that will target the population most in need as defined in statute and are located in areas designated as empowerment zones or enterprise communities.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT

A local or intermediate school district, or a public school academy, applying in partnership with a public, nonprofit, community-based agency, or institution of higher education; or nonprofit organization of demonstrated quality applying in partnership with a local education agency, is eligible to apply for a grant. Criteria approved by the SBE in October 2001 allows for urban districts to form collaborative partnerships in multiple neighborhoods and intermediate service areas to plan projects where the greatest need occurs, building on existing community resources.

Eligible participants are a parent or parents who are eligible for participation in adult education and literacy activities under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act or who are within the State's compulsory school attendance age range and their child or children, from birth through age seven.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

It is anticipated that the Michigan Department of Education will receive approximately \$8.9 million for 2003-2004, \$8.3 million of which must be awarded for new and continuation grants. It is expected that the currently operating projects eligible for continuation funding will provide the State with outcome data to support their continuance, making approximately \$2 million available for new or re-competing applicants. This is enough to fund between four and 26 new grants (minimum award is \$75,000, the maximum is \$250,000).

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT

Office of School Excellence

Director:	Sue C. Carnell	1-3592
State Even Start Coordinator	Reneé De Mars-Johnson	1-0162

107TH CONGRESS }
1st Session }

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

{ REPORT
107-334

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001

CONFERENCE REPORT

TO ACCOMPANY

H.R. 1



DECEMBER 13 (legislative day, DECEMBER 12), 2001.—Ordered to be printed

"(2) The effectiveness of the professional development program assisted under this subpart.

"(3) How early childhood teachers are being prepared with scientifically based reading research on early reading development.

"(4) What activities and instructional practices are most effective.

"(5) How prereading instructional materials and literacy activities based on scientifically based reading research are being integrated into preschools, child care agencies and programs, programs carried out under the Head Start Act, and family literacy programs.

"(6) Any recommendations on strengthening or modifying this subpart.

"Subpart 3—William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Programs

"SEC. 1231. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

"It is the purpose of this subpart to help break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy by—

"(1) improving the educational opportunities of the Nation's low-income families by integrating early childhood education, adult literacy or adult basic education, and parenting education into a unified family literacy program, to be referred to as 'Even Start'; and

"(2) establishing a program that shall—

"(A) be implemented through cooperative projects that build on high-quality existing community resources to create a new range of services;

"(B) promote the academic achievement of children and adults;

"(C) assist children and adults from low-income families to achieve to challenging State content standards and challenging State student achievement standards; and

"(D) use instructional programs based on scientifically based reading research and addressing the prevention of reading difficulties for children and adults, to the extent such research is available.

"SEC. 1232. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

"(a) RESERVATION FOR MIGRANT PROGRAMS, OUTLYING AREAS, AND INDIAN TRIBES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve 5 percent of the amount appropriated under section 1002(b)(3) (or, if such appropriated amount exceeds \$200,000,000, 6 percent of such amount) for programs, under such terms and conditions as the Secretary shall establish, that are consistent with the purpose of this subpart, and according to their relative needs, for—

"(A) children of migratory workers;

"(B) the outlying areas; and

"(C) Indian tribes and tribal organizations.

"(2) SPECIAL RULE.—After December 21, 2000, the Secretary shall award a grant, on a competitive basis, of sufficient size and for a period of sufficient duration to demonstrate the effec-

tiveness of a family literacy program in a prison that houses women and their preschool age children and that has the capability of developing a program of high quality.

"(3) COORDINATION OF PROGRAMS FOR AMERICAN INDIANS.—The Secretary shall ensure that programs under paragraph (1)(C) are coordinated with family literacy programs operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in order to avoid duplication and to encourage the dissemination of information on high-quality family literacy programs serving American Indians.

"(b) RESERVATION FOR FEDERAL ACTIVITIES.—

"(1) EVALUATION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT, AND REPLICATION ACTIVITIES.—Subject to paragraph (2), from amounts appropriated under section 1002(b)(3), the Secretary may reserve not more than 3 percent of such amounts for purposes of—

"(A) carrying out the evaluation required by section 1239; and

"(B) providing, through grants or contracts with eligible organizations, technical assistance, program improvement, and replication activities.

"(2) RESEARCH.—In any fiscal year, if the amount appropriated under section 1002(b)(3) for such year—

"(A) is equal to or less than the amount appropriated for the preceding fiscal year, the Secretary may reserve from such amount only the amount necessary to continue multi-year activities carried out pursuant to section 1241(b) that began during or prior to the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the determination is made; or

"(B) exceeds the amount appropriated for the preceding fiscal year, then the Secretary shall reserve from such excess amount \$2,000,000 or 50 percent, whichever is less, to carry out section 1241(b).

"(c) RESERVATION FOR GRANTS.—

"(1) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—For any fiscal year for which at least 1 State educational agency applies and submits an application that meets the requirements and goals of this subsection and for which the amount appropriated under section 1002(b)(3) exceeds the amount appropriated under that section for the preceding fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve, from the amount of the excess remaining after the application of subsection (b)(2), the amount of the remainder or \$1,000,000, whichever is less, to award grants, on a competitive basis, to State educational agencies to enable them to plan and implement statewide family literacy initiatives to coordinate and, where appropriate, integrate existing Federal, State, and local literacy resources consistent with the purposes of this subpart.

"(B) COORDINATION AND INTEGRATION.—The coordination and integration described in subparagraph (A) shall include coordination and integration of funds available under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Head Start Act, this subpart, part A of this title, and part A of title IV of the Social Security Act.

“(C) RESTRICTION.—No State educational agency may receive more than 1 grant under this subsection.

“(2) CONSORTIA.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—To receive a grant under this subsection, a State educational agency shall establish a consortium of State-level programs under the following provisions of laws:

“(i) This title (other than part D).

“(ii) The Head Start Act.

“(iii) The Adult Education and Family Literacy Act.

“(iv) All other State-funded preschool programs and programs providing literacy services to adults.

“(B) PLAN.—To receive a grant under this subsection, the consortium established by a State educational agency shall create a plan to use a portion of the State educational agency’s resources, derived from the programs referred to in subparagraph (A), to strengthen and expand family literacy services in the State.

“(C) COORDINATION WITH SUBPART 1.—The consortium shall coordinate its activities under this paragraph with the activities of the reading and literacy partnership for the State educational agency established under section 1203(d), if the State educational agency receives a grant under section 1202.

“(3) READING INSTRUCTION.—Statewide family literacy initiatives implemented under this subsection shall base reading instruction on scientifically based reading research.

“(4) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall provide, directly or through a grant or contract with an organization with experience in the development and operation of successful family literacy services, technical assistance to State educational agencies receiving a grant under this subsection.

“(5) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall not make a grant to a State educational agency under this subsection unless the State educational agency agrees that, with respect to the costs to be incurred by the eligible consortium in carrying out the activities for which the grant was awarded, the State educational agency will make available non-Federal contributions in an amount equal to not less than the Federal funds provided under the grant.

“(d) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY ALLOCATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appropriated under section 1002(b)(3) and not reserved under subsection (a), (b), or (c), the Secretary shall make grants to State educational agencies from allocations under paragraph (2).

“(2) ALLOCATIONS.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), from the total amount available under paragraph (1) for allocation to State educational agencies in any fiscal year, each State educational agency shall be eligible to receive a grant under paragraph (1) in an amount that bears the same ratio to the total amount as the amount allocated under part A to that State educational agency bears to the total amount allocated under that part to all State educational agencies.

“(3) MINIMUM.—No State educational agency shall receive a grant under paragraph (1) in any fiscal year in an amount that is less than \$250,000, or 1/2 of 1 percent of the amount appropriated under section 1002(b)(3) and not reserved under subsections (a), (b), and (c) for such year, whichever is greater.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—For the purpose of this subpart—

“(1) the term ‘eligible entity’ means a partnership composed of—

“(A) a local educational agency; and

“(B) a nonprofit community-based organization, a public agency other than a local educational agency, an institution of higher education, or a public or private nonprofit organization other than a local educational agency, of demonstrated quality;

“(2) the term ‘eligible organization’ means any public or private nonprofit organization with a record of providing effective services to family literacy providers, such as the National Center for Family Literacy, Parents as Teachers, Inc., the Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and the Home and School Institute, Inc.;

“(3) the terms ‘Indian tribe’ and ‘tribal organization’ have the meanings given those terms in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act;

“(4) the term ‘scientifically based reading research’ has the meaning given that term in section 1208; and

“(5) the term ‘State’ means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

“SEC. 1233. STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY PROGRAMS.

“(a) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY LEVEL ACTIVITIES.—Each State educational agency that receives a grant under section 1232(d)(1) may use not more than a total of 6 percent of the grant funds for the costs of—

“(1) administration, which amount shall not exceed half of the total;

“(2) providing, through 1 or more subgrants or contracts, technical assistance for program improvement and replication, to eligible entities that receive subgrants under subsection (b); and

“(3) carrying out sections 1240 and 1234(c).

“(b) SUBGRANTS FOR LOCAL PROGRAMS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State educational agency shall use the grant funds received under section 1232(d)(1) and not reserved under subsection (a) to award subgrants to eligible entities to carry out Even Start programs.

“(2) MINIMUM SUBGRANT AMOUNTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), no State educational agency shall award a subgrant under paragraph (1) in an amount less than \$75,000.

“(B) SUBGRANTEES IN NINTH AND SUCCEEDING YEARS.—No State educational agency shall award a subgrant under paragraph (1) in an amount less than \$52,500 to an eligible entity for a fiscal year to carry out an Even Start program that is receiving assistance under

this subpart or its predecessor authority for the ninth (or any subsequent) fiscal year.

"(C) EXCEPTION FOR SINGLE SUBGRANT.—A State educational agency may award 1 subgrant in each fiscal year of sufficient size, scope, and quality to be effective in an amount less than \$75,000 if, after awarding subgrants under paragraph (1) for that fiscal year in accordance with subparagraphs (A) and (B), less than \$75,000 is available to the State educational agency to award those subgrants.

"SEC. 1234. USES OF FUNDS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out an Even Start program under this subpart, a recipient of funds under this subpart shall use those funds to pay the Federal share of the cost of providing intensive family literacy services that involve parents and children, from birth through age 7, in a cooperative effort to help parents become full partners in the education of their children and to assist children in reaching their full potential as learners.

"(b) FEDERAL SHARE LIMITATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—

"(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Federal share under this subpart may not exceed—

"(i) 90 percent of the total cost of the program in the first year that the program receives assistance under this subpart or its predecessor authority;

"(ii) 80 percent in the second year;

"(iii) 70 percent in the third year;

"(iv) 60 percent in the fourth year;

"(v) 50 percent in the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth such years; and

"(vi) 35 percent in any subsequent year.

"(B) REMAINING COST.—The remaining cost of a program assisted under this subpart may be provided in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, and may be obtained from any source, including other Federal funds under this Act.

"(2) WAIVER.—The State educational agency may waive, in whole or in part, the Federal share described in paragraph (1) for an eligible entity if the entity—

"(A) demonstrates that it otherwise would not be able to participate in the program assisted under this subpart; and

"(B) negotiates an agreement with the State educational agency with respect to the amount of the remaining cost to which the waiver will be applicable.

"(3) PROHIBITION.—Federal funds provided under this subpart may not be used for the indirect costs of a program assisted under this subpart, except that the Secretary may waive this paragraph if an eligible recipient of funds reserved under section 1232(a)(1)(C) demonstrates to the Secretary's satisfaction that the recipient otherwise would not be able to participate in the program assisted under this subpart.

"(c) USE OF FUNDS FOR FAMILY LITERACY SERVICES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A State educational agency may use a portion of funds reserved under section 1233(a), to assist eligible entities receiving a subgrant under section 1233(b) in im-

proving the quality of family literacy services provided under Even Start programs under this subpart, except that in no case may a State educational agency's use of funds for this purpose for a fiscal year result in a decrease from the level of activities and services provided to program participants in the preceding year.

"(2) PRIORITY.—In carrying out paragraph (1), a State educational agency shall give priority to programs that were of low quality, as evaluated based on the indicators of program quality developed by the State educational agency under section 1240.

"(3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO HELP LOCAL PROGRAMS RAISE ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), a State educational agency may use the funds referred to in that paragraph to provide technical assistance to help local programs of demonstrated effectiveness to access and leverage additional funds for the purpose of expanding services and reducing waiting lists, including requesting and applying for non-Federal resources.

"(4) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.—Assistance under paragraph (1) shall be in the form of technical assistance and training, provided by a State educational agency through a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement with an entity that has experience in offering high-quality training and technical assistance to family literacy providers.

"SEC. 1235. PROGRAM ELEMENTS.

"Each program assisted under this subpart shall—

"(1) include the identification and recruitment of families most in need of services provided under this subpart, as indicated by a low level of income, a low level of adult literacy or English language proficiency of the eligible parent or parents, and other need-related indicators;

"(2) include screening and preparation of parents, including teenage parents, and children to enable those parents and children to participate fully in the activities and services provided under this subpart, including testing, referral to necessary counselling, other developmental and support services, and related services;

"(3) be designed to accommodate the participants' work schedule and other responsibilities, including the provision of support services, when those services are unavailable from other sources, necessary for participation in the activities assisted under this subpart, such as—

"(A) scheduling and locating of services to allow joint participation by parents and children;

"(B) child care for the period that parents are involved in the program provided under this subpart; and

"(C) transportation for the purpose of enabling parents and their children to participate in programs authorized by this subpart;

"(4) include high-quality, intensive instructional programs that promote adult literacy and empower parents to support the educational growth of their children, developmentally appropriate early childhood educational services, and preparation of children for success in regular school programs;

“(5) with respect to the qualifications of staff the cost of whose salaries are paid, in whole or in part, with Federal funds provided under this subpart, ensure that—

“(A) not later than December 21, 2004—

“(i) a majority of the individuals providing academic instruction—

“(I) shall have obtained an associate’s, bachelor’s, or graduate degree in a field related to early childhood education, elementary school or secondary school education, or adult education; and

“(II) if applicable, shall meet qualifications established by the State for early childhood education, elementary school or secondary school education, or adult education provided as part of an Even Start program or another family literacy program;

“(ii) the individual responsible for administration of family literacy services under this subpart has received training in the operation of a family literacy program; and

“(iii) paraprofessionals who provide support for academic instruction have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent; and

“(B) all new personnel hired to provide academic instruction—

“(i) have obtained an associate’s, bachelor’s, or graduate degree in a field related to early childhood education, elementary school or secondary school education, or adult education; and

“(ii) if applicable, meet qualifications established by the State for early childhood education, elementary school or secondary school education, or adult education provided as part of an Even Start program or another family literacy program;

“(6) include special training of staff, including child-care staff, to develop the skills necessary to work with parents and young children in the full range of instructional services offered through this subpart;

“(7) provide and monitor integrated instructional services to participating parents and children through home-based programs;

“(8) operate on a year-round basis, including the provision of some program services, including instructional and enrichment services, during the summer months;

“(9) be coordinated with—

“(A) other programs assisted under this Act;

“(B) any relevant programs under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998; and

“(C) the Head Start program, volunteer literacy programs, and other relevant programs;

“(10) use instructional programs based on scientifically based reading research for children and adults, to the extent that research is available;

"(11) encourage participating families to attend regularly and to remain in the program a sufficient time to meet their program goals;

"(12) include reading-readiness activities for preschool children based on scientifically based reading research, to the extent available, to ensure that children enter school ready to learn to read;

"(13) if applicable, promote the continuity of family literacy to ensure that individuals retain and improve their educational outcomes;

"(14) ensure that the programs will serve those families most in need of the activities and services provided by this subpart; and

"(15) provide for an independent evaluation of the program, to be used for program improvement.

"SEC. 1236. ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), eligible participants in an Even Start program are—

"(1) a parent or parents—

"(A) who are eligible for participation in adult education and literacy activities under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act; or

"(B) who are within the State's compulsory school attendance age range, so long as a local educational agency provides (or ensures the availability of) the basic education component required under this subpart, or who are attending secondary school; and

"(2) the child or children, from birth through age 7, of any individual described in paragraph (1).

"(b) ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN OTHER PARTICIPANTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Family members of eligible participants described in subsection (a) may participate in activities and services provided under this subpart, when appropriate to serve the purpose of this subpart.

"(2) SPECIAL RULE.—Any family participating in a program assisted under this subpart that becomes ineligible to participate as a result of 1 or more members of the family becoming ineligible to participate may continue to participate in the program until all members of the family become ineligible to participate, which—

"(A) in the case of a family in which ineligibility was due to the child or children of the family attaining the age of 8, shall be in 2 years or when the parent or parents become ineligible due to educational advancement, whichever occurs first; and

"(B) in the case of a family in which ineligibility was due to the educational advancement of the parent or parents of the family, shall be when all children in the family attain the age of 8.

"(3) CHILDREN 8 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER.—If an Even Start program assisted under this subpart collaborates with a program under part A, and funds received under the part A program contribute to paying the cost of providing programs under this subpart to children 8 years of age or older, the Even Start program may, notwithstanding subsection (a)(2), permit

the participation of children 8 years of age or older if the focus of the program continues to remain on families with young children.

“SEC. 1237. APPLICATIONS.

“(a) SUBMISSION.—To be eligible to receive a subgrant under this subpart, an eligible entity shall submit an application to the State educational agency in such form and containing or accompanied by such information as the State educational agency shall require.

“(b) REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION.—Each application shall include documentation, satisfactory to the State educational agency, that the eligible entity has the qualified personnel needed—

“(1) to develop, administer, and implement an Even Start program under this subpart; and

“(2) to provide access to the special training necessary to prepare staff for the program, which may be offered by an eligible organization.

“(c) PLAN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The application shall also include a plan of operation and continuous improvement for the program, that includes—

“(A) a description of the program objectives, strategies to meet those objectives, and how those strategies and objectives are consistent with the program indicators established by the State;

“(B) a description of the activities and services that will be provided under the program, including a description of how the program will incorporate the program elements required by section 1235;

“(C) a description of the population to be served and an estimate of the number of participants to be served;

“(D) as appropriate, a description of the applicant’s collaborative efforts with institutions of higher education, community-based organizations, the State educational agency, private elementary schools, or other eligible organizations in carrying out the program for which assistance is sought;

“(E) a statement of the methods that will be used—

“(i) to ensure that the programs will serve families most in need of the activities and services provided by this subpart;

“(ii) to provide services under this subpart to individuals with special needs, such as individuals with limited English proficiency and individuals with disabilities; and

“(iii) to encourage participants to remain in the program for a time sufficient to meet the program’s purpose;

“(F) a description of how the plan is integrated with other programs under this Act or other Acts, as appropriate; and

“(G) a description of how the plan provides for rigorous and objective evaluation of progress toward the program objectives described in subparagraph (A) and for continuing use of evaluation data for program improvement.

"(2) DURATION OF THE PLAN.—Each plan submitted under paragraph (1) shall—

"(A) remain in effect for the duration of the eligible entity's participation under this subpart; and

"(B) be periodically reviewed and revised by the eligible entity as necessary.

"(d) CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION.—The plan described in subsection (c)(1)(F) may be submitted as part of a consolidated application under section 9302.

"SEC. 1238. AWARD OF SUBGRANTS.

"(a) SELECTION PROCESS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The State educational agency shall establish a review panel in accordance with paragraph (3) that will approve applications that—

"(A) are most likely to be successful in—

"(i) meeting the purpose of this subpart; and

"(ii) effectively implementing the program elements required under section 1235;

"(B) demonstrate that the area to be served by the program has a high percentage or a large number of children and families who are in need of those services as indicated by high levels of poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, limited English proficiency, or other need-related indicators, such as a high percentage of children to be served by the program who reside in a school attendance area served by a local educational agency eligible for participation in programs under part A, a high number or percentage of parents who have been victims of domestic violence, or a high number or percentage of parents who are receiving assistance under a State program funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.);

"(C) provide services for at least a 3-year age range, which may begin at birth;

"(D) demonstrate the greatest possible cooperation and coordination between a variety of relevant service providers in all phases of the program;

"(E) include cost-effective budgets, given the scope of the application;

"(F) demonstrate the applicant's ability to provide the non-Federal share required by section 1234(b);

"(G) are representative of urban and rural regions of the State; and

"(H) show the greatest promise for providing models that may be adopted by other family literacy projects and other local educational agencies.

"(2) PRIORITY FOR SUBGRANTS.—The State educational agency shall give priority for subgrants under this subsection to applications that—

"(A) target services primarily to families described in paragraph (1)(B); or

"(B) are located in areas designated as empowerment zones or enterprise communities.

"(3) REVIEW PANEL.—A review panel shall consist of at least 3 members, including 1 early childhood professional, 1 adult education professional, and 1 individual with expertise in fam-

ily literacy programs, and may include other individuals, such as 1 or more of the following:

"(A) A representative of a parent-child education organization.

"(B) A representative of a community-based literacy organization.

"(C) A member of a local board of education.

"(D) A representative of business and industry with a commitment to education.

"(E) An individual who has been involved in the implementation of programs under this title in the State.

"(b) DURATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Subgrants under this subpart may be awarded for a period not to exceed 4 years.

"(2) STARTUP PERIOD.—The State educational agency may provide subgrant funds to an eligible recipient, at the recipient's request, for a 3- to 6-month start-up period during the first year of the 4-year grant period, which may include staff recruitment and training, and the coordination of services, before requiring full implementation of the program.

"(3) CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY.—In awarding subgrant funds to continue a program under this subpart after the first year, the State educational agency shall review the progress of each eligible entity in meeting the objectives of the program referred to in section 1237(c)(1)(A) and shall evaluate the program based on the indicators of program quality developed by the State under section 1240.

"(4) INSUFFICIENT PROGRESS.—The State educational agency may refuse to award subgrant funds to an eligible entity if the agency finds that the eligible entity has not sufficiently improved the performance of the program, as evaluated based on the indicators of program quality developed by the State under section 1240, after—

"(A) providing technical assistance to the eligible entity; and

"(B) affording the eligible entity notice and an opportunity for a hearing.

"(5) GRANT RENEWAL.—(A) An eligible entity that has previously received a subgrant under this subpart may reapply under this subpart for additional subgrants.

"(B) The Federal share of any subgrant renewed under subparagraph (A) shall be limited in accordance with section 1234(b).

"SEC. 1239. EVALUATION.

"From funds reserved under section 1232(b)(1), the Secretary shall provide for an independent evaluation of programs assisted under this subpart—

"(1) to determine the performance and effectiveness of programs assisted under this subpart;

"(2) to identify effective Even Start programs assisted under this subpart that can be duplicated and used in providing technical assistance to Federal, State, and local programs; and

"(3) to provide State educational agencies and eligible entities receiving a subgrant under this subpart, directly or through a grant or contract with an organization with experience in the

development and operation of successful family literacy services, technical assistance to ensure that local evaluations undertaken under section 1235(15) provide accurate information on the effectiveness of programs assisted under this subpart.

“SEC. 1240. INDICATORS OF PROGRAM QUALITY.

“Each State educational agency receiving funds under this subpart shall develop, based on the best available research and evaluation data, indicators of program quality for programs assisted under this subpart. The indicators shall be used to monitor, evaluate, and improve those programs within the State. The indicators shall include the following:

“(1) With respect to eligible participants in a program who are adults—

“(A) achievement in the areas of reading, writing, English-language acquisition, problem solving, and numeracy;

“(B) receipt of a secondary school diploma or a general equivalency diploma (GED);

“(C) entry into a postsecondary school, job retraining program, or employment or career advancement, including the military; and

“(D) such other indicators as the State may develop.

“(2) With respect to eligible participants in a program who are children—

“(A) improvement in ability to read on grade level or reading readiness;

“(B) school attendance;

“(C) grade retention and promotion; and

“(D) such other indicators as the State may develop.

“SEC. 1241. RESEARCH.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out, through grant or contract, research into the components of successful family literacy services, in order to—

“(1) improve the quality of existing programs assisted under this subpart or other family literacy programs carried out under this Act or the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act; and

“(2) develop models for new programs to be carried out under this Act or the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act.

“(b) SCIENTIFICALLY BASED RESEARCH ON FAMILY LITERACY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts reserved under section 1232(b)(2), the National Institute for Literacy, in consultation with the Secretary, shall carry out research that—

“(A) is scientifically based reading research; and

“(B) determines—

“(i) the most effective ways of improving the literacy skills of adults with reading difficulties; and

“(ii) how family literacy services can best provide parents with the knowledge and skills the parents need to support their children’s literacy development.

“(2) USE OF EXPERT ENTITY.—The National Institute for Literacy, in consultation with the Secretary, shall carry out the research under paragraph (1) through an entity, including a Federal agency, that has expertise in carrying out longitudinal

studies of the development of literacy skills in children and has developed effective interventions to help children with reading difficulties.

“(c) DISSEMINATION.—The National Institute for Literacy shall disseminate, pursuant to section 1207, the results of the research described in subsections (a) and (b) to State educational agencies and recipients of subgrants under this subpart.

“SEC. 1242. CONSTRUCTION.

“Nothing in this subpart shall be construed to prohibit a recipient of funds under this subpart from serving students participating in Even Start simultaneously with students with similar educational needs, in the same educational settings where appropriate.

“Subpart 4—Improving Literacy Through School Libraries

“SEC. 1251. IMPROVING LITERACY THROUGH SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

“(a) PURPOSES.—The purpose of this subpart is to improve literacy skills and academic achievement of students by providing students with increased access to up-to-date school library materials, a well-equipped, technologically advanced school library media center, and well-trained, professionally certified school library media specialists.

“(b) RESERVATION.—From the funds appropriated under section 1002(b)(4) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve—

“(1) 1/2 of 1 percent to award assistance under this section to the Bureau of Indian Affairs to carry out activities consistent with the purpose of this subpart; and

“(2) 1/2 of 1 percent to award assistance under this section to the outlying areas according to their respective needs for assistance under this subpart.

“(c) GRANTS.—

“(1) COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—If the amount of funds appropriated under section 1002(b)(4) for a fiscal year is less than \$100,000,000, then the Secretary shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible local educational agencies under subsection (e).

“(2) FORMULA GRANTS TO STATES.—If the amount of funds appropriated under section 1002(b)(4) for a fiscal year equals or exceeds \$100,000,000, then the Secretary shall award grants to State educational agencies from allotments under subsection (d).

“(3) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—In this section the term ‘eligible local educational agency’ means—

“(A) in the case of a local educational agency receiving assistance made available under paragraph (1), a local educational agency in which 20 percent of the students served by the local educational agency are from families with incomes below the poverty line; and

“(B) in the case of a local educational agency receiving assistance from State allocations made available under paragraph (2), a local educational agency in which—

“(i) 15 percent of the students who are served by the local educational agency are from such families; or