

TITLE

Determine effectiveness of online land surveying education through its associated minor and Certificate mechanisms

AGENCY

Land Surveying Program, University of Wyoming

ACTION

Notice

SUMMARY

The Land Surveying Program (LSP), University of Wyoming (UW), is issuing notice inviting applications for new awards for academic calendar year 2023-2024, for the evaluation and approved information collection regarding the effectiveness of the current online land surveying education program.

DATES

Applications Available: June 1, 2023

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: August 15, 2023

Deadline for Department Review: September 15, 2023

ADDRESSES

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I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

Purpose of Program: The Land Surveying program is providing a grant to eligible responders to help evaluate and expand the understanding of the effectiveness of the land surveying program to provide the academic side of licensure.

Priorities: The Land Surveying program is providing a grant to eligible responders to help evaluate and expand the understanding of the effectiveness of the land surveying program to provide the academic side of licensure.

Competitive Preference Priority 1—Tutoring, Counseling, and Student Service Programs (up to 5 points).

Background: The LSP is critical to the Department's efforts to provide education for students who are pursuing licensure. In recent years, attention to the importance of other supports, such as mental health, food pantries, and childcare, among others, to student persistence and graduation rates has affected this majority pool of nontraditional students. Through this priority we encourage responders to develop and/or create internal support systems and/or provide guidance on ways to enhance and/or develop systems of support that provide wrap around services to students and promote retention. These services can be provided to newly admitted students or to existing students in the program.

Priority: Projects designed to provide tutoring, counseling, and student service programs designed to improve academic success, including innovative, customized, instruction courses designed to help retain students and move the students rapidly into core courses and through program completion, which may include remedial math and technical writing instruction.

Competitive Preference Priority 2—Fostering Flexible and Affordable Paths to Obtaining Knowledge and Skills (up to 3 points).

Background: One of the top expectations of students who attend postsecondary education is that they will gain the knowledge and skills necessary to get a job. Higher education institutions are intended to be graduating students with the skills and competencies that their businesses need. To ameliorate gaps between academia and real world experiences, institutions are encouraged to provide their students employability-related experiences. This respondent needs to evaluate this programs effectiveness in dealing with these differences.

Demonstrates a rationale means a key project component included in the program's logic model is informed by research or evaluation findings that suggest the project component is likely to improve relevant outcomes.

In-demand industry sector or occupation means—

(a) *In General.*—(i) An industry sector that has a substantial current or potential impact (including through jobs that lead to economic self-sufficiency and opportunities for

advancement) on the State, regional, or local economy, as appropriate, and that contributes to the growth or stability of other supporting businesses, or the growth of other industry sectors; or

(ii) An occupation that currently has or is projected to have a number of positions (including positions that lead to economic self-sufficiency and opportunities for advancement) in an industry sector so as to have a significant impact on the State, regional, or local economy, as appropriate.

(B) *Determination*.— The determination of whether an industry sector or occupation is in-demand under this paragraph shall be made by the State board or local board, as appropriate, using State and regional business and labor market projections, including the use of labor market information.

Logic model (also referred to as theory of action) means a framework that identifies key project components of the proposed project (*i.e.*, the active “ingredients” that are hypothesized to be critical to achieving the relevant outcomes) and describes the theoretical and operational relationships among the key project components and relevant outcomes.

Project component means an activity, strategy, intervention, process, product, practice, or policy included in a project. Evidence may pertain to an individual project component or to a combination of project components.

Relevant outcome means the student outcome(s) or other outcome(s) the key project component is designed to improve, consistent with the specific goals of the program.

Note: Projects will be awarded and must be operated in a manner consistent with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in Federal civil rights laws.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Discretionary grants. One-year Individual Development Grants will be awarded in academic year 2023-2024.

Estimated Available Funds: \$45,000.

Contingent upon the availability of funds and the quality of applications, we may make additional awards in subsequent years from the list of unfunded applications from this competition.

Individual Development Grants:

Estimated Range of Awards: \$20,000-\$45,000 per year.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$42,500 per year.

Maximum Award: We will not make an award exceeding \$45,000 for a single budget period of 12 months.

Estimated Number of Awards: 2.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: Up to 12 months.

III. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants:

(a) Be a sole proprietorship or corporation licensed to do business by the Secretary of State of Wyoming whom has determined to be a reliable authority as to the evaluating the quality of education or training offered;

(b) Be legally authorized by the State of Wyoming as a Land Surveying Business in which it has a Surveyor of Record to do analysis of which this request is made.

Note: If you are a nonprofit organization, you may demonstrate your nonprofit status by providing: (1) Proof that the Internal Revenue Service currently recognizes the applicant as an organization to which contributions are tax deductible under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; (2) a statement from a State taxing body or the State attorney general certifying that the organization is a nonprofit organization operating within the State and that no part of its net earnings may lawfully benefit any private shareholder or individual; (3) a certified copy of the applicant's certificate of incorporation or similar document if it clearly establishes the nonprofit status of the applicant; or (4) any item described above if that item applies to a State or national parent organization, together with a statement by the State or parent organization that the applicant is a local nonprofit affiliate.

c. Administrative Cost Limitation: This program does not include any program-specific limitation on administrative expenses. All administrative expenses must be reasonable and necessary

IV. Application and Submission Information

1. Application Submission Instructions: Applicants are required to submit in full, their applications by the due dates listed at the beginning of this document.

2. Recommended Page Limit: The application narrative is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. We recommend that you limit the application narrative to no more than 50 pages for Individual Development Grants. If you are addressing one or both competitive preference priorities, we recommend that you limit your response to no more than an additional five pages total, three additional pages for Competitive

Preference Priority 1 and two additional pages for Competitive Preference Priority 2. Please include a separate heading when responding to one or both competitive preference priorities. We also recommend that you use the following standards:

- A “page” is 8.5” x 11”, on one side only, with 1” margins at the top, bottom, and both sides.
- Double space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.
- Use a font that is either 12 point or larger, and no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch).
- Use one of the following fonts: Times New Roman, Courier, Courier New, or Arial.

The recommended page limit does not apply to the cover sheet; the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; the assurances and certifications; or the one-page abstract. However, the recommended page limit does apply to all of the application narrative.

V. Application Review Information

1. *Selection Criteria:* Applicants should address each of the following selection criteria separately for each proposed activity. The selection criteria are worth a total of 100 points; the maximum score for each criterion is noted in parentheses.

(a) *Quality of the Applicant's Comprehensive Development Plan.* (Maximum 20 Points) The extent to which—

(1) The strengths, weaknesses, and significant problems of the institution's land surveying courses and programs, institutional management, and fiscal stability are clearly and comprehensively analyzed and result from a process that involved major constituencies of the institution;

(2) The goals for the institution's academic programs, institutional management, and fiscal stability are realistic and based on comprehensive analysis;

(3) The objectives stated in the plan are measurable, related to institutional goals, and, if achieved, will contribute to the growth and self-sufficiency of the institution; and

(4) The plan clearly and comprehensively describes the methods and resources the institution will use to institutionalize practice and improvements developed under the proposed project, including, in particular, how operational costs for personnel, maintenance, and upgrades of equipment will be paid with institutional resources.

(b) *Quality of the Project Design.* (Maximum 15 Points) The panel considers the quality of the design of the proposed project. In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the panel considers the extent to which the proposed project demonstrates a rationale (as defined in this notice).

(c) *Quality of Activity Objectives.* (Maximum 16 Points) The extent to which the objectives for each activity are—

- (1) Realistic and defined in terms of measurable results; and
- (2) Directly related to the problems to be solved and to the goals of the comprehensive development plan.

(d) *Quality of Implementation Strategy.* (Maximum 15 Points) The extent to which—

- (1) The implementation strategy for each activity is comprehensive;
- (2) The rationale for the implementation strategy for each activity is clearly described and is supported by the results of relevant studies or projects; and
- (3) The timetable for each activity is realistic and likely to be attained.

(e) *Quality of Key Personnel.* (Maximum 8 Points) The extent to which—

- (1) The past experience and training of key professional personnel are directly related to the stated activity objectives; and
- (2) The time commitment of key personnel is realistic.

(f) *Quality of Project Management Plan.* (Maximum 10 Points) The extent to which—

- (1) Procedures for managing the project are likely to ensure efficient and effective project implementation; and
- (2) The project coordinator and activity directors have sufficient authority to conduct the project effectively, including access to the president or chief executive officer.

(g) *Quality of Evaluation Plan.* (Maximum 10 Points) The extent to which—

- (1) The data elements and the data collection procedures are clearly described and appropriate to measure the attainment of activity objectives and to measure the success of the project in achieving the goals of the comprehensive development plan; and
- (2) The data analysis procedures are clearly described and are likely to produce formative and summative results on attaining activity objectives and measuring the success of the project on achieving the goals of the comprehensive development plan.

(h) *Budget.* (Maximum 6 Points) The extent to which the proposed costs are necessary and reasonable in relation to the project's objectives and scope.

2. Review and Selection Process: We remind potential applicants that in reviewing applications in any discretionary grant competition, the panel may consider, the past performance of the applicant in carrying out a previous award, such as the applicant's use of funds, achievement of project objectives, and compliance with grant conditions. The panel may also consider whether the applicant failed to submit a timely performance report or submitted a report of unacceptable quality.

In addition, in making a competitive grant award, the panel requires various assurances, including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities.

A panel of three licensed reviewers will review and score each application in accordance with the selection criteria. A rank order funding slate will be made from this review. Awards will be made in rank order according to the average score received from the peer review and from the two competitive preference priorities.

In tie-breaking situations for development grants, we award one additional point to an application that has expenditures for library materials per enrolled student in one or more of the following activities—

- (1) Faculty development;
- (2) Funds and administrative management;
- (3) Development and improvement of academic programs;
- (4) Acquisition of equipment for use in strengthening management and academic programs;
- (5) Joint use of facilities; and
- (6) Student services.

3. Risk Assessment and Specific Conditions: Before awarding grants under this program the Department conducts a review of the risks posed by applicants. In appropriate circumstances, high-risk conditions on a grant if the applicant or grantee is not financially stable; has a history of unsatisfactory performance; has a financial or other history shown to not be responsible, this applicant may be eliminated.

4. Integrity and Performance System: If you are selected under this competition to receive this award, all information obtained through this process will need to remain confidential and may not be used outside of the institution.

VI. Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices: If your application is successful, we notify your representative listed on the documents. We may notify you informally, also.

If your application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we notify you.

2. *Open Licensing Requirements:* Unless an exception applies, if you are awarded a grant under this competition, you will be required to openly license to the public grant deliverables created in whole, or in part, with Department grant funds.

4. *Reporting:* (a) If you apply for a grant under this competition, you must ensure that you have in place the necessary processes and systems to comply with the reporting requirements.

(b) At the end of your project period, you must submit a final performance report, including financial information, as directed by the panel.

5. *Performance Measures:* The following performance measures will be used in assessing the effectiveness this award:

(a) The percentage change, over the five-year period, of the number of Certificate-seeking students enrolled in the LSP. Note that this is a long-term measure that will be used to periodically gauge performance.

(b) The percentage of graduates taking 0-12 credit hours who take the Land Surveying Intern Exam from NCEES within 6 months of attending UW.

(c) The percentage of graduates taking 13-24 credit hours who take the Land Surveying Intern Exam from NCEES within 6 months of attending UW.

(d) The percentage of graduates taking 26-32 credit hours who take the Land Surveying Intern Exam from NCEES within 6 months of attending UW.

(e) The percentage of past students taking and passing the State Specific Professional Land Surveying Exams in their home states within three years of attending UW.