



First in the World 2015 Grant Competition

Introductory Webinar

April 2015

Welcome

- Today's focus: **Planning** for your First in the World (FITW) application, including
 - what to **propose** to implement
 - with whom to **collaborate**
- The “big picture”: **First in the World is different** than most grant programs, so it will take more planning and preparation by applicants

Outline of Webinar

1. Use of evidence in Dept. of Education programs
2. How First in the World is different than most grant programs
3. 2015 competition
4. Finding and using evidence to shape your intervention
5. Building evidence through project evaluations
6. Takeaway messages

Part 1

Use of Evidence in Department of Education Grant Programs

Use of Evidence in ED Programs

- Goal of ED evidence efforts: Strengthening outcomes for students by **focusing grant dollars** on what works and **building evidence** of what works
- Incentives to:
 - Implement evidence-based strategies
 - Conduct rigorous project evaluations
- Examples:
 - Investing in Innovation (i3)
 - Strengthening Institutions Programs (SIP)
 - Student Support Services Programs (SSS)
 - First in the World (FITW)

Part 2

How First in the World is Different from Traditional Grant Programs

First in the World Purpose

- Address important challenges in higher education by building evidence about what works
- Goal = spur innovations and test them, on increasingly larger scale to see if they show positive results in wider set of contexts
- Longer-term, hope to identify a range of practices that are widely effective and can be adopted by institutions across the United States.

First in the World Unique Features

- Proposed activities need to have evidence-based rationale → required evidence on the “front end”
- Focuses not on providing institutional support, but on identifying effective strategies that can be disseminated → conduct rigorous, independent evaluation on the “back end”
- Promotes cross-institutional collaboration

First in the World Grants / Evidence

- In general, ED makes development, validation and scale-up grants under First in the World
- **Development** grants are the smallest and require the lowest level of evidence; **Validation** and **Scale-up** grants are larger and require higher levels of evidence
- For more information about First in the World grant tiers and evidence requirements, see the [Notice of Proposed Priorities](#) (NPP).

Notice of Proposed Priorities = Federal Register



Proposed Rule

Proposed Priorities, Requirements, Selection Criterion, and Definitions-First in the World Program

A Proposed Rule by the [Education Department](#) on 02/23/2015



ACTION Proposed Priorities, Requirements, Selection Criterion, And Definitions.

SUMMARY The Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education proposes priorities, requirements, a selection criterion, and definitions under the First in the World (FITW) Program. The Assistant Secretary may use these priorities, requirements, selection criterion, and definitions for FITW competitions in fiscal year (FY) 2015 and later years. These priorities, requirements, selection criterion, and definitions would enable the Department to focus the FITW program on identified barriers to student success in postsecondary education and advance the program's purpose to build evidence for what works in postsecondary education through development, evaluation, and dissemination of innovative strategies to support students who are at risk of failure in persisting in and completing their postsecondary programs of study.

← Previous Document
Next Document →

LEGAL DISCLAIMER

Font Controls + - A A

PDF DEV

PRINT

PUBLIC INSPECTION

Publication Date:

Monday, February 23, 2015

Agency:

Department of Education

Dates:

We must receive your comments on or before March 25, 2015.

Comments Close:

03/25/2015

Part 3

2015 First in the World Competition

2015 FITW Competition

- \$60 million available
- \$16 million set aside for Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs)
- Projects selected for funding will be the highest quality from the total applicant pool
- Anticipated Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) is May 2015. Closing date June 2015

2015 First in the World Competition

- Priorities for this competition will be announced in 2015 Notice Inviting Applications in May.
- In any First in the World competition, we choose priorities from the First in the World Notice of Final Priorities (NFP) or from Secretary's Supplemental Priorities.
- The Notice of Final Priorities, to be published in May, finalizes the priorities established in Notice of Proposed Priorities published in February.

2015 First in the World Competition

First in the World Notice of Proposed Priorities

- Improving Success in Developmental Education
- Improving Teaching and Learning
- Improving Student Support Services
- Developing and Using Assessments of Learning
- Facilitating Pathways to Credentials and Transfer
- Increasing the Effectiveness of Financial Aid
- Implementing Low-Cost, High-Impact Strategies to Improve Student Outcomes
- Improving Postsecondary Student Outcomes at Minority Serving Institutions
- Systems and Consortia Focused on Large-Scale Impact

Notice Inviting Applications, Notice of Final Priorities, and Application Materials www2.ed.gov/programs/fitw



U.S. Department of Education



Student Loans

Grants

Laws

Data

PROGRAMS

FIRST IN THE WORLD

› Purpose	• Funding Status
• Eligibility	• Laws, Regs, & Guidance
• Applicant Info	• Resources
• Awards	• FAQs
• Performance	• Contacts

Office of Postsecondary Education Home >>

Purpose

Program Office: Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education

CFDA Number: 84.116F

Program Type: Discretionary/Competitive Grants

Also Known As: FITW

Program Description

The First in the World (FITW) Program will provide grants to institutions of higher education to spur the development of innovations that improve educational outcomes and make college more affordable for students and families, and to develop an evidence base of effective practices. Institutions of higher education or consortia of such institutions are eligible applicants for FITW grants. We encourage applicants to partner with public and private institutions and agencies that can assist the applicant to achieve the goals of the project.

What's New

Federal Register Notice: **Proposed Priorities, Requirements, Selection Criterion, and Definitions**

The **FY 2014 directory of grantees and project abstracts** are available.

How Do I Find...

- Student loans, forgiveness
- College accreditation
- No Child Left Behind
- FERPA
- FAFSA
- 1098-E Tax Form
- 2015 Budget Proposal

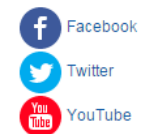
[More >](#)

Information About...

- Transforming Teaching
- Family and Community Engagement
- Early Learning
- K-12 Reforms

[More >](#)

Connect



[More >](#)

Related Topics

• **No Related Topics Found**

Printable view [SHARE](#)

Last Modified: 04/08/2015

Part 4

Finding and Using Evidence to Shape your Intervention

Finding Evidence

- Need to know research literature, regardless of which type of grant applying for
- A resource for evidence: What Works Clearinghouse: <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/>
- See “reviewed studies” page: <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/ReviewedStudies.aspx>

Home > Inside the WWC



10,639 Reviewed studies

A **study** is an evaluation that examines whether a program, product, practice, or policy is effective. We review studies using our rigorous research standards to find the high quality research that provides evidence of effectiveness.

Find a study reviewed by the WWC

▼ ▼

▼ ▼

Find what we based on the evidence.

Handy Defi

- ▼ study
- ▼ study rating
- ▼ meets WWC group c standards without reservations
- ▼ meets WWC group c standards with reservations
- ▼ does not meet WWC group design standa

See the full glossa

Using Evidence

- Shape a cohesive intervention
- For grants requiring the submission of research studies:
 - Stick as closely as possible to the intervention in the study you cite
 - Some modifications are ok, but be judicious, so the research evidence you cite in application remains relevant to your approach

Part 5

**Need to Build Evidence (Evaluate)
will Shape your Intervention and
Require Outside Expertise**

Intervention must be “evaluable”

- Can have multiple components, but they need to fit together into a coherent whole
- Needs to be expected to influence the outcomes of a specific set of students
- Possible to describe/replicate, so it can be disseminated if found effective

Evaluation Expertise

- Ideally your independent evaluator should have knowledge of What Works Clearinghouse standards and experience carrying out studies that can meet standards
- If you use an outside evaluator, consider providing “apprenticeship” opportunity for less experienced in-house faculty researchers

Takeaway Messages

Jump Start your Planning

- What to implement – review First in the World Notice of Proposed Priorities for information on grant tiers and evidence requirements
- Whom to implement it with – will you partner with other institutions? Which ones? How will that influence the intervention?
- Which evaluator – getting the right expertise, deciding when to bring on board

Thank you

