

**PREPARING STUDENTS WITH
INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION
PROGRAMS (IEPS) FOR LIFE IN THE
COMMUNITY, INTEGRATED
EMPLOYMENT, AND
POST-SCHOOL SUCCESS
17-BC33-H03**

Bill Freeman
Office of Special Education Programs
New Jersey Department of Education
2015-2016 School Year



NJDOE Support for this NGO

On this Webinar:

Bill Freeman, Office of Special Education Programs

- Program Officer for this NGO (and primary point of contact)
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The NGO Document:

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/grants/gropgs.shtml>
click on "All Currently Available Grant Opportunities"

click on "Preparing Students with IEPs for Life in the Community, Integrated Employment, and Post-School Success"



Agenda

1. Purpose and funding
2. Eligibility and school awards
3. Application overview
4. Individual application elements
5. Evaluation process
6. Timelines
7. Q & A



Our Goals

- 1) Provide a summary of key technical assistance points with respect to this grant application and program
 - Note: these points are addressed comprehensively in the NGO document
- 2) Answer select questions as they come up, or at the end of the session...



NGO Purpose & Funding

NGO p. 7

- Year 1 funding: IDEA Part B (Federal), \$1,000,000



NGO Purpose & Funding

The State goal of this program is to increase the number of students with disabilities prepared for the transition from school to adult life by:

NGO p. 11

- 1. Establishing a model program for students with disabilities aged 16 to 21 by implementing transition-focused services within the participating students' local community, based on each student's Individualized Education Program (IEP); and
- 2. Providing appropriate services such as person-centered planning, and community-based instruction during age-appropriate activities such as integrated, competitive employment, adult education classes including college courses, public transportation utilization, shopping, and recreational activities with peers without disabilities.



Eligibility and Number of Awards

Eligibility to apply: NGO p. 5

- Open to LEAs (including Charter Schools) that serve special education high school students aged 16 through age 21
- LEAs that do not meet the minimum service level may partner with another LEA in order to meet the required service level
- A minimum of 6 students aged 16-21 with disabilities must be served



Eligibility and Number of Awards

LEAs are encouraged to develop partnership agreements with other entities to provide services within the LEA's local community to meet the needs of students in the program:

- Neighboring LEAs
- Supported employment providers NGO p. 5
- Local colleges
- Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities
- Approved clinics and agencies

LEAs receiving this grant may not partner with entities that:

- Provide subminimum wage employment (e.g. sheltered workshops)
- Provide services outside of the students' local community



Eligibility and Number of Awards



Expected Number of Awards: NGO p. 7

- Total funds for the first project period are \$1,000,000
- It is anticipated that 3 awards will be made
- Each applicant may apply for up to \$333,333 in the first project period which is September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017



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Application Overview, up to the budget forms

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Application Overview – Budget Forms

- For comprehensive technical assistance on “Constructing the Budget”, visit:
http://www.state.nj.us/education/grants/discretionary/apps/ta_budget/
- This webpage includes:
 - 1) Sample Budget Forms
 - 2) Forty-six slide comprehensive technical assistance for grant preparation




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Individual Application Elements



- Project Abstract
- Statement of Need
- Project Description
- Goals/Objectives, Indicators
- Project Activity Plan
- Organizational Commitment and Capacity
- Budget
- **Additional Reference: Pre-Award Manual For Discretionary Grants**
<http://www.nj.gov/education/grants/discretionary/apps/>

NGO p. 14-19



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Individual Application Elements

Project Abstract (for the full three-year program period)

Do NGO p. 14

1. Write the Project Abstract last as a summary of the entire proposed project
2. Make it succinct, brief, and interesting

Don't

1. Include information in the abstract that is not supported elsewhere in your application

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Individual Application Elements

Statement of Need NGO p. 14

- 1) Provide information regarding your program's current status, per the instructions at the bottom of NGO page 14
- 2) Provide documentation to substantiate the stated conditions and/or needs
 - For example, demographics, test data, descriptions of target population(s), student data, personnel data, and research
- 3) Do not attempt to address problems that are beyond the scope of the grant program

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Individual Application Elements

Project Description NGO p. 15

- Describe in a detailed narrative **the complete three year project design** and plan for implementing the project
- Provide assurance that the strategies or activities are of sufficient quality and scope
- Provide evidence that the project is appropriate and will be successful
- Your narrative must address the 6 bulleted points on page 15 of the NGO

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Individual Application Elements

Goals, Objectives, Indicators NGO p. 15-16

Identify:

- 1) **Goals** – what the school wants to achieve that is consistent with the State goal
- 2) **Objectives** – how the school will achieve it
 - a. Results-oriented, and relevant to the selected goal
 - b. Measurable, achievable, and realistic
 - c. Identify the “*who, what and when*” of the proposed project
- 3) **Indicators** – how the school will measure success
 - a. Construct measurable indicators of success that directly link to and support project objectives

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Individual Application Elements

Project Activity Plan (for the current Year 1 grant period) NGO p. 16

- Outline the steps to be taken for each identified objective
- The form includes fields for:
 - Implementation activity
 - Person(s) responsible
 - Note titles, not names
 - Do not note the project director as the person responsible for all activities
 - Documentation
 - Report period: use the 3 report periods shown on page 9 of the NGO

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Individual Application Elements

Organizational Commitment & Capacity (for the application as a whole) NGO p. 16-17

- Explain why the project being proposed is important to the LEA
- Describe:
 - The commitment to addressing the needs identified
 - Experience the LEA has had in implementing similar types of projects
 - How previous experiences will ensure successful implementation of the proposed project
- All organizational resources that will support successful project implementation

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Individual Application Elements


Project Abstract
Statement of Need
Project Description
Goals, Objectives, Indicators
Project Activity Plan
Organizational Commitment & Capacity
Budget

Budget NGO p. 17-19

Reminder: specific budget technical assistance is available here:

http://www.state.nj.us/education/grants/discretionary/apps/ta_budget/

- The budget period is September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017
- Review the eligible costs vs. ineligible costs
 - 1) All costs must be reasonable, necessary, and directly allocable to the program
 - 2) Work with your district Business Administrator
 - 3) TPAF = 16.8%
 - 4) FICA = 7.65%



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Evaluation Process

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Members of a reader panel evaluate each application, according to the following point system:

Application Component	Point Value
STATEMENT OF NEED	10
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	25
GOALS, OBJECTIVES and INDICATORS	20
PROJECT ACTIVITY PLAN (Year One)	25
ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITMENT AND CAPACITY	15
BUDGET (Year One)	5
TOTAL	100

Scores of 65 or greater are eligible.



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Timelines

- Application Due - June 9, 2016, 4:00PM
- Applications Reviewed and Scored - June 2016
- Awards Announced – July 2016
- Pre-Award Revisions – Summer 2016
- Program Start – September 1, 2016
