

**Questions regarding the 08-09 ITQ RFP
September 4, 2008**

- 1. In past competitions, the Statement of Demonstrated Effectiveness has been required for non-profit applicants. Is the Statement required of all applicants this year, or does that section still apply only to non-profit applicants?**

The requirements have not changed, as the wording is identical to what appeared in the prior ITQ RFP. The requirement applies only to non-profit partners of applicants.

- 2. Page 11 of the RFP indicates that applicants should use their institution's indirect cost rate, but that preference will be given to proposals that propose an indirect cost rate of 8% or lower. I just wanted to double-check and confirm that it is OK to use our institution's federally negotiated rate (45.5% of salaries and wages). We are typically restricted to an indirect rate of 8% of modified total direct costs for U.S. Department of Education training grants, and since the ITQ grants are federal flow-through funds, I just wanted to make sure that I understood that section correctly.**

The federal guidelines for the ITQ funds operated by THEC make it clear that these dollars do not fall under the restricted indirect cost rate.

That being said, they allow states to limit the amount of indirect costs adopting selection criteria that focus on a higher education institution's (and their partners) to reduce the indirect costs that it otherwise might claim. We chose to adopt selection criteria that will favor applicants who reduce their indirect costs. So, while you may propose a higher rate, it may result in the proposal not being funded, in favor of an application that proposes a more modest indirect cost rate.

- 3. Professors at my institution want to make sure that their projects are serving school systems that meet the eligibility criteria, and they are very interested in serving counties that may have been underserved in previous competitions. Would it be possible to get a listing of which high-need LEAs were served by projects funded over the past two years? I checked the website but couldn't find this type of information. If you have any of this data available, it would be most helpful in ensuring that we target LEAs who need ITQ services the most.**

The listing of high-need LEAs is found as an attachment to the RFP (p. 25 of the RFP).

As you know, the criteria in the RFP requires that LEAs meet poverty criteria as well as criteria around highly qualified teachers. For the current RFP, we will be looking only at the poverty designation for determining high need LEAs and we will not be including consideration over a district's percentage or number of highly qualified teachers. Thus, the appendix in the back of the RFP with counties designated as meeting the poverty criteria

(20% of the students served by the district are in poverty or 10,000 or more students served by the district are in poverty) will be the sole criteria for determining a high need LEA.

- 4. I notice that the period of performance for the ITQ grants is January 1-December 31. In the past, we had this same period, but were not allowed to spend any funds after September 30. Does this rule still apply with this RFP? I cannot find any mention of that in this year's notice.**

For the 08-09 grants, you will have 12 months to expend the funds.

- 5. Are proposals that address Preschool teachers allowable?**

Yes, Pre-K through 12th grade are the target grades. Proposals that address pre-school teachers are definitely allowable.

- 6. Why are public institutions not allowed to count teachers in their FTE if they receive tuition and fee waivers for ITQ courses that are offering credit hours?**

This restriction on public institutions no longer applies. An institution's base FTE is what is utilized for funding formula purposes, without any FTEs excluded from the count. Therefore, any teachers participating in an ITQ course for credit would be included in the institution's based FTE. This language was leftover from previous formula models and was included in the current RFP in error.

This correction to the RFP applies to both General competition and Capacity Building competition grant proposals.

- 7. If my institution's organizational structure does not conform with the exact language of the eligible partnership, are we still eligible to apply?**

Two examples:

- a. the education department is under the College of Arts and Sciences, rather than being a separate college.**

It does not matter where exactly the education school is located within the university or college, as long as you have one partner from the education school and an additional partner from the college of arts and sciences (the core content specialist).

- b. The content expertise is coming out of the College of Agricultural Sciences instead of the College Arts and Sciences.**

If the official partner is not the college of arts and sciences, then it is important that whatever college is serving as the official partner offers a degree in one of the core content areas (as opposed to just offering classes).