Center of Excellence in Spatial Computing

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Notice Inviting Applications

- https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/09/22/2022-20474/applications-for-new-awards-center-of-excellence-in-spatial-computing-grant-program

- The Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) is the official document governing this competition. The NIA includes all definitions, criteria, priorities, and requirements.

Program Purpose

- The Center of Excellence in Spatial Computing Grant Program provides funding to eligible institutions of higher education (IHEs) to increase the number of highly qualified Americans available for hire within the high-tech labor pool.
- Institutions interested in applying for the CESC grant program are expected to teach, improve, and disseminate spatial computing knowledge and skills required to increase the number of highly qualified Americans available for hire within the high-tech labor pool.

Estimated Award Size

- **Estimated Available Funds:** $1,980,000
- **Estimated Range of Awards:** $990,000 to $1,980,000
- **Maximum Award:** We will not make an award exceeding $1,980,000 for the entire project period of 36 months.
- **Estimated Number of Awards:** 1 – 2

Important Dates:

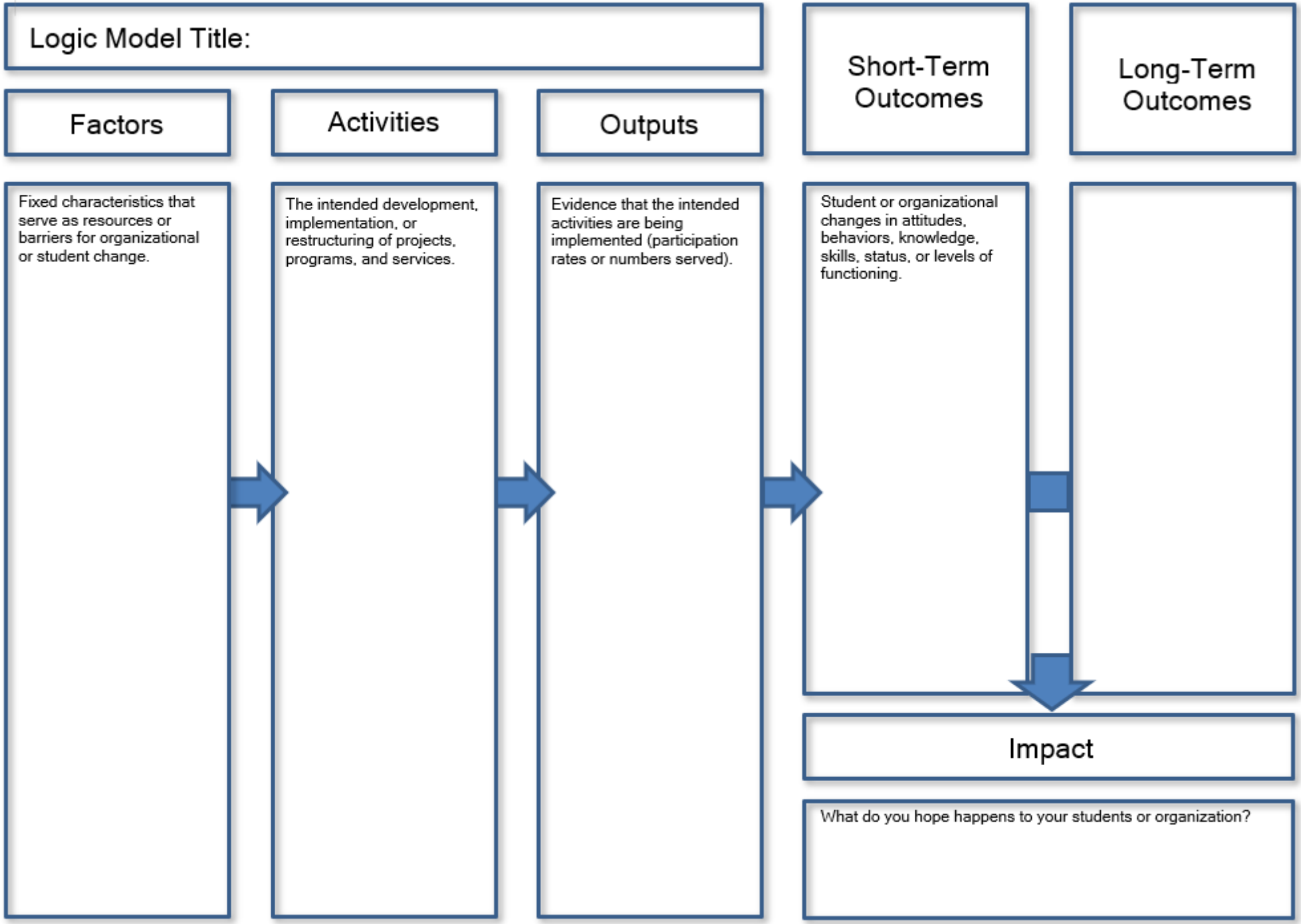
- **Applications Available:** September 22, 2022
- **Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:** November 7, 2022
- **Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:** December 6, 2022

Program Requirements

- **Eligibility**
  - A consortium of public and private nonprofit IHEs that includes at least one Historically Black College or University (HBCU), Tribally Controlled College and University (TCCU), or other Minority-Serving Institution (as defined in the notice).
- **Absolute Priority**
  - There is one priority, and it is an absolute priority. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), we consider only applications that meet the priority.
- **Competitive Preference Priority**
  - There is a competitive preference priority. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i), we award up to an additional 10 points to an application, depending on how well the application meets the priority.

Program Requirements

- **Demonstrates a Rationale**
  - Demonstrates a rationale means a key project component included in the project's logic model is informed by research or evaluation findings that suggest the project component is likely to improve relevant outcomes.
- **Logic Model**
  - Each proposal must include a logic model (or a theory of action).
  - The logic model will identify key project components of the proposed project and describe the theoretical and operational relationships among the key project components and relevant outcomes.
  - NOTE: In developing logic models, applicants may want to use resources such as the Pacific Education Laboratory's Logic Model Application (https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/rel/products/resource/100677).


Logic Model Title:
Factors
Activities
Outputs
Short-Term Outcomes
Long-Term Outcomes
Fixed characteristics that serve as resources or barriers for organizational or student change.
The intended development, implementation, or restructuring of projects, programs, and services.
Evidence that the intended activities are being implemented (participation rates or numbers served).
Student or organizational changes in attitudes, behaviors, knowledge, skills, status, or levels of functioning.
Impact
What do you hope happens to your students or organization?

Absolute Priority

- This priority is an absolute priority. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), we consider only applications that meet the priority.
- To be considered for a grant under this absolute priority, an eligible institution must include in its application—
  a) The member IHEs that constitute the consortium that will support the advancement of spatial computing;
  b) A description of how best practices and curricula will be evaluated and shared with computer science and other relevant programs;
  c) A description of how the consortium will establish leadership and competitiveness in spatial computing, including how it will promote innovative processes for domestic manufacturing of spatial computing technology products;
  d) A description of how the consortium will create educational and work placement opportunity programs to recruit, train, and retain underrepresented populations in the technology sector; and
  e) A description of how the consortium will develop case studies and skill-based workforce training and company-based education programs in spatial computing.

Competitive Preference Priority

- This priority is a competitive preference priority. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i), we award up to an additional 10 points to an application, depending on how well the application meets the priority.
- The priority is:
  - *Leveraging Industry Partnerships to Provide Job-Embedded Experiences for Students in Spatial Computing Technologies* (up to 10 points).
    - Projects that are designed to increase the proportion of underrepresented students with the skill sets necessary to meet industry demands in spatial computing by providing high-quality, paid, job-embedded opportunities that could potentially lead to stackable credentials in the field.

Selection Criteria Summary

- The selection criteria for this competition are from 34 CFR 75.210. The points assigned to each criterion are indicated in the parentheses next to the criterion. An application may earn up to a total of 100 points based on the selection criteria. Applications may receive up to 10 additional points under the competitive preference priority, for a total score of up to 110 points. All applications will be evaluated based on the selection criteria as follows:
  a) Significance (Maximum 25 points)
  b) Quality of Project Design (Maximum 45 points)
  c) Quality of Project Personnel (Maximum 10 points)
  d) Adequacy of Resources (Maximum 5 points)
  e) Quality of Management Plan (Maximum 5 points)
  f) Quality of the Project Evaluation (Maximum 10 points)

Significance
(Maximum 25 points)

- (1) The Secretary considers the significance of the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the significance of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:
  - (i) The extent to which the proposed project is likely to yield findings that may be utilized by other appropriate agencies and organizations. (up to 5 points)
  - (ii) The extent to which the proposed project involves the development or demonstration of promising new strategies that build on, or are alternatives to, existing strategies. (up to 10 points)
  - (iii) The importance or magnitude of the results or outcomes likely to be attained by the proposed project, especially improvements in teaching and student achievement. (5 points)
  - (iv) The extent to which the results of the proposed project are to be disseminated in ways that will enable others to use the information or strategies. (up to 5 points)

Quality of the Project Design
(Maximum 45 points)

- (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the design of the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:
  - (i) The extent to which the proposed project is part of a comprehensive effort to improve teaching and learning and support rigorous academic standards for students. (up to 10 points)
  - (ii) The extent to which the proposed activities constitute a coherent, sustained program of training in the field. (up to 10 points)
  - (iii) The extent to which the proposed project is designed to build capacity and yield results that will extend beyond the period of Federal financial assistance. (up to 10 points)
  - (iv) The extent to which the proposed project represents an exceptional approach to the priority or priorities established for the competition. (up to 10 points)
  - (v) The extent to which the proposed project demonstrates a rationale (as defined in this notice). (up to 5 points)

Quality of Project Personnel
(Maximum 10 points)

- (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the quality of project personnel, the Secretary considers the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.

Adequacy of Resources
(Maximum 5 points)

- (1) The Secretary considers the adequacy of the resources for the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the adequacy of resources for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the adequacy of support, including facilities, equipment, supplies, and other resources, from the applicant organization or the lead applicant organization.

Quality of the Management Plan
(Maximum 5 points)

- (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the extent to which the time commitments of the project director and principal investigator and other key project personnel are appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives of the proposed project.

Quality of the Project Evaluation
(Maximum 10 points)

- (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the evaluation to be conducted of the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the quality of the evaluation, the Secretary considers the following factors:
  - (i) The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the proposed project. (up to 5 points)
  - (ii) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes. (up to 5 points)

Tiebreakers:

- In the event there are two or more applications with the same final score in the rank order listing, and there are insufficient funds to fully support each of these applications, the Department will apply the following procedure to determine which application or applications will receive an award:
  - ***First Tiebreaker:*** The first tiebreaker will be the highest average score for the selection criterion "Quality of the Project Design." If a tie remains, the second tiebreaker will be utilized.
  - ***Second Tiebreaker:*** The second tiebreaker will be the highest average score for the selection criterion "Significance." If a tie remains, the third tiebreaker will be utilized.
  - ***Third Tiebreaker:*** The third tiebreaker will be the highest average score for the selection criterion "Project Evaluation." If a tie remains, the fourth tiebreaker will be utilized.
  - ***Fourth Tiebreaker:*** The fourth tiebreaker will be the highest average score for the competitive preference priority. If a tie remains, the fifth tiebreaker will be utilized.
  - ***Fifth Tiebreaker:*** The fifth tiebreaker will be the consortium with the highest percentage of Pell Grant students enrolled at the time of application.

Grants.Gov

- All applications must be submitted via www.grants.gov.
- Please visit the Grants.Gov site (HTTPS://www.grants.gov/) for guides and instruction on application submission, under applicants.

Questions and Program Contact

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