Frequently Asked Questions

Below are some of the most frequently asked questions regarding the World Language Readiness and Advancement Program Grant Opportunity. After reviewing the April 1, 2021 Pre-Recorded Webinar regarding this funding opportunity, please review this document for an additional FAQs and responses. Should school districts have any further questions after reviewing this document, please contact dodeagrants@dodea.edu.

***Questions are in black font*** *and* ***DoDEA responses are in blue***

QUESTION: What kind of responses do you think you will get from JROTC schools?

RESPONSE: This is a competitive process which is currently open. DoDEA cannot estimate how many applications to expect, nor do we make any assumptions, since this grant competition is a congressional pilot.

QUESTION: Out of the local education agencies (LEAs) that submit proposals, how many LEAs will be awarded grant money?

RESPONSE: All awards are contingent on the availability of funding, so no assumptions can be made about how many schools will be awarded, because we make no assumptions about how many districts will apply (see above response).

QUESTION: How does the scoring work for the grants that are going to be reviewed?

RESPONSE: All the information for this announcement can be found on grants.gov under the related documents tab in the instructions to include the review process.

QUESTION: Is English as a second language a part of the program as well?

RESPONSE: English as a second language is NOT approved for this opportunity.

QUESTION: Can the LEA submit more than one application (one per school) or should it be one application for all interested schools?

RESPONSE: LEAs can only submit one application. Only the schools that meet the eligibility requirement (Section IV.A of the funding announcement – under the related documents tab) are considered for funding. LEAs can elect to target all eligible schools in their district or only focus on a particular grade or school.

QUESTION: Is the $3M maximum amount per school or per LEA?

RESPONSE: $3M is the total amount of funding for any application – it is NOT a per school amount.

QUESTION: Do the high schools that are interested in applying for this grant have to have an JROTC program at their school?

RESPONSE: No, the high schools that are applying do not have to have a JROTC at their specific school; however, there must be a JROTC unit within a high school in the applying LEA. Please refer to the related documents tab, instructions document, Section IV.A “Eligible Applicants” which states: “Eligible school(s) must have a 10 percent or greater military-connected student enrollment for school year (SY) 2019-20. Eligible school(s) must be a part of a LEA which currently hosts a unit of the Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (JROTC) in one of their local high schools.”

QUESTION: Our LEA collects data on military-connected students on a volunteer basis, so the information is incomplete. Is there another option for data you would accept for this eligibility requirement?

RESPONSE: Specifically, Section IV.A “Eligible Applicants” in the funding announcement instructions states for eligibility (2 criteria) to include the following: “For the purposes of this announcement, a military-connected student is defined as an elementary or secondary school student who is: (i) a dependent of a member of the Armed Forces; (ii) a dependent of a civilian employee of the Department of Defense; or (iii) a dependent of a person who is not a member of the Armed Forces or a civilian employee of the Department of Defense but who is employed on Federal property.” The applicant will need to ensure that the LEA is able to verify the enrollment status eligibility for application.

QUESTION: Is there an official notice of funding opportunity where application criteria and guidelines are available?

RESPONSE: The funding announcement (or notice of funding opportunity) can be found on Grants.gov at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=331931> . Please ensure to read the “Funding Opportunity Instructions” “World Language Advancement and Readiness Program BAA\_FINAL.pdf” file under the related documents tab for all information regarding this announcement (to include application criteria and guidelines).

QUESTION: Python, C++, Java, and Java Script are used worldwide and are considered languages. Would our school district’s application be disqualified if those languages were our focus?

RESPONSE: The approved languages for this grant opportunity can be found in the funding opportunity instructions under the related documents tab at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=331931>. When opening the instructions please visit APPENDIX C: Foreign languages identified on the DoD Strategic Language List to find the approved languages. American Sign Language (ASL) is also included as an option under this announcement. Python, C++, Java, and Java Script are not considered approved world languages for this funding opportunity.

QUESTION: Do you know if this grant will be available next year?

RESPONSE: The World language readiness and advancement grant is a congressional pilot program. DoDEA will be instructed by Congress if any further world languages opportunities will become available. At this time, DoDEA has not been instructed if this program will be available next year.

QUESTION: Is there a required font size for the tables included in the narrative?

RESPONSE: There is no required font size for the tables included in the narrative; however, the preferred size and font is 12-point font and Times New Roman.

QUESTION: For the Project Planning Year and Project Implementation Year sections, do you include the table in Appendix D (Planning and Implementation Plan Template) in both sections? Or, is it appropriate to include the table in only one section and refer the reviewer to that table for additional corresponding information?

RESPONSE: We suggest including the table in the narrative in the project planning year and/or Project Implementation Year section(s) – we leave the determination to the applicant where it should fit in the narrative.

QUESTION: Can an organization or higher education apply for this grant opportunity?

RESPONSE: DoDEA’s authority is to share resources with public schools; therefore, only US Public School Districts (PK-12) are eligible to apply for this opportunity. School districts can consider working with higher education or organizations to provide applicable services to meet strategies and initiatives of this award (e.g., professional development, etc.). Please refer to the related documents tab on the announcement and click the funding opportunity instructions document at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=331931> for further information.

QUESTION: Are the eligibility guidelines negotiable? For example, if our school district has 9.6% military connected can we round up and be considered for award?

RESPONSE: No, the guidelines for eligibility are not negotiable as it is the specific language for our grant authority and for the congressional funding for this program.

QUESTION: What's the definition of a military-connected school?

RESPONSE: The definition for a military-connected student is as follows: “For the purposes of this announcement, a military-connected student is defined as an elementary or secondary school student who is: (i) a dependent of a member of the Armed Forces; (ii) a dependent of a civilian employee of the Department of Defense; or (iii) a dependent of a person who is not a member of the Armed Forces or a civilian employee of the Department of Defense but who is employed on Federal property.”

QUESTION: I am a language teacher and would like to apply for this grant opportunity. Am I eligible to apply?

RESPONSE: No, grant eligibility is for U.S. Public School Districts (on behalf of eligible schools) and not individuals or specific teachers. Teachers will, however, be a critical component of implementation for any awarded school district to successfully achieve their programmatic goals.

QUESTION: What is the definition of “federal property” as outlined under the eligibility criteria for military-connected student enrollment?

RESPONSE: Federal property as defined in US Code Section § 107e means "federal property" as any building, land, or other real property owned, leased, or occupied by any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States (including the Department of Defense and the United States Postal Service), or any other instrumentality wholly owned by the United States, or by any department or agency of the District of Columbia or any territory or possession of the United States.

QUESTION: The funding announcement states 10% the student population served must be military (or related as explained). Can we use our district percentage of population, or do we need to drill down to the specific schools themselves?

RESPONSE: The percentage for eligibility is at the school level, not the district level.

QUESTION: Does the evaluator need to be an outside source, or can we use our in-district data coordinator?

RESPONSE: No, the evaluator must be an outside entity and NOT a district employee. Your data coordinator should work with your designated Project Director to supply the evaluator with data.

QUESTION: Can only schools with JROTC program apply?

RESPONSE: No, this grant opportunity is not for just schools with JROTCs (elementary schools would not have a JROTC program; however, the grant is open to elementary and secondary students). The eligibility states that eligible schools must have a JROTC unit in one of the schools in their district (this does not have to be the eligible school, but at least a school in the district). The only school specific qualification is that the schools included in the grant must have at least 10% military-connected student population.

QUESTION: Are school districts allowed to use grant funds for staffing allocations?

RESPONSE: Yes, the district can be use funds for staffing allocations.

QUESTION: Can school districts use grant funds to expand our immersion program?

RESPONSE: Yes, the funds can be used to expand immersion programs.

QUESTION: If this project supports middle school(s), does the feeder high school require a JROTC program? Or would the middle school need to have a JROTC program as well?

RESPONSE: The eligibility requirement is to have a JROTC program in any one of the schools in the district.

QUESTION: Can we use funding to build on STARTALK?

RESPONSE: Yes, funding can be used to build on STARTALK.

QUESTION: As grants will be awarded by September 30, 2021, could the grant funding provide for a start in the 2022-2023 school year?

RESPONSE: The first year of any awarded DoDEA grant is a planning year; therefore, any awarded grant will plan for the implementation of their goals and strategies the first year of award. School Year 2022-2023 would be the first implementation year where school districts should be working toward grant goal success.

QUESTION: Are you able to clarify the types of school districts which may apply for the two grant application types?

RESPONSE: The eligibility requirements for the grant opportunity can be found in the “related documents” tab of the grant announcement <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=331931> in the funding opportunity instructions file document.

QUESTION: I am unable to submit our school district application via workspace on Grants.gov? Can you assist?

RESPONSE: Grants.gov is not a DoDEA-centric system but rather a system used throughout the federal government for federal agency grant announcements. DoDEA is unable to assist applicants with submission issues. Please contact the Grants.gov support desk for assistance at 1.800.518.4726 or via email at support@grants.gov