



Date: October 3, 2005

To: Ohio Gifted Education Coordinators and Superintendents of Public School Districts

From: ODE Gifted Education Staff

Re: Application for Addition Gifted Identification Supplementary Funding for Special Projects to Address "Disproportionality" in Gifted Education Services

Enclosed is an application for additional funding to pilot and evaluate strategies to reduce disproportionality among students identified as gifted and students receiving gifted education services.

Application information:

- Completed applications must be received by the Office for Exceptional Children by November 18, 2005. Submit four (4) copies.
- It is expected that the number of applications will exceed the number of projects that can be funded. Therefore, the application process will be competitive.
- The maximum amount of additional identification funding that will be awarded is \$25,000 per year for the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 school years. Funding for 2006-2007 is contingent on the availability of funds and successful completion of 2005-2006 activities, and is not guaranteed.

The following items have been included in this mailing to assist you with the application process:

- Project description
- Eligibility criteria
- Project activity requirements
- Application requirements
- Cover page, budget sheet, and required assurances forms

If you have any questions, please contact Eric Calvert, Gifted Services Consultant, Office for Exceptional Children, at (614) 466-2650 or eric.calvert@ode.state.oh.us.

EC

Brief Description:

The purpose of this project is to assist Ohio public school districts in local efforts to develop, adopt, and evaluate innovative practices for identifying students from populations underrepresented among students identified as gifted (e.g. economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, students from underrepresented ethnic groups, and students with limited English proficiency.)

Background

In Ohio and nationally, students from certain groups are significantly underrepresented among students identified as gifted. ODE has adopted as a major priority the reduction and elimination of “achievement gaps” between students from different ethnic and economic groups. Accomplishing this goal will require addressing the needs of minority students, students with disabilities, and economically disadvantaged students at all levels of ability. Innovative efforts to employ strategies for reducing “disproportionality” in gifted education guided by research will be required to close achievement gaps and ensure appropriate learning opportunities for all students, regardless of family income, ethnicity, native language, or disability status.

Project Details:

Ohio public school districts are eligible to apply for additional “gifted identification supplementary funds” for two years over and above the gifted identification supplementary funds allocated based on district average daily membership (ADM.) These funds are to be used to develop and evaluate new policies, practices, and staff development initiatives related to the identification of gifted students from one or more populations significantly underrepresented among students identified as gifted.

As funds are limited, school districts will be selected to receive additional funding through a competitive review process. The maximum amount allocated to any district will be \$25,000 per year for up to two years.

Project funds may be used for the following expenses:

- **Testing materials.** Testing instruments from the ODE list of instruments approved for gifted screening and identification. This can include camera equipment used exclusively for memorializing visual arts exhibitions/demonstrations.
- **Scoring services.** Cost of having tests scored.
- **Contracting services.** Services needed for administration of tests, including non-staff school psychologist, data input of test scores, and clerical duties associated with the identification of students who are gifted. May include contract services for the purpose of staff development.
- **Staff development.** Cost of staff development, including travel stipend and substitute reimbursement costs for conferences, training, and courses needed to implement the

identification of students who are gifted. May include gifted identification research materials, books, and/or videos.

- **Equipment.** To be used for the implementation, scoring, and storage of tests used for the identification of students who are gifted. Includes personal computer, video camera, and filing cabinets.

Please note that these funds are subject to the same restrictions as the general gifted identification supplementary funds. Therefore, project funds may not be used to pay for salaries, stipends or benefits for district employees. However, project funds may be used to pay for contracted services with organizations (including ESCs and institutions of higher education) and individuals who are not regular employees of the school district.

Eligibility Criteria:

A limited number of districts will be selected through a competitive process to receive additional funding to develop new policies and practices designed to reduce disproportionality in the district student population identified as gifted.

Priority will be given to districts that meet the following criteria:

- Are currently in good standing in regards to compliance with requirements in ORC 3324.01-.07 and OAC 3301-15-15.
- Serve communities that include a significant population of students from one or more groups currently underrepresented among students identified as gifted in Ohio. Specifically, these groups include Black Non-Hispanic students, Hispanic students, American Indian/Native American students, economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and students with limited English proficiency.
- Have a population of students identified as gifted in which one or more of the above groups is significantly underrepresented.
- Demonstrate a strong commitment to reducing achievement gaps between groups of students and reducing disproportionality among the population of students identified as gifted and provided with appropriate services.
- Demonstrate adequate capacity to successfully complete all project requirements.

Educational Service Centers (ESCs) are not eligible to apply for funding under this project. ESCs may collaborate with school districts in implementing and evaluating projects, and staff at ESCs may be identified as members of the project team. However, an Ohio public school district must serve as the fiscal agent for the project.

District Project Activities

1. Assemble a district project team to study current relevant state and national research related to the identification of gifted students from the target population(s) selected, collect and analyze relevant district and community data, and conduct an evaluation

study of the impact of the district's efforts related to this project. The district team should include at least one member from each of the following categories of staff:

- Gifted coordinator and/or gifted intervention specialist
- School psychologist and/or guidance counselor
- District level administrator (e.g. Curriculum Director, Assistant Superintendent, etc.)
- Building level administrator (e.g. Principal)
- Elementary (K-6) teacher
- Secondary (7-12) teacher

Additionally, districts that propose projects related to the identification of gifted students with disabilities must include at least one special education staff member. Districts that propose projects related to the identification of students with limited English proficiency must involve a staff member or external consultant with an endorsement in bilingual education or teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL.)

2. Develop a detailed action plan based on the preliminary action plan to be included with the application. All action plans must include plans for the provision of professional development opportunities related to identifying and serving gifted students from the target population(s) for regular education teachers, administrators, and relevant support staff. All action plans must also include strategies for providing appropriate gifted services to students from the target population(s) identified as gifted as a result of this project.

Additional action plan steps may include one or more of the following:

- Comparing and evaluating the appropriateness of individual tests from the ODE List of Approved Gifted Screening/Assessment Instruments for use in the identification of gifted students from the target population(s) selected.
- Providing and evaluating the effectiveness of pre-screening interventions to potentially gifted students from the target population(s) designed to help them perform to their full potential when screened for possible gifted identification.
- Creating and distributing alternate/translated forms of district documents related to gifted identification (e.g. "SI," "II," "PB-3," nomination forms, etc.) designed to improve communication with parents with limited English proficiency.
- Developing and providing programs for parents of potentially gifted students from the target population(s) designed to help them support the intellectual and artistic development of their children to increase the likelihood that their children will perform to their full potential when screened for possible gifted identification.

3. Develop a detailed project evaluation plan. Project evaluation plans should address:

- Strategies for assessing the impact of the implementation of the action plan.
 - Strategies for assessing the staff time and resources required for implementing the action plan in comparison to the district's current gifted screening and assessment practices.
4. Submit a detailed action plan, revised budget, and project evaluation plan to ODE by April 15, 2006.
 5. Submit a Final Expenditure Report for funds spent or encumbered from the beginning of the project through June 30, 2006 by September 1, 2006.
 6. Provide relevant professional development opportunities for district staff.
 7. Implement the action plan and project evaluation plan.
 8. Host a district site visit by ODE staff and other interested educators OR participate in a structured videotaped panel discussion involving the district project team and other relevant individuals during the spring of 2007.
 9. Submit a project evaluation report including the products of the project evaluation plan to ODE by June 30, 2007 suitable for online publication.
 10. Submit a Final Expenditure report for funds spent or encumbered between July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 by September 1, 2007.

Application Requirements:

Cover Page:

Complete the cover page form provided and attach to the completed application. (See

Section 1: Need for Project

- Identify one or more populations of students currently underrepresented among students identified as gifted this project will address.
- Describe the student demographics of the school district, including:
 - the number of students from the target population(s) enrolled in the district;
 - the percentage of students enrolled in the district who are members of the target population(s);
 - the number and percentage of district students identified as gifted,
 - the number and percentage of students identified as gifted who are members of the target population(s);
 - the number and percentage of students identified as gifted currently receiving gifted services;

- and the number and percentage of students identified as gifted currently receiving gifted services who are members of the target population(s).
- Describe current barriers to identifying gifted students from the target population(s) selected.
- Briefly describe the district's current gifted identification practices and continuum of gifted services.
- Describe expected benefits to the district and the state if the district's proposal would be implemented.

(Maximum Section 1 Length: 5 pages.)

Section 2: Preliminary Project Description

- Provide a preliminary action plan for addressing the underrepresentation of students from the target population(s) in the district's gifted services.
- Provide a preliminary plan for providing professional development opportunities to district staff designed to help ensure successful implementation of the action plan.
- Provide a preliminary plan for evaluating the impact of the implementation of the action plan and assessing costs associated with implementing the action plan.

(Maximum Section 2 Length: 5 pages.)

Section 3: Capacity to Implement

- Provide evidence that the district has the capacity to successfully implement the preliminary action plan and evaluation plan.
- Provide a list of the names and titles staff who will be members of the project team.
- Provide brief summaries of the relevant background and experiences of project members, or attach curriculum vitas of project members to the application.
- Identify a member of the project team to serve as the project coordinator. (The project coordinator will be the primary point of contact between the school district and ODE.) Describe the relevant background and experiences of the project coordinator.

(Maximum Section 3 Length: 3 pages.)

Section 4: Budget

- Complete preliminary budget forms for fiscal year 2006 and fiscal year 2007 using the budget forms provided. (Please note that districts selected for funding will be required to submit revised budget forms and final expenditure reports for each year of the project.)
- Provide a narrative explanation of costs shown on the preliminary budget forms.

(Maximum Section 4 Length: 3 pages, not including the preliminary budget summary forms.)

Submission Instructions:

To be eligible for consideration, applications must be **received** by the ODE Office for Exceptional Children by November 18, 2005. ODE will notify applicants of their funding status by December 9, 2005.

Please send **4** complete copies of the application to:

Eric Calvert
Office for Exceptional Children
25 S. Front St., Mail Stop 205
Columbus, OH 43215-418

Appendices:

Cover Page Form: Page 10

Assurances Form: Page 11

Budget Forms: Pages 12-13

COVER PAGE:
APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS ON GIFTED IDENTIFICATION
OFFICE FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN, OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Project Target Population(s): _____

Amount Requested for 2005-2006: _____ **Amount Requested for 2006-2007:** _____

PROJECT COORDINATOR INFORMATION

Project Coordinator: _____ **Telephone:** _____

Fax Number: _____ **E-mail Address:** _____

Employer: _____ **County:** _____

Address: _____
(Number and Street) (City) (Zip Code)

SCHOOL DISTRICT INFORMATION

Name of School District: _____ **IRN:** _____

Address: _____
(Number and Street) (City) (Zip Code)

County: _____ **Telephone:** _____

The undersigned certify that, to the best of their knowledge, the information in this application is correct and complete, and that if this project is approved, the assurances to the Ohio Department of Education will be executed, the operation will comply with the current federal and state law and regulations, and the district will make a good faith effort to successfully complete the project requirements.

District Treasurer: _____
(Type/Print Name) (Signature)

District Superintendent: _____
(Type/Print Name) (Signature)

APPROVAL - FOR ODE USE ONLY

Signature: _____ **Project Number:** _____ - _____ - _____

Amount Approved: \$ _____ **Date Approved:** _____

Assurances

The applicant hereby assures the State Superintendent of Public Instruction that:

1. The control of funds provided under this Title, and Title to property derived therefrom, shall be in a public agency for the uses and purposes provided in this Title, and that a public Agency will administer such property and funds and apply them only for the purposes for which they are provided.
2. The applicant will submit the Final Expenditure Report within 60 days after termination of the funded activities and such other reports to the State Educational Agency as may be necessary to enable the agency to perform its duties. The applicant will keep such records and afford such access thereto, as the State Education Agency may find necessary to assure the correctness and verification of such reports.
3. All activities funded with Gifted Education Funds will be implemented in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Administrative Code.
4. The applicant assures that Gifted Education Funds provided will be expended to carry out the activities approved in this application.

I CERTIFY that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this application is correct and complete.

Signature of Superintendent

Date

Typed Name of Superintendent

Project Budget FY 2007(2006-2007 School Year)

FOR ODE USE ONLY	
APPROVED	
Date _____	By _____

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. SCHOOL DISTRICT/AGENCY: _____ B. COUNTY: _____
 C. PROJECT NUMBER: _____ (Will be completed by ODE if approved)
 E. U.S.A.S. No.: 499 F. O.D.E. PROGRAM OFFICE: Exceptional Children
 G. CHECK ONE: Federal State Local Match
 H. CHECK ONE: Initial Project Revised Project Initial Carryover Revised Carryover

2. BUDGET

FUNCTION OBJECT	INSTRUCTION	SUPPORT SERVICES	ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	FISCAL/BUSINESS SERVICES	OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE	PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	SUPPORT/FOOD SERVICES	NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS	FACILITIES/ CONSTRUCTION SERVICES	TOTAL
	1000	2100-2200	2400	2500-2600	2700	2800	2900-3100	3200	5000	J
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	
SALARIES 100										\$ -
RETIREMENT FRINGE BENEFITS 200										\$ -
PURCHASED SERVICES 400										\$ -
SUPPLIES 500										\$ -
CAPITAL OUTLAY 600										\$ -
CAPITAL OUTLAY (REPLACEMENT) 700										\$ -
OTHER 800										\$ -
TOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

3. PROGRAM APPROVAL:

Signature of Superintendent/CEO

Date

Name of Superintendent/CEO (Typed)
District/Agency Address: _____

Telephone _____ Ext. _____

4. FISCAL APPROVAL:

Signature of Treasurer/CFO

Date

Name of Treasurer/CFO (Typed)
Address (if different) _____

Telephone _____ Ext. _____
FAX Number _____
E-mail: _____