Investing in Innovation Fund
October 2009

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recently announced the Department of Education’s (DOE) proposed priorities for grants under the $650 million Investing in Innovation Fund (i3 grants). The i3 grants are part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and are directed toward individual school districts or groups of school districts and entrepreneurial nonprofits partnering with school districts. Although states are not eligible to apply, there may be ways in which states could assist districts or consortia with their grant applications.

Key Points from Proposed Priorities:

- Grants will be awarded in three categories
  - Scale-up Grants - Up to $50MM award: Focused on programs and practices with the potential to reach hundreds of thousands of students; applicants must have strong evidence that their program has had a significant effect on improving student achievement.
  - Validation Grants - Up to $30MM award: Existing, promising programs that have good evidence of their impact and are ready to improve their evidence base while expanding in their own and other communities.
  - Development Grants - Up to $5MM/award: Designed to support new and high-potential practices whose impact should be studied further.

- Applicants must demonstrate their previous success in closing achievement gaps, improving student progress toward proficiency, increasing graduation rates, or recruiting and retaining high-quality teachers and principals.

- Grant recipients will be required to demonstrate 20% private sector matching funding.

- DOE plans to publish a final application in early 2010 and accept proposals in the spring. All money under the program will be obligated by September 30, 2010.

Additional Resources:
Help when you need it:
Contact the ECS Information Clearinghouse at (303) 299-3675. Staff members will help answer your questions and provide information you need during these times of incredible change.

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