

FISCAL YEAR 2003-04 (FY 2004) SLIVER GRANT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Program Description and Purposes:

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Amendments of 1997 provide for subgrants to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) for capacity building and improvement activities. Capacity building and improvement grants are funded annually as a part of the IDEA Section 611 formula set-aside for state-level activities and are referred to as Sliver grants.

Sliver grants may be awarded either competitively or on a targeted basis to LEAs to assist them in providing direct services and in making systemic change to improve results for children with disabilities through one or more of the following:

1. Direct services, including alternative programming for children who have been expelled from school, and services for children in correctional facilities, children enrolled in State-operated or State-supported schools, and children in charter schools.
2. Addressing needs or carrying out improvement strategies identified in the State Improvement Plan.
3. Adopting promising practices, materials, and technology, based on knowledge derived from education research and other sources.
4. Establishing, expanding or implementing interagency agreements and arrangements between LEAs and other agencies concerning the provision of services to children with disabilities and their families.
5. Increasing cooperative problem-solving between parents and school personnel and promoting the use of alternative dispute resolution.

States may establish priorities in the awarding of Sliver grants.

State Priorities for Fiscal Year 2004:

The Arkansas Department of Education has established two (2) Priorities for Sliver grants to be awarded in FY 2004.

Priority #1: Final year funding of ongoing Sliver projects with the following objectives:

- alternative educational programs targeting students with disabilities suspended/expelled from school and/or students with behaviors which are

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exceedingly disruptive to the educational process in the current setting

- programs employing school psychology specialists or behavioral consultants to provide services to students and training to school personnel regarding behavior management of students with inappropriate and/or disruptive behaviors

Priority #2: Supplementary funding to implement proven, research-based strategies for improving the educational results of children with disabilities.

Eligibility:

For Priority #1 grants, applications may be submitted by a single district, lead district, or co-op if the applicant was awarded a Sliver grant for the purposes identified during Fiscal Year 2003. Fiscal Year 2004 is the last year for which Sliver funding will be provided for these projects and will be at a level no greater than that awarded during Fiscal Year 2003.

For Priority #2 grants, applications may be submitted by a single district, lead district, or co-op for the purpose identified. Funding for each approved grant will be supplemental in nature and will range from a minimum of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$50,000. **The application must include evidence of local financial support which will be supplemented by approved Sliver grant funds.**

Districts may apply for or be included in funding for more than one (1) Priority, but not for multiple awards within Priorities.

Application Deadline: October 31, 2003

Grant Period: Priority #1: September 1, 2003 through August 31, 2004
Priority #2: November 1, 2003 through June 30, 2005

Instructions:

1. Signature pages must be completed for each application submitted. For applications addressing State Priority #2, signatures indicate acknowledgement that Sliver funding is supplemental to local financial support for the requested activities. Identify which State Priority is addressed through each grant application and provide a short title. Indicate the time period to be covered by the Sliver funding requested for each application.
2. There are six (6) sections to be completed that describe and justify the proposed project. These sections are Demographic Data, Statement of Need, Program

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Description, Research-based Evidence, Evaluation Criteria and Method, and Implementation Plan. Indicate the grant application short title on each page for each section. Use as many pages as necessary for each section.

3. Provide a budget to support the activities to be conducted with the requested Sliver funds. Allocate projected expenditures by function and object codes and identify the names of staff members or contractors to be supported through this grant. Include the application short title. *Note: Sliver grant funds cannot be used to supplant or replace state or local funding or pre-existing federal funding.*
4. If the grant application is submitted by a co-op or lead district, participating school districts must indicate their agreement to support and cooperate with the objectives of the grant.