



CPEC

Update on CPEC's Improving Teacher Quality Program

www.cpec.ca.gov • Report 10-03 • March 2010

by Marcia Trott

2010 Request for Proposals

In February, CPEC released Requests for Proposals for the two initiatives in the 2010 grants program. The K-12 Teacher Professional Development Initiative will focus on professional development activities that bring together higher education and their K-12 counterparts to narrow the achievement gap. Teacher-Based Reform (T-BAR), Phase II, will fund master grants to university-based partnerships that will award grants to teams of teachers to design their own professional development programs. CPEC expects a total allocation of between \$8 million and \$14 million for the year.

Information and requirements for the two initiatives were posted on CPEC's website and an e-mail notice was sent to more than 4,000 school districts, universities, colleges, and education organizations. Potential applicants must notify CPEC of their intent to submit a proposal by March 2.

On February 16 and 17, ITQ staff held technical assistance workshops for applicants in southern California and Sacramento. The review and evaluation process for both initiatives will take place through spring and summer. Expert readers are being recruited to conduct a peer review of proposals in late May and finalists will be interviewed before recommendations are made to CPEC Executive Director Karen Humphrey. Projects are expected to begin work in the fall.

- *K-12 Teacher Professional Development Initiative.* This RFP, focusing on closing the achievement gap in schools, offers significant latitude for proposers to construct a plan using their own best ideas to improve teacher quality through professional development activities. The RFP does not specify the grade level, discipline, or instructional methodology. CPEC is asking for proposals that are based on the demonstrated needs of high-need school districts, their teachers and students, and the resources of its university partners. Proposals are due by April 27.
- *Teacher-Based Reform (T-BAR), Phase II.* This is the second phase of the 2009 T-BAR competition. Phase II seeks to fund the two regions that did not receive grants in the South (Orange, Riverside, San Diego, Imperial counties) and the Inland Region (33 counties not covered by the Coastal and Los Angeles county regions). Each of the master grant projects will be operated by a university-based partnership that will solicit applications for small grants from teacher teams in their region.

These teams, made up of three to five teachers each, will design their own professional development to take place over a two-year period. The total grant for two years to each teacher team will be \$30,000. Each of the regional master grantees will fund up to 24 teacher team grants, and conduct scientifically based evaluation research on the projects. The T-BAR Phase II master grant proposals are due by May 4.

Other Activities

The ITQ Advisory Committee met on January 20. The committee consists of educators from K-12 and higher education who meet once or twice a year to provide advice and feedback to ITQ staff and report on current activities in their segments. At this meeting, issues affecting K-12 education were discussed in conjunction with the current RFP competition.

On January 21 and 22, ITQ staff held its annual meeting in Los Angeles for ITQ project directors. The meeting brought together more than 90 attendees from the universities and local education agencies on each current project, including the research directors, as well as site directors from the Science and Math Teacher Retention subgrant projects.

Looking Forward

ITQ staff are developing a media kit for grantees, continuing to update and improve the website, and are working with the California Department of Education on a report that will describe how California's Title II-A programs contribute to meeting the professional development needs of in-service teachers.

CPEC Director Humphrey and ITQ Administrator Marcia Trott will attend the annual NCLB Title II-A meeting scheduled for June 22–23 in Washington, D.C.

SHEEO's next annual Higher Education Policy Conference is scheduled for August 10–13 in Providence, Rhode Island. This conference brings together the higher education policy community, particularly officers from state SHEEO agencies, and is also when the SHEEO K-16 Professional Development Collaborative meets to discuss innovative and successful professional development programs and practices.

Current ITQ projects

The ITQ State Grants Program is operating professional development grants at 41 sites. These include universities and local education agencies from Humboldt County on the north coast to the Imperial Valley near the U.S.–Mexico border.

The projects are:

- Science and Math Teacher Retention Master Grant Initiative (19 projects)
 - K-2 Education (eight projects)
 - Addressing the Achievement Gap in Elementary Schools (six projects)
 - Teacher-Based Reform Master Grant Initiative (two projects)
 - Addressing the Achievement Gap in Middle Schools (six projects)
-