

STATE SERVICES AREA (SSA)

Office of Postsecondary Education

Briefing for AIM Commission

April 1, 2011

The Office of Postsecondary Education provides national leadership through the State Services Area (SSA) to the higher education community primarily through liaison with states and coordination within the Department. SSA fosters quality postsecondary education by promoting access to institutions and degree completion through opportunities and initiatives at the state agency level.

SSA Purposes

- Designated by OPE re-organization of 2010 to re-establish communication with the U.S. Higher Education Community through a renewed State Liaison function;
- Created to provide national leadership based on SSA's on-going data collections and statutory reports;
- Funded to support the field through large formula and discretionary grant programs at the level of \$167.755M per annually

I. SSA Program

○ State Liaison

Goals: Provide leadership on ED policy to the Higher Education Community through liaison, representation/outreach, coordination, partnerships, and technical assistance.

- ✓ Promote transparency of the ED's postsecondary policies and practices
- ✓ Partner with State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO's)
- ✓ Assist states with Program Integrity regulations effective July 1, 2011

○ Statutory Reports

Goals: Provide leadership for the states to report accurate, complete and verifiable data that ensures informative and influential national dissemination supporting ED Policy. States report annually how teachers are prepared to teach students with disabilities effectively.

- ✓ The Secretary's Annual Report to the Congress on Teacher Quality
- ✓ Paul Douglas Teachers Scholarship Program Performance Report
- ✓ Teacher Shortage Area Nationwide Listing

○ Grant Programs

Goals: Manage 7 grant programs; complete awards process by end of 3rd quarter; provide technical assistance; and monitor awards.

1. Demonstration Projects to Ensure Quality Higher Education for Students with Disabilities
2. Transition Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities into Higher Education and Cooperative Agreements.
3. College Access Challenge Grant
4. Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program
5. Teachers for a Competitive Tomorrow: Programs for Baccalaureate Degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, or Critical Foreign Languages
6. Teachers for a Competitive Tomorrow: Programs for Master's Degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering, mathematics, or Critical Foreign Languages (that result in teaching certification)

7. Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant Scholarships and collections

II. Status of SSA grants for students with disabilities

○ Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities into Higher Education (TPSID) Coordinating Center

- ✓ 1 grant (University of Massachusetts, Boston)
- ✓ 1st year of 5 year grant
- ✓ \$330K annually
- ✓ 2011 Budget (Pending)
- ✓ 2012 Budget (Pending) / Administration recommends consolidation of grants
- ✓ This five year cooperative agreement is to establish a coordinating center for institutions of higher education that offer inclusive comprehensive transition and postsecondary programs for students with intellectual disabilities. The TPSID Coordinating Center will provide technical assistance to IHEs that offer comprehensive transition and postsecondary programs for students with intellectual disabilities and work with these programs to evaluate program components and recommend standards for such programs.
- ✓ Priorities: Technical assistance, measure student outcomes, award meaningful credentials, develop model memoranda of agreements, develop outreach mechanisms, coordinate with existing centers
- ✓ Number of grantees served: 27
- ✓ Number of students served: 6,000

Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities into Higher Education (TPSID) Model Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Programs

- ✓ 27 grants
- ✓ 1st year of 5 year grant
- ✓ \$10.564M annually
- ✓ 2011 Budget (Pending) / Administration recommends consolidation of grants
- ✓ 2012 Budget (Pending) / Administration recommends consolidation of grants
- ✓ The 27 TPSID grantees are creating or expanding programs that focus on academics and instruction, social activities, employment experiences through work-based learning and internships, and independent living. Grantees are providing individualized supports for students and opportunities to be involved in college experiences with their peers without disabilities. Evaluating what works and does not work is a key component of each grant.
- ✓ Priorities: Individual support and services, meaningful credential, academic inclusion, enrichment, socialization, independent living skills, advocacy, work experiences, integrated planning, work with coordinating center, partner with LEA's
- ✓ Number of students served: 6,000

Demonstration Projects to Ensure Students with Disabilities Receive a Quality Higher Education (DD)

- ✓ 23 grants
- ✓ 3rd year of 3 year grant
- ✓ \$6.755M annually
- ✓ 2011 Budget (Pending) / Administration recommends consolidation of grants
- ✓ 2012 Budget (Pending) / Administration recommends consolidation of grants
- ✓ The 23 Demonstration Program projects support the development of innovative, effective and efficient teaching methods and strategies to enhance the skills and abilities of postsecondary faculty and

administrators in working with students with disabilities. Allowable activities include but are not limited to, in-service training, professional development, workshops, summer institutes, distance learning, technology training, and synthesis of research related to postsecondary students with disabilities.

- ✓ Priorities: Higher completion rates, evidence based achievement, consolidation, stronger evaluation component, integrate students into mainstream, credential more students, coordinate more closely with K-12, disseminate funding broadly
- ✓ Number of grantees served: Unknown at this time

Challenges

- ✓ Funding
- ✓ Scale of program
- ✓ Need to carryout research and evaluation of programs

III. Future of SSA grants for students with disabilities

- ✓ 2012 Budget (Pending) / The Obama administration has recommended consolidation of grants.
- ✓ Move three disability-related programs (Coordinating Center, TPSID, and DD) from State Service Area to Institutional Service Area (still within Office of Postsecondary Education).
- ✓ Proposed consolidation of disability-related programs into the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). FIPSE is requesting a \$150M budget.
- ✓ The request includes \$123M for “First in the World (FITW)” initiative that would be modeled after the Investing in Innovation (I3) program for K-12 and requires rigorous evaluation.
- ✓ FITW Priorities: programs that demonstrate the potential to 1) reduce the net price paid by students, improve learning outcomes, reduce time to degree, or reduce instructional costs and/or 2) improve college access or completion rates.