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§ 606.2 What institutions are eligible to receive a grant under the Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program?

(a) An institution of higher education is eligible to receive a grant under this part if—

(1) At the time of application, it has an enrollment of undergraduate full-time equivalent students that is at least 25 percent Hispanic students;

(2) It provides assurances that not less than 50 percent of its Hispanic students are low-income individuals;

(3) It has an enrollment of needy students as described in § 606.3(a), unless the Secretary waives this requirement under § 606.3(b);

(4) It has low average educational and general expenditures per full-time equivalent undergraduate student as described in § 606.4(a), unless the Secretary waives this requirement under § 606.4(c);

(5) It is legally authorized by the State in which it is located to be a junior college or to provide an educational program for which it awards a bachelor's degree; and

(6) It is accredited or preaccredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association that the Secretary has determined to be a reliable authority as to the quality of education or training offered.

(b) A branch campus of a Hispanic-Serving institution is eligible to receive a grant under this part if—

(1) The institution as a whole meets the requirements of paragraphs (a)(3) through (a)(6) of this section; and

(2) The branch campus satisfies the requirements of paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(4) of this section.

(c)(1) An institution that receives a grant under the Strengthening Institutions Program (34 CFR part 607) or the Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities Program (34 CFR part 608) for a particular fiscal year is not eligible to receive a grant under this part for that same fiscal year, and may not relinquish its grant under those programs to secure a grant under this part.

(2) A Hispanic-Serving institution under this part may not concurrently receive grant funds under the Strengthening Institutions Program,

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Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities Program, or Strengthening Historically Black Graduate Institutions Program.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1101a and 1101d)

[64 FR 70147, Dec. 15, 1999, as amended at 66 FR 1263, Jan. 8, 2001]

§ 606.3 What is an enrollment of needy students?

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, for the purpose of § 606.2(a)(3), an applicant institution has an enrollment of needy students if in the base year—

(1) At least 50 percent of its degree students received student financial assistance under one or more of the following programs: Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Federal Work-Study, and Federal Perkins Loan; or

(2) The percentage of its undergraduate degree students who were enrolled on at least a half-time basis and received Federal Pell Grants exceeded the median percentage of undergraduate degree students who were enrolled on at least a half-time basis and received Federal Pell Grants at comparable institutions that offer similar instruction.

(b) The Secretary may waive the requirement contained in paragraph (a) of this section if the institution demonstrates that—

(1) The State provides more than 30 percent of the institution's budget and the institution charges not more than \$99.00 for tuition and fees for an academic year;

(2) At least 30 percent of the students served by the institution in the base year were students from low-income families;

(3) The institution substantially increases the higher education opportunities for low-income students who are also educationally disadvantaged, underrepresented in postsecondary education, or minority students;

(4) The institution substantially increases the higher education opportunities for individuals who reside in an area that is not included in a "metropolitan statistical area" as defined by the Office of Management and Budget and who are unserved by other postsecondary institutions; or

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(5) The institution will, if granted the waiver, substantially increase the higher education opportunities for Hispanic Americans.

(c) For the purpose of paragraph (b) of this section, the Secretary considers “low-income” to be an amount which does not exceed 150 percent of the amount equal to the poverty level as established by the United States Bureau of the Census.

(d) Each year, the Secretary notifies prospective applicants of the low-income figures through a notice published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1101a and 1103a)

§ 606.4 What are low educational and general expenditures?

(a)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, for the purpose of § 606.2(a)(2), an applicant institution’s average educational and general expenditures per full-time equivalent undergraduate student in the base year must be less than the average educational and general expenditures per full-time equivalent undergraduate student in that year of comparable institutions that offer similar instruction.

(2) For the purpose of paragraph (a)(1) of this section, the Secretary determines the average educational and general expenditure per full-time equivalent undergraduate student for institutions with graduate students that do not differentiate between graduate and undergraduate educational and general expenditures by discounting the graduate enrollment using a factor of 2.5 times the number of graduate students.

(b) Each year, the Secretary notifies prospective applicants through a notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER of the average educational and general expenditures per full-time equivalent undergraduate student at comparable institutions that offer similar instruction.

(c) The Secretary may waive the requirement contained in paragraph (a) of this section, if the Secretary determines, based upon persuasive evidence provided by the institution, that—

(1) The institution’s failure to satisfy the criteria in paragraph (a) of this section was due to factors which, if used in determining compliance with those

criteria, distorted that determination; and

(2) The institution’s designation as an eligible institution under this part is otherwise consistent with the purposes of this part.

(d) For the purpose of paragraph (c)(1) of this section, the Secretary considers that the following factors may distort an institution’s educational and general expenditures per full-time equivalent undergraduate student—

(1) Low student enrollment;

(2) Location of the institution in an unusually high cost-of-living area;

(3) High energy costs;

(4) An increase in State funding that was part of a desegregation plan for higher education; or

(5) Operation of high cost professional schools such as medical or dental schools.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1101a and 1103a)

§ 606.5 How does an institution apply to be designated an eligible institution?

(a) An institution applies to the Secretary to be designated an eligible institution under this part by first submitting an application to the Secretary in the form, manner, and time established by the Secretary. The application must contain—

(1) The information necessary for the Secretary to determine whether the institution satisfies the requirements of §§ 606.2, 606.3(a), and 606.4(a);

(2) Any waiver request under §§ 606.3(b) and 606.4(c); and

(3) Information or explanations justifying any requested waiver.

(b) An institution that wishes to receive a grant under this part must submit, as part of its application for that grant, an assurance that when it submits its application—

(1) Its enrollment of undergraduate full-time equivalent students is at least 25 percent Hispanic students; and

(2) Not less than 50 percent of its Hispanic students are low-income individuals.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1101a and 1103)