

the program on which the Secretary may request information.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1830-0512)

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1211-2(e)(2))

Subpart C—How Does the Secretary Make an Award?

§ 490.20 How does the Secretary evaluate an application?

- (a) The Secretary evaluates an application on the criteria in § 490.21.
- (b) The Secretary awards up to 100 points for these criteria, including 15 points that the Secretary assigns in accordance with paragraph (d) of this section.
- (c) The maximum possible score for each criterion is indicated in parentheses.
- (d) For each competition under this part, the Secretary, in a notice published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, assigns 15 points among the criteria in § 490.21.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1211-2)

§ 490.21 What selection criteria does the Secretary use?

The Secretary uses the following criteria to evaluate an application:

- (a) *Program factors.* (15 points) The Secretary reviews the application to determine the quality of the proposed project, including the extent to which the application includes—
 - (1) A clear description of the services to be offered; and
 - (2) Life skills education designed to prepare adult offenders to reintegrate successfully into communities, schools and the workplace.
- (b) *Educational significance.* (15 points) The Secretary reviews each application to determine the extent to which the applicant proposes—
 - (1) Project objectives that contribute to the improvement of life skills;
 - (2) To use unique and innovative techniques to produce benefits that address life skills problems and needs that are of national significance; and
 - (3) To demonstrate how well those national needs will be met by the project.
- (c) *Plan of operation.* (15 points) The Secretary reviews each application to

determine the quality of the plan of operation for the project, including—

- (1) The quality of the design of the project;
- (2) The extent to which the project includes specific intended outcomes that—
 - (i) Will accomplish the purposes of the program;
 - (ii) Are attainable within the project period, given the project’s budget and other resources;
 - (iii) Are susceptible to evaluation;
 - (iv) Are objective and measurable; and
 - (v) For a multi-year project, include specific objectives to be met, during each budget period, that can be used to determine the progress of the project toward meeting its intended outcomes;
- (3) The extent to which the plan of management is effective and ensures proper and efficient administration of the project;
- (4) The quality of the applicant’s plan to use its resources and personnel to achieve each objective and intended outcome during the period of Federal funding; and
- (5) How the applicant will ensure that project participants who are otherwise eligible to participate are selected without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disabling condition.
- (d) *Evaluation plan.* (15 points) The Secretary reviews each application to determine the quality of the evaluation plan for the project, including the extent to which the applicant’s methods of evaluation—
 - (1) Are clearly explained and appropriate to the project;
 - (2) Will determine how successful the project is in meeting its intended outcomes, including an assessment of the effectiveness of the project in improving life skills of prisoners. To the extent feasible, the assessment must include a one-year post-release review, during the grant period, to measure the success of the project with respect to those prisoners who received services and were released. The assessment must involve comparison of the project to other existing education and training programs or no treatment for individuals, as appropriate. The evaluation must be designed to produce findings