

Questions from participants and answers provided by representatives of the U.S. Department of Education (ED) during the “[Using ARRA To Leverage Reform](#)” Webinar held on December 14, 2009.

Q. What is the deadline for spending Investing in Innovation (i3) grant money?

A. Unlike some of the other grants, there is no specific date that the money must be expended by grantees. The department must obligate funds by September 30, 2010, but once ED awards the grants, districts do not have a specific deadline. It is reasonable to say that funds should be spent by the end of the grant term.

Q. How does the 20 percent private sector match requirement work?

A. The exact wording in the notice is as follows: “An applicant must obtain matching funds or in-kind donations equal to at least 20 percent of its grant award.” ED put forward the 20 percent amount as an indicator of sustainability and a good opportunity for leverage. As an example of how this would look, if an organization is applying for a \$5 million grant, it will need to secure a private sector match of \$1 million. ED will honor in-kind contributions and consider waivers in exceptional circumstances.

Q. Do you have suggestions on how you see rural and isolated schools participating in i3 and suggestions for where they can find a 20 percent match?

A. ED is recommending a competitive preference be given to proposals that focus on high-need students in rural LEAs. The department does not have any suggestions for where to find a 20 percent match.

Q. What suggestions do you have for getting a partnership together with others in such a short timeline?

A. States could play the convening role in fostering conversations with LEAs and the private sector to help with partnerships.

Q. How much time will the i3 applicants have to respond to the application after the RFP is posted?

A. The deadline for submission is not decided yet, but there is an underlying principle that applicants should have ample time to propose quality applications. Most programs

give anywhere from six weeks and up, and ED will look at what other programs have done.

Q. Does a nonprofit have to choose to work with an LEA or consortium or can it work with both in the same application?

A. ED is leaving it up to the discretion of the applicant.

Q. Can a consortium be in different states?

A. Yes.

For more information from the U.S. Department of Education regarding i3, visit <http://www.ed.gov/programs/innovation/index.html>. If you have additional questions or for more information about the i3 fund, you can e-mail i3@ed.gov