



## TRIVIUM CONSULTING: FUNDING OPPORTUNITY BRIEF



### Department of Education FIRST IN THE WORLD PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

<https://federalregister.gov/a/2015-11336> CFDA (84.116F)

#### SUBMISSION DEADLINES

*Applications Available: **May 11, 2015***

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: **June 30, 2015.***

*Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: **August 31, 2015.***

#### FUNDING

Type of Award: Discretionary grants.

The range of awards listed below is the total amount for a 48 month budget period.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$1,000,000-\$3,000,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$2,000,000.

See the Budget Instructions in the application package.

Estimated Number of Awards: 6-8.

#### ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

*Eligible Applicants:* Institutions of higher education, combinations of such institutions, and other public and private nonprofit institutions and agencies.

Current eligibility approval as defined by the Department's FY 2015 eligibility process for Title III and/or Title V of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended; an open grant under one of the Department's Title III, Parts A and F and/or Title V programs; or a designation as a Historically Black College or University or a Tribally Controlled College. The second criterion includes: Specific enrollment percentages for minority students served; and, if applicable, needy student and educational and general expenditure criteria for determining income eligibility.

*Evidence Standard and Logic Model:* All applications must meet the evidence standard of Strong Theory and include a logic model. Applicants may submit a rationale for any intervention(s) that has not been tried or that only has been marginally considered and explored at the applicant institution or elsewhere.

#### COST SHARING OR MATCHING

*Cost Sharing or Matching:* This program does not require cost sharing or matching.





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#### PURPOSE

The FITW program is designed to support the development, replication, and dissemination of innovative solutions and evidence for what works in addressing persistent and widespread challenges in postsecondary education for students who are at risk for not persisting in and completing postsecondary programs, including, but not limited to, adult learners, working students, part-time students, students from low-income backgrounds, students of color, students with disabilities, and first-generation students.

The focus of the FITW program is to build evidence for what works in postsecondary education by testing the effectiveness of these strategies in improving student persistence and completion outcomes. For FY 2015, the Department will award two types of grants under this program: “Development” grants and “Validation” grants. These grants differ in terms of the level of evidence of effectiveness required for consideration of funding, the level of scale the funded project should reach, and, consequently, the amount of funding available to support the project.

This notice invites applications for Development grants only. Development grants will support new or substantially more effective practices for addressing widely shared challenges. Applications for Development grants must be based on Strong Theory (see Eligible Applicants).

#### ABSOLUTE PRIORITIES

##### **Absolute Priority 1: —Improving Teaching and Learning**

- Projects designed to improve teaching and learning through instruction-level tools or strategies such as adaptive learning technology, educational games, personalized learning, active- or project-based learning, faculty-centered strategies that systematically improve the quality of teaching, or multi-disciplinary efforts focused on improving instructional experiences.

##### **Absolute Priority II: —Developing and Using Assessments of Learning**

- Projects that support the development and use of externally validated assessments of student learning and stated learning goals through one of the following: (a) Alternative assessment tools or strategies such as micro- or competency-based assessments, assessments embedded in curriculum, or simulations, games, or other technology-based assessment approaches.(b) Aligning assessments across sectors and institutions, such as across kindergarten through grade 12 and postsecondary education systems or across two-year and four-year institutions, to improve college readiness and content delivery.

##### **Absolute Priority III: — Facilitating Pathways to Credentialing and Transfer**

- Projects designed to develop and implement systems and practices to capture and aggregate credit or other evidence of knowledge and skills towards postsecondary degrees or credentials through one of the following: (a) Seamless transfer of credits between postsecondary institutions; or (b) Validation and transfer of credit for learning or learning experiences from non-institutional sources





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**COMPETITIVE PREFERENCE PRIORITY**

For FY 2015, the Secretary gives priority to projects that use low-cost tools or strategies, such as those that use technology, that result in a high impact on student outcomes. The selection criteria for the FY 2015 Development competition are designed to ensure that applications selected for funding have the best potential to generate substantial improvements and research in student outcomes, and include well-articulated plans for the implementation, dissemination, and evaluation of the proposed projects. Applicants should review the selection criteria and submission instructions carefully to ensure their applications address this year's criteria.

**DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION POINT of CONTACT**

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