

The State Department of Education, Special Education Division announces:

2016-2017 *Mini Grant* Application
for
Certified Special Education and
Related Special Education
Hard To Fill Positions

- Submission Deadline: 5:00 p.m., Monday, May 23, 2016
- Funded projects will begin July 15, 2016
- [2016-2017 Application](#)

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction
Idaho State Department of Education

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Background

The Idaho State Department of Education's Special Education Division is pleased to announce an opportunity to apply for funding for school year 2016-2017 for those LEA's who operate in rural communities, and or are considered small district/charters, who are struggling to secure and maintain certified Special Education personnel. This opportunity is made available through use of IDEA Part B funds, CFDA 84.027A PL 108-446 PT – B Individual with Disabilities Education Act Special Education grants.

This opportunity results from awareness that, especially in small and or rural communities, a growing need to attract, recruit, and retain special education personnel exists. Additionally, in larger communities, there is difficulty obtaining, recruiting, training, and retaining qualified special education staff.

These mini-grants are designed to meet the needs of hard to fill special education positions for individual LEAs. The grants allow the flexibility and creativity to use the funds to secure and or retain these much needed and sought after positions. These competitive, mini-grants will be offered in \$500 up to \$10,000 increments.

Use of Funds – Examples or Suggested Use

Monies can be used for salary stipends, for moving expenses, for on-going education or training, recruitment purposes, securing hard to fill contractual positions, sign-on bonuses, securing school psychologists, SLPS's, and other certified special education personnel.

Eligibility

Grants are awarded to a LEA demonstrating a need for the hard to fill position.

Restricted Use of Funds

Funds received shall be used to supplement and not supplant funds that would otherwise be used for proposed activities. Funds must be used in accordance to IDEA Part B funding requirements, EDGAR and Uniform Grant Guidance provisions; EDGAR regulations are found at <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/fund/reg/edgarReg/edgar.html>

Proposal Submission and Review

Submission Deadline is 5:00 p.m. Monday, May 23rd. For questions, please contact

Wendy Lee, Funding and Accountability Coordinator

Email: wlee@sde.idaho.gov Phone: 208-332-6916

or

Grace Dehner, Contracts and Funding Specialist

Email: gdehner@sde.idaho.gov Phone: 208-332-6910.

Your application request will be reviewed by SDE staff for completeness and compliance with IDEA Part B, Uniform Grant Guidance, and Edgar requirements. After initial review for eligibility, the application will be forwarded on to an expert panel to evaluate the applications and approval for awards. **Disclosure: The panel may give preferential treatment to those rural, small LEA's that demonstrate a greater need.**

Click [HERE](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/170urwrGTGtLmlfJtM2_6q0q76BC71TX4N_U3Rb15c4/viewform) to access the 2016-2017 Application, or type in the website:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/170urwrGTGtLmlfJtM2_6q0q76BC71TX4N_U3Rb15c4/viewform

Award Notification:

Those approved to receive the awards will be notified by **Monday, June 6, 2016**.

Funding:

Funding will be issued beginning July 15 through August 1, 2016.

Justification and Use of Funds to be Awarded:

- 1) Which certified, Special Education position(s) have been a challenge for your LEA to fill, or keep filled? (ex. SPED Teacher, SLP, school psych, OT/PT, etc.)
- 2) Please identify why the position(s) have been a challenge to fill?
- 3) Explain the types of problems and challenges you have had in trying to fill and/or retain these hard to fill positions.
- 4) Have there been efforts made by your LEA to address the problem of filling these hard to fill position(s)?
 - a. Yes
 - b. NoIf yes, briefly explain what efforts and/or steps your LEA has taken in the past. (If No, please respond with Not Applicable (NA))
- 5) Describe how you would use the awarded funds to help solve your hard to fill position? Please be specific on how these funds would be used.
- 6) If awarded funds, please identify the LEA's retention requirements that will accompany the position?

Please state for example:

 - a. If there is recruitment or moving expenses what will be the retention requirement set by your LEA to the staff member?
 - b. If a staff member's education is paid for, how long will that staff member need to commit employment with your LEA?
- 7) If awarded funds, please acknowledge that your LEA agrees to report to the State Department of Education, Special Education Division, the success of the mini-grant's ability to help secure and/or maintain these hard to fill positions. The SDE Special Education Division will send out an evaluation form to the LEA to report on the success of the funding.