Section A: Eligibility Questions

Question A-1
How will the local educational agency (LEA) know if it is eligible to apply?
Answer
If the LEA has a campus on either or both of the posted eligibility lists (Improvement Required and/or the Targeted, Additional Targeted, or Comprehensive), the LEA is eligible for this grant program.

Question A-2
Is there a preference for those LEAs that have Improvement Required campuses over those LEAs that have Targeted, Additional Targeted, or Comprehensive campuses?
Answer
No, there is no preference.

Question A-3
Are open-enrollment charter schools eligible for the 2019–2020 Principal Preparation, Cycle 2 grant program?
Answer
If the LEA has a campus on either or both of the posted eligibility lists, the LEA is eligible.

Section B: Application-Related Questions

Question B-1
Section 5B: Equitable Services Calculation #4 asks for the “total current-year grant allocation.” What number should we enter there?
Answer
Applicants should enter the amount of funds they are requesting under this grant program.

Section C: Program-Related Questions

Question C-1
Can the funded principal residents be full-time teachers?
Answer
No, the residents cannot be full-time teachers and must be consistently engaged in campus-based leadership experiences as part of the clinical residency.
Question C-2
Would our residents be allowed to teach 1 or 2 classes during the residency?

Answer
Residents can teach a maximum of 2 hours per day. Please note that per the Program Guidelines the majority of the resident’s time should be spent engaged in campus-based leadership experiences as part of the clinical residency.

Question C-3
Do the residents have to complete the residency on an Improvement Required or Comprehensive, Targeted or Additional Targeted campus?

Answer
No, the residents do not have to complete the residency on an Improvement Required or Comprehensive, Targeted or Additional Targeted campus.

Question C-4
By when does the LEA need to identify and select the candidates to participate in the program?

Answer
Since the grant will be awarded in early 2019, awarded LEAs should utilize the Spring of 2019 to carry out the resident’s targeted recruitment and selection. The list of residents and those mentors that will be supporting the residents should be finalized by the end of the 2018–2019 school year in anticipation of the Principal Preparation Institute in the summer of 2019.

Question C-5
The program starts on January 1, 2019, so when should the LEA remove the candidates from their current duties and into the full-time residency?

Answer
The residents should be in full-time resident roles at the start of the 2019–2020 school year. LEAs can utilize the Spring of 2019 to carry out the resident’s recruitment and selection in addition to residency design in collaboration with the principal educator preparation program (EPP).

Question C-6
The Principal Preparation Program Guidelines state that the residency must be at least one-year in length. Can the residents complete the certification and EPP after this one-year period and after the funding period ends?

Answer
Certification and coursework can extend beyond the grant end date; however, tuition payments and certification costs must be paid by the grant end date of June 30, 2020.

Question C-7
Who will prepare the candidates for the principal certification test?

Answer
The partner EPP will provide residents with coursework for the certification. Additionally, the residency, developed by both the LEA and the EPP, should provide the residents with campus leadership opportunities in preparation for the certification exam.

Question C-8
Would a charter school be eligible if it does not require principals to be certified and it partners with a non-traditional EPP to offer the principal’s training but not necessarily the certification?

Answer
To pursue the grant opportunity, the LEA must partner with an EPP that provides both high quality training and certification. If the partner EPP meets all of the requirements outlined in the program guidelines assurances, the LEA can partner with the EPP - regardless if the EPP is non-traditional.
Question C-9
Is there a limit on how many LEAs can partner with a specific EPP?
Answer
No. There are no limits on the EPP partnerships, but the EPP must be able to fulfill all the requirements listed in the program guidelines assurances.

Question C-10
Can a current principal be a resident?
Answer
No. Residency grants are limited to those who have not previously held a principal role nor currently hold a principal or mid-management certification.

Question C-11
Can a current Assistant Principal with a Texas principal certification be a resident?
Answer
No. Residency grants are limited to those who do not currently hold a Texas principal certification nor a mid-management certification.

Question C-12
Are LEAs required to select non-profit or charter school candidates within the LEA to be in the residency?
Answer
No. LEAs are not required to select residents from a specific campus or program within their LEA. LEAs should invest time and effort into the targeted recruitment and selection to find the best fit residents for the program.

Question C-13
An LEA is currently partnered with an EPP and is carrying out a two-year full-time residency. As part of this residency, the residents have significant classroom responsibilities in their first year. Are these residents eligible to be funded under this program?
Answer
Residency grants are limited to those who do not have significant classroom responsibilities and will participate in their residency year during the 2019-2010 school year. Please see question E-4 for more information on multi-year funding cycles.

Section D: Allowable Use of Funds Questions
Question D-1
Can the grant cover substitute costs since residents will be pulled from their teaching duties for the residency?
Answer
Yes. Funding can be used to cover substitute costs, but please note that per the program guidelines, residents may not have significant classroom responsibilities during this period. Residents cannot be full-time teachers while engaged in the residency and can teach a maximum of 2 hours per day during their residency year.

Section E: Funding Questions
Question E-1
Since LEAs must provide a match of $15,000 towards each principal resident’s salary (excluding federal funds), can any portion of the match be in-kind, or is the match limited to a cash match?
Answer
The match is limited to a cash match.
Question E-2
Can the match include fringe benefits?
Answer
Yes, the match can include fringe benefits.

Question E-3
Does the $15,000 match require an LEA to use $15,000 of its own funding (excluding federal funds) to contribute towards the resident’s salary?
Answer
Yes, the match requires that an LEA contribute $15,000 towards the resident’s salary, excluding federal funds.

Question E-4
If an LEA is funded, would the LEA be eligible for additional funding that covers the same program for two subsequent cohorts of residents contingent upon successful fulfillment of grant requirements?
Answer
Yes, the match requires that an LEA contribute $15,000 towards the resident’s salary, excluding federal funds.

Question E-5
If an LEA is funded, would the LEA be eligible for additional funding that covers the same program for two subsequent cohorts of residents contingent upon successful fulfillment of grant requirements?
Answer
If funding is available in the future, the LEA would possibly be eligible for additional funding that covers the same program for two subsequent cohorts of residents contingent upon successful fulfillment of grant requirements.

Question E-6
If the LEA is funded and eligible for two subsequent cohorts, would the project guidance remain the same for those additional periods? Is another application required?
Answer
If the program successfully fulfills the grant requirements and if there is funding available, the project guidance will most likely remain the same. The LEA will be required to submit additional paperwork for any subsequent cohorts.

Question E-6
In the Request for Grant Funds (budget summary), should a salary line be listed separately to record the match amount?
Answer
Record the match amount at the top of the Request for Grant Funds page in the box indicated by multiplying the number of principal residents x $15,000.

Question E-7
Since the residents are full-time employees, their salaries would meet and exceed the required match. How could the LEA pay for the additional cost of the resident’s salary?
Answer
Per the program guidelines, residents’ stipends and salaries are listed as allowable uses of 2019—2020 Principal Preparation Cycle 2 grant funds.

Section F: Competitive Review Questions

Question F-1
Will applications postmarked by the due date be accepted?
Answer
No. Applications will only be accepted and considered for funding if received by the Document Control Center by 5:00pm, Central Time, on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at the address listed on page 1 of the application.