

**Connecticut State Department of Education
Division of Teaching, Learning and Assessment
Bureau of Educator Preparation, Certification,
Support and Assessment**

**Wallace Foundation Funded
State Action for Educational Leadership Program (SAELP II)**

October 12, 2004 Bidder's Conference

Questions and Responses

- **The RFP specifies that the grantee must select at least two priority districts (as defined on page 10 of the RFP) for participation in each policy laboratory. If a grant applicant wants to include additional districts which are not priority districts in the initiative, is that permissible?**

If at least two priority school districts participate in the policy lab, then a non-priority district may be considered if it meets the criteria as defined for “readiness.”

- **Must the participating schools within the priority also be priority schools?**

No. The schools within the priority district that are participants in the demonstration site do not have to be considered “priority” schools.

- **The RFP indicates that preference will be given to bidders who submit proposals for more than one policy laboratory. What do you mean by this?**

Grant applicants are **encouraged** to submit multiple proposals, because of the potential interconnectedness of the initiatives. There also may be staffing and cost efficiencies if a consortium leader coordinates multiple labs or engages districts in more than one policy initiative. However, as indicated in Appendix F, each policy laboratory proposal will be evaluated individually on its own merits.

- **If applying for more than one policy lab, do the districts have to be different?**

The districts do not necessarily have to be different if the proposer can make an effective case for the districts that are chosen. Note however, that separate proposals are required for each policy lab.

- **How can we find out more about the Connecticut Accountability for Learning Model (CALM)?**

Proposers are encouraged to attend the Conference: *Transforming Challenges into Solutions: Accountability for Learning*. The conference will be held on October 27, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Connecticut Grand Hotel (formerly the Sheraton) in Waterbury, Connecticut. There is no registration fee. To register, you may call the EASTCONN Conference Office at 860-455-0707.

- **Does Hartford LEAD have to be a part of the proposal?**

The primary focus of your proposal should be on the specific goals and activities planned for the districts selected for the particular policy laboratory. Hartford LEAD is a partner in the policy laboratories, as the Hartford Public Schools have already been engaged for several years in similar efforts through their own Wallace Foundation grant. Hartford will be a source of data on policy changes over time and can serve as a resource for other districts during the three-year grant period.

- **Is it possible to separate the “Leader-in-Residence” from the Induction Policy Lab?**

No, the central role of the LIR is to coordinate the work of the induction policy laboratory as well as to facilitate communication between the three labs.

- **How can we find out more about Hartford’s LEAD Program?**

The director of Hartford’s LEAD Program is Italia Negroni:

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- **Can you clarify the budget amount that should be specified for the Leader-in-Residence?**

In general the key responsibilities of the LIR will be to work with the policy labs in facilitating focus groups, craft state guidelines, and develop the school improvement task. The LIR will also assist SDE in communicating with the other Policy Laboratories, the policy analysis technical consultant and the Wallace Foundation, as needed.

To assist you in the design of the proposals and budget items, the following is an estimated budget range for the LIR along with an estimated amount of time allocated for each of the policy laboratory activities:

	LIR Budget	% Responsibilities		
		<u>Dist. Leadership</u>	<u>Induction</u>	<u>SIP-PD</u>
Year One-	\$ 50-60,000.00	25%	*50%	25%
Year Two	30-40,000.00	25%	50%	25%
Year Three	25-30,000	25%	50%	25%

*It is anticipated that the grant applicant will seek matching funds for the LIR in years two and three. Specific budget and time allocations will be negotiated following the grant award.

- **Who will supervise the Leader-in-Residence?**

The Induction Policy Laboratory Consortium Leader will supervise the LIR with respect to the induction program activities. The State Department of Education will work with the LIR to schedule meeting and activities associated with the other two policy laboratories.

- **Will indirect costs be allowed in this grant?**

An unrestricted indirect rate up to a maximum of 8% may be applied for grantees whose indirect rates have been approved for 04-05. If a grant applicant has not applied for approval of an indirect rate, the organization must apply for a negotiated rate for 05-06.

- **Can RESC's be the fiscal agent?**

Yes. It is important to remember that if you are working in partnership with another organization or district, the fiscal agent will be the primary contact and the entity responsible for completing the requirements as identified in this RFP.

- **If an organization's proposal for the induction policy laboratory is not funded, does this mean that a specific induction model would not be considered in the development of state policy guidelines?**

The Induction Policy Laboratory will focus on exploring different models at the district level to inform state policies as well as work with districts to implement such models. It is important to note that state guidelines for school leader induction must be able to meet the diverse needs of urban, suburban and rural districts across Connecticut. Consequently a variety of induction models are likely to be useful to inform state policies.