Language Training Center Program

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL AND APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Defense Language and National Security Education Office

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSAL:
Thursday, April 11, 2013

A Program Administered By:

INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
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SECTION A: PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The Institute of International Education (IIE) is pleased to provide you with application materials for the Language Training Center (LTC) Program sponsored by the Defense Language and National Security Education Office (DLNSEO).

The LTC Program is a DoD-funded initiative established in 2011 to accelerate the development of foundational or higher-level expertise in strategic languages and regional studies for DoD personnel by leveraging U.S. institutions of higher education to meet the existing and demonstrated training needs of DoD units, offices, or agencies.

The Language Training Center initiative is subject to the availability of funds. Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of IIE. IIE reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets or cancel the competition in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds.
ELIGIBILITY

Accredited U.S. institutions of higher education with instruction in strategic languages, regional area studies, and cultural orientation/awareness are eligible to apply. Each applicant must be able to increase the numbers of Active Component, National Guard, Reserve Component, Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) students, and/or Department of Defense (DoD) civilians (hereafter referred to as “DoD Personnel”) with language skills, regional expertise, and cultural capabilities. Applicants must demonstrate the capacity to provide instruction in strategic languages and regional and cultural studies. When necessary for the project, applicants must also demonstrate the capacity to deliver adaptive and agile training outside traditional semester schedules in addition to traditional offerings. Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Institutions are encouraged to apply.

BACKGROUND

Language, regional, and cultural skills are enduring competencies that are critical to mission readiness in today’s dynamic global environment. The Department of Defense (DoD) must have the ability to effectively communicate with, and understand the cultures of coalition forces, international partners, and local populations. The DoD Strategic Plan for Language Skills, Regional Expertise, and Cultural Capability, published in February 2011, includes a goal to “build, enhance, and sustain a Total Force [i.e., all military and civilian DoD personnel] with a mix of language skills, regional expertise, and cultural capabilities to meet existing and emerging needs in support of national security objectives.”

The Language Training Center (LTC) Program was established in 2011 to enhance the strategic effort to improve foreign language, culture, and regional expertise for DoD and the nation. The objective of the LTC Program is to leverage U.S. institutions of higher education to meet the existing and demonstrated training needs of DoD units, offices or agencies. Section 529 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2010 authorized DoD to establish Language Training Centers at accredited universities to increase DoD’s training capacity in strategic languages and regional area studies for DoD personnel.

Additionally, with the new DoD strategic guidance published in January 2012 emphasizing strengthening alliances and partnerships across all regions, it is important for DoD to maintain language and cultural skills to support allied and partner interoperability and to build partner capacity. The development of university-based LTCs will help increase the Department’s language, regional, and cultural capabilities and readiness through instruction of its personnel. The LTCs will also support DoD in strengthening capacity for regional alignment.
**Program Goals and Objectives**

The intent of this initiative is to accelerate the development of foundational or higher-level expertise in strategic languages and regional studies for DoD Personnel by leveraging U.S. institutions of higher education to meet the existing and demonstrated training needs of DoD units, offices, or agencies.

Proposals must therefore demonstrate:

1) **An operational requirement**, as defined by any DoD unit, office, or agency, for the specific language and cultural training, which the applicant is proposing to deliver. Training must be offered in the languages, regions, and cultures that support DoD missions in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe, and the Middle East.

2) **Training tailored to meet the specified operational requirements**;

3) **The capacity of the institution to deliver the specified training**;

4) **Training that will yield measurable language skills** in reading, listening and speaking; training should focus on language acquisition but should also include regional and cultural components.

5) **Training delivery approaches that meet the requirements of DoD Personnel**, whether pre-, during, or post-deployment. When necessary for the project, proposals should demonstrate the capacity to conduct adaptive and agile language, regional, and cultural training of varying lengths of time that can accommodate a varying number of students, but not fewer than six per course. The duration of training and courses should vary according to the individual mission needs of the units, offices, or agencies, which will utilize the training. Training may be delivered through traditional university offerings, online resources, or non-traditional semester hours (e.g., pre-deployment delivery).

Training and courses should be accredited and count toward degree requirements or provide continuing education units (CEUs) or their equivalent.

Competitive proposals will provide strong evidence showing that applicable DoD units, offices, or agencies will utilize the proposed training. Applicants should note that it is the sole responsibility of each institution to collaborate with DoD units, offices, and agencies and establish an agreement that DoD Personnel will participate in the proposed training. Neither IIE nor DLNSEO will direct participants to participate in the selected pilot projects.

**Potential Program Elements**

Proposed training may include supporting the National Guard and Reserve Component by providing language and cultural awareness training in support of operations in Afghanistan and the State Partnership Program. Additionally, applicants may consider partnering with the professional language community (e.g., Foreign Area Officers (FAOs), language analysts) to provide training that assists students with either reaching or maintaining the DoD standard of ILR-3 in reading, listening and speaking. Language enhancement and sustainment training may include online training or short duration programs of immersion in a simulated operational environment (iso-immersion) in the target language. Languages for which there are substantial
numbers of FAOs needing enhancement and sustainment training include: Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Tagalog, Thai, Turkish and Ukrainian.

Training may also include advanced English as a Second Language (ESL) as professional development for DoD personnel with professional level language skills in a strategic language but for whom English is not a native language.

Additionally, each Language Training Center established under this program may include support for Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) programs across the nation to facilitate the development of skills in strategic languages among future officers of the Armed Forces. One example would be providing foreign language training to newly commissioned Second Lieutenants who are awaiting entry on active duty. However, providing support for ROTC should not be the sole or primary focus of a Language Training Center proposal.

In the future, DoD may identify new or different regions and languages due to operational realities. Therefore applicants should also demonstrate the ability to respond to possible changing needs for instruction in different languages and regions if needed. When applicable, proposals should outline how the language training center will support regional alignment of the DoD components served.

Proposals may also establish partnerships with other institutions and programs to enhance the development of their curricula and offerings. These partnerships may include, but are not limited to, Language Resource Centers (http://nflrc.msu.edu/lrcs.php), Language Flagship Centers (http://www.thelanguageflagship.org), and the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (http://www.dliiflc.edu). These centers share the common goal of providing training in critical languages and developing resources that can be used broadly to improve foreign language education in the United States.

Proposals may also include projects to develop, or to utilize, whenever possible, already existing intensive summer language trainings, which could be completed by FAOs as an added component to the regional studies MA degrees that they will be accomplishing during the academic year. The intensive language component should provide training to a minimum of ILR level 2 in speaking, reading and listening in the target language. Institutions are encouraged to provide opportunities for FAOs enrolled in MA programs to take regular academic year language offerings as part of the MA program in addition to the intensive summer trainings. FAOs would ordinarily have 24 months to conduct language training (starting from level 0) and the Regional Studies MA. Proposals that include 2-3 summer language immersions in addition to the regular MA regional studies program are encouraged. However, the LTC Program will not fund tuition for the MA program; tuition will be the obligation of the sending Service (e.g. Army) and applicants do not need to include academic year tuition costs in their LTC budgets.

Training courses may include courses for personnel stationed overseas delivered online or in-country. Proposals to send personnel overseas for study abroad programs will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, must be coordinated and cleared with the partnering unit, office or agency, and must adhere to the DoD Foreign Clearance Guide.
The Language Training Center Initiative is subject to the availability of funds. Funding will be administered by IIE. IIE anticipates awarding subawards with possible budget ranges between $150,000 and $1,500,000. Because of the limited funding available, proposals for amounts that exceed $300,000 must detail a track record of success in training a significant number of DoD personnel (other than ROTC students). Projects exceeding $1,500,000 will be considered only under exceptional circumstances when funding is deemed mission essential.

Applicants must adhere to budget guidelines. Specific instructions on preparing the budget can be found in “Section B: Application Procedures and Proposal Content.” When developing the budget, best efforts should be made to include competitive costs and discounts, in order to best leverage federal dollars. While all costs that comply with relevant OMB Circulars will be considered, IIE and NSEP reserve the right to reduce, revise, or otherwise adjust proposal budgets in accordance with the Language Training Center initiative’s needs and goals, and the availability of funds.

DLNSEO anticipates that, depending on overall program performance and funding availability, additional funding may be available for subsequent program cycles. Year two and year three funding will be contingent on program success and the availability of funding. Programs selected to continue for a second and third year will be asked to submit year two and year three budgets at a later point in time and should not submit year two or year three budgets at this point in time.

**Specific Guidelines on Curriculum and Instruction**

Given the broad range of mission requirements for DoD Personnel, there is considerable latitude in the choice of language as well as the lengths, levels, compositions, and deliveries of the training that institutions may propose; however, all proposals must clearly demonstrate how their proposed training responds to specific operational needs of the specific DoD units, agencies, or offices, which will be utilizing the proposed training. The desired level of proficiency also depends upon the mission requirements of the DoD partner.

Applicants should therefore describe the demonstrated unit, office, or agency’s articulated immediate and longer term needs and their proposed program for language, regional, and cultural training. Applicants should also outline existing paths available to participants with different levels of language preparation. Successful applicants will provide examples of how participants could successfully complete the proposed training, including, if applicable, as part of a broader degree program. Finally, applicants should provide information on total language, regional, and cultural instructional capacity including alternative trainings, information on current student body, degrees, enrollment, and language proficiency successes.

Applicants who have already integrated DoD personnel into their programs should indicate how they have done so. Applicants who have not yet had DoD personnel participate in their programs must indicate their plans to accommodate these students and must also clearly demonstrate that
DoD units, offices, or agencies will participate in and benefit from the proposed training and that the training is relevant to the DoD partner’s missions. All applicants must indicate how they will adapt and improve their current language instructional programs to enable them to provide intensive levels of instruction in courses that may range from short, part-time, evening or weekend courses to longer term intensive language courses for personnel from across the country or stationed overseas.

All applicants must provide detailed plans on how they propose to build or expand their efforts to provide innovative language education and support to DoD personnel. Applicants are encouraged to consider an array of language interventions that can be supported by the funding, including additional one-on-one tutoring, dedicated language partners, and use of blended learning technology. Applicants are encouraged to be as creative and innovative as possible to maximize student learning and incentivize participation of DoD personnel.

Successful proposals will include a clearly defined description of expected program outcomes including the expected number of participants, expected language proficiency gains (based on the Interagency Language Roundtable Scale), and other specific learning outcomes. Outcomes should refer to language proficiency needs and goals as outlined by the partnering units, offices, or agencies within the Department of Defense. Successful proposals will clearly identify assessment tools to be used to measure language and other learning outcomes. Applicants should address important outcomes and timetables in their proposals for the full project period.

**COLLABORATION**

The success of the Language Training Center Program will be contingent on the cooperation of institutional leadership and DoD units, offices, or agencies. Accordingly, all proposals must describe methods for creating or fostering cooperation and ensuring collaboration between project leadership and the DoD partner. Applicants are asked to define the contributions, role, and involvement for all personnel involved in the project, including the role the DoD partner may play in selecting and scheduling personnel for training.

IIE recognizes that staff associated with the program may change regularly. Applicants must address how they will codify their programs and collaborative efforts to mitigate the impact of personnel changes on the long-term effectiveness of their program. Successful applicants will explain how their proposed program will build a sustainable framework that will endure regardless of changes to said personnel.

Successful proposals will also provide a description of how the applicant proposes to interface with each proposed participating DoD entity. Detailed plans for building and maintaining partnerships, including estimated timelines and proposed collaborative activities, must be included in the proposal.
PROJECT TIMELINE

The DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT is 5:00 p.m. (EDT), Thursday, April 11, 2013.

IIE expects to notify applicants of this award on or before Friday, May 31, 2013 with funding to begin in September 2013.
SECTION B: APPLICATION PROCEDURES, TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS, AND PROPOSAL CONTENT

Proposals must include the following:

1. Title page

2. Abstract of no more than 250 words

3. Proposal Narrative of no more than 20 pages that contains a comprehensive project plan (no more than 20 pages) addressing each component described in the guidelines above. Specifically, applicants must demonstrate that they have fully collaborated with a specific DoD unit, office, or agency, which will participate in and benefit from the proposed training. Furthermore, the applicant must demonstrate how the proposed training clearly meets the operational needs of the specified DoD unit, office, or agency. Finally, the narrative should also address intended curricular design, approaches to maximizing exposure to and usage of the target language, institutional engagement, and the capacity to deliver the training during the proposed period of performance. The project plan must also include a description of what specifically will be done during the project period and by whom.

4. An appendix with a clearly defined timeline for program activities during the funding period, a description of expected program outcomes including the expected number of participants, expected language proficiency gains (based on the Interagency Language Roundtable scale), and other specific learning outcomes. Outcomes should refer to proficiency needs and goals as outlined by the partnering agency within the Department of Defense. This section should clearly identify assessment tools to be used to measure language and other learning outcomes.

5. An appendix with a list of key individuals who will be involved in the development and management of the program as well as contact information for the key leadership at the DoD unit, office or agency, which intends to partner with the applicant for the proposed training. Provide complete contact information (email, addresses, and telephone numbers) for all individuals, including the DoD representatives.

6. Any applicable documentation from the DoD unit, office or agency intending to participate in the proposed training. Applicable documentation should demonstrate that the proposed training will be fully utilized and should describe the role which DoD leadership intends to play (such as selecting personnel to participate) in the proposed collaborative project.

7. An appendix with support letter(s) from institutional senior leadership (i.e. president, provost, vice president of academic affairs, dean, department chair) indicating institutional support for the creation of an LTC that serves DoD personnel within the institution.
8. A budget and budget notes, which must include only allowable, allocable, and reasonable costs and must follow the instructions below:
   a. The budget must be a detailed, line-item budget using the major cost categories shown on the form (see “budget form” in section E; or, to receive an electronic copy of the budget form, email LWax@iie.org). It is not necessary to include in the budget any major cost categories for which there are no proposed costs.
   b. Include a separate note for each line item in the budget.
      - For fringe benefits, a summary description applied to all rates is acceptable as long as back up documentation is provided. Submissions should include a link to the university’s fringe benefits rates and policies, or, if this information is not available online, a copy of the relevant documents should be included with the proposal.
   c. Budget notes must be ordered sequentially and must follow the order of the line items in the budget.
   d. Budget notes must be written in clear and formal language and full sentences.
   e. Budget notes must describe, in a complete sentence or two, the main project-related responsibilities of each person listed on the budget. If not already listed on the budget, the note should also include the official title or position of the individual. Finally, notes must explain how the cost of the work is being covered, i.e. course buyouts, summer salary, etc.
   f. Whenever possible, the basis for estimating the costs should be explained on the actual budget form (not in the note). When space on the form does not allow for an explanation of costs, explain the basis for estimating the costs in the note. Basis for costs should include, whenever possible, an estimated unit cost and the estimated number of units necessary for the project. Do not include the basis for cost estimates in the notes if you have already provided the information on the budget itself.
   g. Essential, project-related overseas travel will be considered on a case by case basis. Any overseas travel must include the destination city and country, the number of travelers and the estimated number of days for the trip.
   h. For all international air travel, the Fly America Act will apply and flights should be budgeted accordingly. As funding is through the Department of Defense, the Open Skies Agreement will not apply.
   i. For domestic travel, list each trip separately on the budget form.
   j. Please provide a link to the university’s NICRA agreement. If this information is not available online, please include a copy of the relevant documents with the proposal.
APPLICATION FORMAT

1. Margins: 1” on all sides

2. Type face: 12 pt, Times New Roman

3. Spacing: double-spaced throughout

4. Copies: one (1) signed original (emailed as a PDF attachment to ROTC@iie.org)

5. Pages numbered consecutively, starting with title pages, and following the order specified in “Section B: Application procedures, technical requirements, and proposal content.”

NOTICE: Failure to abide by these requirements or failure to submit a complete proposal will result in disqualification.
SECTION C: MERIT REVIEW PROCESS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

MERIT REVIEW PROCESS

Proposals will be evaluated by a merit-review panel organized by the Institute of International Education (IIE). The panel will rank proposals and make recommendations to DLNSEO. Final award decisions will be made by DLNSEO based on the review panel recommendations, funding availability, and program priorities. Final award funding levels may be lower than those proposed. All costs must be allowable, allocable, and reasonable. IIE/DLNSEO will consider whether each proposed budget has the ability to support the proposed project in an efficient and effective way while demonstrating a reasonable and appropriate allocation of funding.

Final awards will be made by IIE to selected institutions. IIE may discuss the grant application with the applicant, if deemed necessary. IIE also reserves the right to award grants without discussion with any applicant. IIE may reject any or all applications, or cancel the competition, if applications do not sufficiently demonstrate their ability to meet the stated initiative goals.

MINIMUM STANDARDS

The applicant must meet the minimum standards for receiving federal funds, as defined in 32 CFR 22.415, which state:

§ To be qualified, a potential recipient must:

a) Have the management capability and adequate financial and technical resources, given those that would be made available through the grant or cooperative agreement, to execute the program of activities envisioned under the grant or cooperative agreement.

b) Have a satisfactory record of executing such programs or activities (if a prior recipient of an award).

c) Have a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics.

d) Be otherwise qualified and eligible to receive a grant or cooperative agreement under applicable laws and regulations (see § 22.420(c)).

GENERAL COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

The applicant must agree to abide by all federal laws, rules and regulations regarding performance and financial management, including, but not limited to:

a) The International Air Transportation Fair Competitive Practices Act (Fly America Act) of 1974 (49 U.S.C. 40118) and the interpretative guidelines issued by the Comptroller General of the United States in the March 31, 1981, amendment to Comptroller General Decision B138942;

b) DoDGARs Part 32, “Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations, and the OMB Circulars below apply specifically to educational institutions;”

c) OMB A-21, “Cost Principles for Educational Institutions” or OMB A-122, “Cost Principles for Non-Profit Organizations,” as applicable;
d) OMB A-110, “Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements With Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations;”
e) OMB A-133, “Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations;”
f) U.S. Executive Order No. 13224;
g) The USA PATRIOT Act (Public Law 107-56).

**REQUIRED REPRESENTATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS**

Submission of a Proposal constitutes certification that the:

a) Applicant is not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal Department or Agency. Applicant will comply with the requirements of the Government-wide debarment and suspension (Non-Procurement) 2 CFR 215.13;
b) Applicant is not delinquent on any Federal debt;
c) Applicant will comply with the requirements of the Drug-Free Workplace Act PL 100-690, Title V, Subtitle D;
d) Applicant will comply with the requirements of the Equal Employment Opportunity Act. E.O.11246, as amended by E.O.11375, and as supplemented by regulations at 41 CFR Part 60;
e) Applicant will comply with the requirements of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et Seq.) as amended
f) Applicant certifies that no federally appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Agreement and will comply with the applicable requirements of 31 U.S.C. 1352, Restrictions on Lobbying, and Standard Form LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities;
g) Applicant will comply with applicable provisions of the national policies prohibiting discrimination, including, but not limited to: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

All CFR references can be found via the following link: [http://www.ecfr.gov/](http://www.ecfr.gov/)

**EVALUATION CRITERIA**

The proposal and budget will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

**I. Quality of institutional capacity, commitment, and leadership:** 30 points

Proposals will be evaluated on the degree to which the proposal demonstrates existing institutional capacity and commitment to provide high-quality language training to DoD Personnel.
• Does the proposal show clear evidence of institutional capacity and commitment in providing high-quality training to participants?  
  \(15 \text{ points}\)

• Does the proposal show clear evidence of experienced leadership capable of designing, implementing and supporting a sustained program to meet the needs of the DoD Personnel?  
  \(15 \text{ points}\)

II. Evidence of DoD collaboration:  \(30 \text{ points}\)

Proposals will be evaluated on their ability to demonstrate a clear, collaborative partnership with a DoD unit, office, or agency and their ability to demonstrate how the proposed training meets a DoD mission requirement.

• Does the proposal clearly demonstrate that DoD personnel will utilize the proposed training?  
  \(15 \text{ Points}\)

• Does the proposal clearly demonstrate that the proposed training satisfies a specific DoD training need for the DoD partner(s)?  
  \(15 \text{ points}\)

III. Strength of proposed plan and institutional training capability:  \(30 \text{ points}\)

Proposals will be evaluated on the quality of their proposed training plans. Proposals must describe in detail the ability to provide the specific training proposed.

• Does the proposal demonstrate sufficient institutional expertise in both the instructional content and the ability to execute the trainings they have proposed?  
  \(10 \text{ points}\)

• Does the proposal utilize appropriate and effective methods and approaches and are these methods and approaches tailored to meet the specific logistical needs of the proposed DoD partners?  
  \(10 \text{ points}\)

• Does the proposal articulate previous experience in development and execution of language, regional, and cultural training?  
  \(10 \text{ points}\)

IV. Strength of reporting metrics:  \(6 \text{ points}\)

Successful applicants will articulate program objectives, assessment targets, effective evaluation processes, and other methods for demonstrating the success of the proposed initiative.

• Does the proposal clearly describe the proposed Language Training Center’s plans to assess the cost-effectiveness of the program?  
  \(3 \text{ points}\)
• Does the proposal include a careful plan to assess participants? (3 points)

V. Budget Review: 4 points

Reviewers should consider and comment specifically upon the budget’s ability to support the proposed project in an efficient and effective way while demonstrating a reasonable and appropriate allocation of funding.

• Are all costs allowable, allocable, and reasonable? (4 points)
SECTION D: TRANSMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Combine all sections of the proposal into a single, signed original and save this file as single PDF. The attached PDF must be under 10MB. Emailed attachments that exceed 10MB will be automatically rejected by IIE’s server. If it is not possible to contain the entire proposal into a single PDF, the proposal should be scanned into two separate PDF files, which will need to be emailed separately. IIE encourages all applicants to limit proposals to a single PDF under 10MB. Email the PDF to ROTC@iie.org

The DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT is 5:00 p.m. (EDT), Thursday, April 11, 2013.

Applicants will receive an email from IIE confirming receipt of their proposal by 6:00 p.m. (EDT) on Thursday, April 11, 2013.

Applicants who do not receive a confirmation email from IIE must contact IIE immediately by phone (202-326-7762) by 11 AM (EDT) on Friday, April 12th, 2013. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure receipt of the proposal.

IIE strongly encourages applicants to read carefully the program guidelines describing the activities it will fund. If, after carefully reviewing the program guidelines, applicants have additional questions, they should contact Ms. Shirley Rapues from the Defense Language and National Security Education Office. Ms. Rapues can be reached via email at shirley.rapues@wso.whs.mil or by phone at (703) 696-6516.
### SECTION E: BUDGET FORM

#### PERSONNEL

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Subtotal: $0

#### OTHER EXPENSES

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Subtotal: $0

#### SCHOLARSHIPS/TUITION

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Subtotal: $0

#### SUBTOTAL DIRECT COSTS

$0

#### MODIFIED TOTAL DIRECT COSTS

$0

#### TOTAL INDIRECT COSTS

$0

TOTAL AWARD AMOUNT: $0