

DOE-EM MSIPP FOA Q&A's #2

Q1. We understand that the lead institution cannot have a student population that exceeds 5,000 according to the NCES site. Does this requirement apply to undergraduates as well as graduate students?

A1. The requirement is for less than 5,000 students based on total enrollment. This would include both undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at the primary institution.

Q2. Does this program allow funding to be budgeted to cover faculty teaching release time?

A2. Faculty teaching release time would be considered similarly to “Sabbatical Leave Costs” as detailed in 2 CFR 200, Subpart E – Cost Principles (see excerpt below). The costs would be allowable if the criteria below are met.

(7) *Sabbatical leave costs.* Rules for sabbatical leave are as follows:

(i) Costs of leaves of absence by employees for performance of graduate work or sabbatical study, travel, or research are allowable, provided the IHE has a uniform written policy on sabbatical leave for persons engaged in instruction and persons engaged in research. These costs must be allocated equitably among all related activities of the IHE.

(ii) Where sabbatical leave is included in fringe benefits for which a cost is determined for assessment as a direct charge, the aggregate amount of such assessments applicable to all work of the institution during the base period must be reasonable in relation to the IHE's actual experience under its sabbatical leave policy.

Q3. The DOE-EM MSIPP NOFO.pdf I downloaded from grants.gov shows full application deadline on Jan 15, 2024, instead of 2025. May I assume that is a typo?

A3. Yes, that is a typo. It should be January 15, 2025. However, that date is tentative depending on the timing and results of the concept paper submissions. The final application due date will be revised and provided on Grants.gov once selections are made for the full application step.

Q4. The "Apply" button on Grants.gov has been greyed out. May I assume that only after I submit the concept paper and approved by your office will the "apply" button become available?

A4. Yes, that is correct. At this time, only concept papers are being accepted and must be submitted via e-mail to msipp-foa@emcbc.doe.gov. Those submissions selected for step two (full application), will be submitted via Grants.gov.