

The Department of Education's
Experimental Sites Initiative
Federal Work-Study – Near Peer Counseling
October 30, 2014

Agenda

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The
Experiment

2

Procedures
and
Requirements

3

Questions



Administrative Capability 668.16(b)(1) and (4)

Implementing the experiments is the responsibility of the entire institution

Federal Work-Study

Objective

- To learn whether a reduced Federal Work-Study (FWS) matching requirement for students employed as near-peer counselors in high schools encourages institutions to increase the number of FWS students employed as near-peer counselors

Federal Work-Study

Current Rules

- Except under limited circumstances, the Federal share of compensation paid to students employed under the FWS Program may not exceed 75% with an institutional match of at least 25%

Experiment

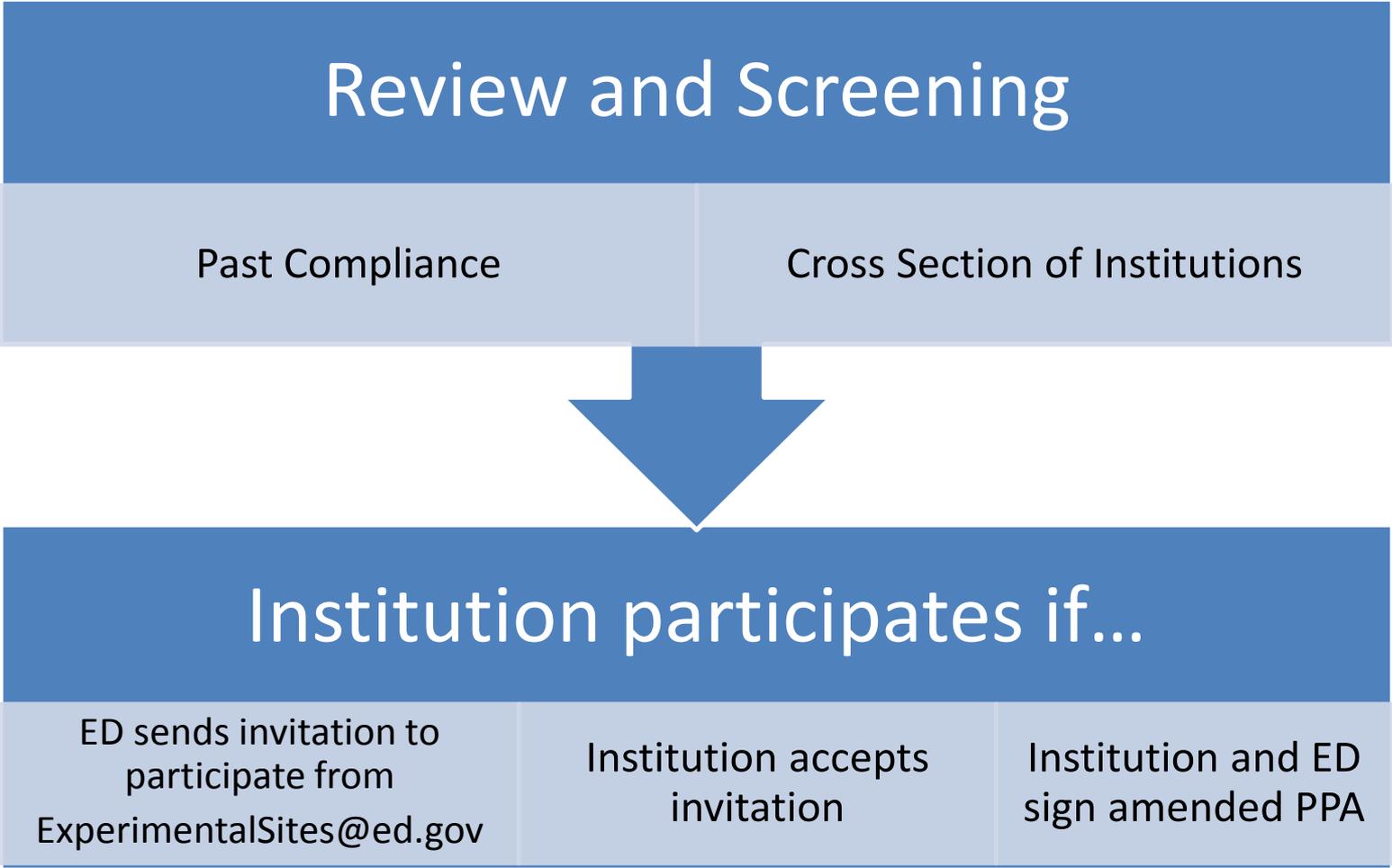
- The matching share of the FWS compensation is reduced or eliminated, allowing 100% of Federal funds to compensate FWS near-peer counselors who provide counseling to high school students about college readiness, student aid, career counseling, and/or financial literacy

At-A-Glance

Federal Work-Study

Topic	Flexibility	Outcome
Federal share of FWS compensation	Up to 100 percent Federal share provided to FWS students employed as near-peer counselors in high schools	Increased number of students employed as near-peer counselors in high schools

Where we are in the selection process



Federal Work-Study

Requirements

- Institution must place one or more FWS eligible students in positions that provide counseling to high school students about college readiness, student aid, career counseling, and/or financial literacy

Federal Work-Study

Requirements

- Near-peer counselors must be:
 - Knowledgeable in the subject area
 - Trained in relevant counseling or mentoring techniques

Federal Work-Study

Requirements

- Near-peer counselors must NOT:
 - Be involved in any institutional marketing or recruitment activities particularly for the institution itself

Federal Work-Study

Requirements

- If both college and high school students are counseled through the FWS program, the institution must have a process to separate counseling/payment activities to ensure the waiver is only used for counseling high school students

Answers to FAQ's

FWS-Q1. Will there be additional allocations available under the Federal Work-Study (FWS) experiment or will participants have to use existing fund allocations?

FWS-A1. There will be no additional FWS funds allocated to schools for participation in the FWS experiment.

Answers to FAQ's

FWS-Q2. Does near-peer counseling count as community service?

FWS-A2. Yes, near-peer counseling under this experiment meets the FWS community service requirement.

Answers to FAQ's

FWS-Q3. What level of experience or training is required for near-peer counselors?

FWS-A3. The Department believes that institutions selected for this experiment will have a sufficient understanding of the populations who would be counseled to determine what standards to set for its near-peer counselors.

Answers to FAQ's

FWS-Q4. If a school currently has a near-peer counseling program would the program qualify to participate in the experiment?

FWS-A4. Yes, as long as the counseling meets the requirements of this experiment.

Reporting and Evaluation

Data the Department intends to collect about participation:

Cohort	Number of Students
Total Enrolled	
Receiving Title IV Funds	
Awarded FWS	
Received FWS	
FWS Community Service	
FWS Community service in a high school	
FWS Doing near-peer counseling	

*Collected several times during the award year

Reporting and Evaluation

Data the Department intends to collect about your program:

Descriptive information about:

Current near-peer program (if any)

Near-peer program planned under ESI

Training provided to students

Placement of students

Student characteristics

Reporting and Evaluation

Institution must ensure that it can:

- Collect and report data
- Document actions, policies, procedures and outcomes under the experiment for future reference
- Document approval to participate (copy of amended PPA) for future reference

Department of Education Support

Tools and resources are available at
<https://studentaid.ed.gov/resources>

Topics include:	Resources include:
College Readiness	Booklets and Brochures
Federal Student Aid Resources	Videos and Images
Career Counseling	Web Pages and Tools
Financial Literacy Tools	Fact Sheets

ESI Website

<https://experimentalsites.ed.gov>

How to Apply

Federal Register Notice

Apply to Participate

Screening & Approval Process

Dear Colleague Letters & Electronic Announcements

Implement an Experiment

Action Plans

Training

Q&As

Guidance

Experiments

Experiments

List of Participants

ESI Reporting

Data Collection Instrument

Analysis Reports

Archives

Action Plan

Federal Work-Study (FWS) Near-Peer Counseling

Provides flexibility for institutions to compensate FWS students, who are employed as “near-peer” counselors, to high school students solely with Federal funds.

Exemption(s): [HEA section 443\(b\)\(5\); 34 CFR 675.26 \(a\)](#), which generally provide that the Federal share of compensation paid to an FWS student may not exceed 75 percent. All other provisions and regulations of the title IV student assistance programs and specifically regarding the FWS program will remain in effect.

To assist you with your action plan, we have provided guidance on how to implement, track and report the progress of the experiment.

Project Lead:

Action	Status
Signed Amended Program Participation Agreement (PPA) on file	
<input type="checkbox"/> Attend available training webinars	
<input type="checkbox"/> Train applicable staff at institution	
Policies and Procedures	
<input type="checkbox"/> Identify and document policies and procedures affected by the experiment <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Ensure “near-peer counseling” is provided to <i>high school</i> students, especially at risk and underrepresented students. <i>The experimental FWS funds can only be disbursed to students who work directly with students at the high school.</i>	

Contact Information

Contact ESI staff at:

experimentalsites@ed.gov

We Have Questions For You

1. Will you be able to provide the data previously discussed?
2. What other information and data do you think is important and that you could provide?
3. How many counselors do you expect to have in your near-peer counseling program?



Questions and Answers