

SC CENTER OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

SC Commission on Higher Education

The EIA-funded Center of Excellence program is a competitive grant program focused on improving teacher education and training in South Carolina. The program has been in existence since 1984 and is managed by the SC Commission on Higher Education pursuant to SC Code of Laws §59-103-140 and related §59-26-20. Program funding has been reduced 25% from \$721,101 in FY 2007-08 to the current EIA appropriation for FY2012-13 of \$537,526.¹

PURPOSE: The Centers of Excellence program enables the State's higher education institutions, or groupings of such institutions, to serve as state-of-the-art resource centers for teacher training (Centers) for South Carolina in specific areas related to the improvement of teacher education and training that will have a lasting impact on education, K-12 schools, districts, and the State. The Centers develop and model state-of-the-art teaching practices, conduct research, disseminate information, and provide training for K-12 and higher education personnel in the Center's specific area of expertise. Typical activities of Centers include: developing and modeling state-of-the-art pre-service preparation programs that focus on increasing the number of teachers appropriately prepared to work effectively with students in low-performing schools and with diverse needs for other institutions of higher education to emulate; developing innovative school-based projects to enhance student and teacher achievement at low-performing schools; conducting statewide school-based and campus-based faculty development activities related to State content and assessment standards; conducting research and evaluation activities related to teacher quality and student achievement; serving as a state (and/or regional and national) clearinghouse for information dissemination on center activities; and providing demonstration, outreach, and technical assistance programs for low performing schools and districts and institutions of higher education as requested.

AWARD PROCESS: Appropriated funds are allocated to Centers through an annual competitive grants program that is managed by the Commission. Current funding supports \$489,000 to 4 Centers with the balance necessary for CHE administrative support of the program. Funded Centers are selected based on priorities established in collaboration with the State Department of Education, Education Oversight Committee (EOC), the SC Education Deans Association (SCEDA), and CHE, and in consideration of the EOC-identified priorities for the Education Accountability Act school report cards. Priorities in FY 2012-13 for use in considering a new Center in FY 2013-14 focus on developing innovative professional development programs for effective teaching that will improve instruction and achievement at all grade levels in low performing schools. Current topics of interest are teacher performance, English Language Learners, project-based learning and assessments, technology, data driven instruction, college readiness, improving instruction and achievement in school through the arts, the STEM disciplines, and common core state standards. An on-going evaluation process involving interim, annual and final reporting and external evaluation is used to assess the effectiveness of the funded Centers.

AWARDS: Centers are awarded EIA-funds from \$112,500 to \$150,000 per year over five years to be matched with institutional or external funding. Once approved, a Center receives EIA funds for five years contingent after the first year on the submission of an annual report and performance review and on the availability of state (EIA) funds. While there is no set match for a Center's external funding, institutions are asked to ensure the Center matching funds are at a level sufficient to lead to success of activities and strategies. For funded Centers, EIA funds are reduced over the five-year period to 90% of the first year funding in the second year and 75% in the third through fifth years in order to encourage identification of external funding sources that will enable sustainability after the end of the grant period.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Attached are details on current funded Centers and trend data on service to the K-16 and postsecondary community. See.

<http://www.che.sc.gov/InstitutionsEducators/TeacherEducationInformation/CentersofExcellence.aspx> for detailed proposal guidelines and additional program information.

¹ Includes only funds for CHE Centers of Excellence program. Not reflected is the \$350,000 appropriation for Francis Marion University Center of Excellence to Prepare Teachers of Children of Poverty that was moved to CHE's Center of Excellence program line in FY 2011-12 and directed for its intended purpose per proviso.

SC CHE CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM, CONTINUED

Currently Funded CHE Centers of Excellence for 2012-13				
<u>INSTITUTION</u>	<u>Center of Excellence in</u>	<u>Initial Year of Award/ Last Year of Award</u>	<u>Current EIA Allocation</u>	<u>Anticipated FY13-14 Allocation*</u>
Clemson University	Inquiry in Mathematics and Science	2008-09/ 2012-13	\$ 112,500	ended
USC-Aiken	Middle-level Interdisciplinary Strategies for Teaching	2008-09/ 2012-13	\$ 112,500	ended
Newberry College	Teacher Retention (RETAIN: Retain and Empower Teachers through Action, Innovation, and Networking)	2010-11/ 2014-15	\$ 112,500	\$112,500
Claflin University	Center of Excellence in English Language Learners Professional Development	2011-12/2015-16	\$119,300	\$112,500
The Citadel	STEM Center of Excellence (Recommended in 2012-13, but not funded in 2012-13 because of funding and commitment to continuing Centers)	2013-14/2017-18	0	\$150,000
Anticipated New Center		2013-14/ 2017-18	0	\$150,000
Total Allocation to CHE Centers			\$489,000	\$525,000
CHE Program Administration Costs			\$48,526	\$48,526
Total CHE Program Allocations¹			\$537,526	\$573,526²

¹ NOTE: Table includes only those Centers or anticipated Centers that are presently part of the CHE program component. Francis Marion University additionally receives an allocation of \$350,000 for its Center of Excellence to Prepare Teachers of Children of Poverty that flows through CHE's program line per Proviso 1A.47 to the Center. Including the Francis Marion Center and the CHE program component, the total EIA line for Centers of Excellence totals \$887,526 for FY13.

² CHE is requesting an increase of \$36,000 in FY 2013-14 for its program which would enable continued funding of current grant obligations and one additional Center.

SC Centers of Excellence, Education Improvement Act of 1984 Five-Year Summary of Service to K-16 and Postsecondary Community						
Project Year	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	Total Served
Number of Teachers Served*	918	863	223	643	2,647	5,294
Number of Students Served (P-12)*	7,690	10,259	3,025	1,556	22,530	45,060
Number of Pre-service students served	1,199	607	190	236	2,232	4,464
Number of Districts Served	96	34	14	11	155	310
Number of in-service activities	1,651	119	80	27	1,877	3,754
Number of schools served (P-12)	474	221	41	40	776	1,552
Number of faculty (higher education served)	163	88	1	0	252	504
Number of higher education institutions served	15	18	3	3	39	78
Number of state and national presentations	57	48	22	27	154	308
Number of impaired Districts served	66	22	0	0	88	176
Number of impaired Schools served	212	28	12	0	252	504

* From 2007-08 to 2008-09 data reported from one institution included all participants and are not an unduplicated individual count. Data were adjusted in FY 2009-10 to include the unduplicated count for reports of teacher and student participants from each Center.