

September 9, 2020

Greetings Talent Search Project Director,

- This is an update from the GEAR UP and Talent Search Division. We were able to award all the Talent Search NCC awards prior to the end of the budget period. Dear Colleague Letters have been sent to project directors with the next steps regarding your FY 2020 award.
- The GEAR UP and Talent Search Team is beginning the planning stage for the FY 2021 Talent Search competition. The Talent Search application that is used to solicit proposals under the Talent Search competition has expired. The Department has submitted the Talent Search application to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval to have the application reinstated for three years. Three years is the maximum number of years a federal document can be approved. Part of the OMB approval process consists of a public comment period. The public comment period allows the public to review and comment on the document during the public comment period. The Talent Search application is currently under a 30-day public comment period which began September 1, 2020.
- **SPECIAL NOTICE: As a result of the current Talent Search Annual Performance Report (APR) expiring on November 30, 2020, the Student Service Division expects the Talent Search APR to be available on October 16 with a planned deadline of November 13.**
- The U.S. Department of Education has the responsibility to complete a Congressionally-mandated 180 day report for flexibilities offered under CARES Act sections 3517 and 3518. Please see the attached letter that was sent to all projects on special flexibilities provided to projects. **If you wrote for and received a written approval from your Program Specialist on either of or for all three of these (Gift cards for food, PPE and/or Technology as result of COVID-19), please send an e-mail to Marques.thomas@ed.gov indicating which of the three you received approval for, along with your project's PR award number, institution/grantee's name and for how long the flexibility was approved. Please send your email to Marques by Friday, September 11, 2020.**

My office will continue to send out updates as they become available to the program division. Thank you and your staff for all that you do. We are all in this together.

Best regards,

Craig Pooler

GEAR UP and Talent Search Division Director