The U.S. Department of Education Comprehensive Centers Program

Administering Office
Office of School Support and Rural Programs
(Office of Elementary and Secondary Education)

Authorizing Legislation
Public Law 107-279, Title II, Section 203

FY2012 Funding
Appropriation: $51,113,213
Number of new awards: 22
Average new award: $2,370,237

Evaluation
In addition to its past five-year evaluations of the program, the Institute for Education Sciences is conducting a five-year project to build an ongoing evaluation system for the 22 centers, to be based on The World Bank’s ongoing peer evaluation model.

15 Regional Comprehensive Centers
Regional Comprehensive Centers (RCCs) provide frontline technical assistance and training to states to help them implement ESEA and other related federal school improvement programs, as well as to help increase their capacity to assist their districts and schools. Regional Centers are embedded in their regions and responsible for developing strong relationships and partnerships within their regional communities.

Purpose and Mission
The Comprehensive Centers Program awards discretionary grants that support 22 comprehensive centers to help increase state capacity to assist districts and schools in meeting ESEA student achievement goals. By statute, the Department is required to establish at least one center in each of the 10 geographic regions served by the Department's regional education laboratories.

The 2012 reorganization of the comprehensive network reorganized the Regional Centers, increased the number of focus-area Content Centers, and reoriented the primary focus of technical assistance to states only. Therefore, the 15 Regional Centers provide services primarily to State Education Agencies (SEAs), while the 7 content centers focus on specific areas of expertise and may work directly with SEAs or through regional centers. Grantees are required to develop five-year plans for carrying out authorized activities that address state and regional needs.

7 Content Centers
Together, the seven Content Centers (CCs) cover a spectrum of school improvement and technical assistance areas. Each of them is responsible for providing in-depth knowledge, expertise, and analyses in its focal area to Regional Centers and the states they serve. Content Centers disseminate information about scientifically-based research on effective practice and research-based products in their area of specialty and provide expertise that Regional Centers can use in delivering technical assistance to States.

Regional Comprehensive Centers Network
As Appropriated in FY2012

North Central Regional
Denver, CO
$825,000
McREL

Great Lakes Regional
Naperville, IL
$3.5 million
American Institutes for Research

South Central Regional
Norman, OK
$2.2 million
U. of Oklahoma

Texas Regional
Austin, TX
$3.9 million
SEDL

Mid-West Regional
Chicago, IL
$3.1 million
American Institutes for Research

Northeast Regional
Portsmouth, NH
$3.6 million
RMC Research

Appalachia Regional
Charleston, WV
$2.4 million
ICF International

Mid-Atlantic Regional
Washington, DC
$3.0 million
WestEd

Southeast Regional
Cayce, SC
$4.4 million
SEDL

Florida and Islands Regional
Tampa, FL
$2.3 million
ETS

Northwest Regional
Portland, OR
$1.9 million
Education Northwest

California Regional
Sacramento, CA
$4.9 million
WestEd

West Regional
Phoenix, AZ
$1.9 million
WestEd

Central Regional
Norman, OK
$1.6 million
U. of Oklahoma

Content Centers

Center on Standards and Assessment Implementation
Sacramento, CA
WestEd
Partner: CRESST
$1.4 million

Center on School Turnaround
Sacramento, CA
WestEd
Partners: Academic Development Institute, Darden/Curry Partnership (UVA), NIRN
$1.4 million

Center on College and Career Readiness and Success
Washington, DC
American Institutes of Research
$1.4 million

Center on Building State Capacity and Productivity
San Antonio, TX
Edvance
Partners: CRPE, Academic Development Institute, Fiscal Analytics Unit (Georgetown U.)
$1.4 million

Center on Innovations in Learning
Philadelphia, PA
Temple University
Partner: Illinois Academic Institute
$1.4 million

Center on Great Teachers and Leaders
Washington, DC
American Institutes for Research
Partners: CCSSO, Public Impact
$2.5 million

Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes
New Brunswick, NJ
Rutgers University
Partners: Education Development Center, The Council of Chief State School Officers
$1.4 million

Center on College and Career Readiness and Success
Washington, DC
American Institutes of Research
$1.4 million