

Field-Initiated Demonstration Project Connections Beyond Sight and Sound Mini-Grant Criteria for the 2016-2017 Application Process

The purpose of this grant is to provide funding for educators who are working with children who have dual sensory impairment, with or without other severe disabilities. **Two grants** of up to **\$1000** each will be awarded this year. This program provides the opportunity for direct service providers and administrators to develop innovative projects, to replicate successful practices, or to enrich and expand curriculum in ways that directly and positively affect services to students with deaf-blindness / severe disabilities. Requests can be made for students in a variety of settings, including special education, inclusive, and home-based environments.

Funding is granted to applicants who score the highest number of points based on the five criteria detailed below. These criteria look at creative and collaborative strategies that enhance not only a student's progress towards meeting educational objectives, but also strategies that support a student's interaction with other children, adults, and staff members in school, home, and community settings. Interested applicants may complete the application form found on the Connections Beyond Sight and Sound website (www.cbss.umd.edu). **The deadline for submission of this year's application is October 31, 2016.** Incomplete applications will **not** be considered.

Applications should include:

1. Completion of downloaded Mini-Grant Award application (found at www.cbss.umd.edu).
2. A description of the requested program material(s), including approximate cost.
3. Narrative response to each of the five scoring criteria listed on the following pages. (Scoring rubric is available on the CBSS website).

Applications are to be returned **on or before October 31, 2016 by either mail, fax or e-mail** to:

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CBSS Project Director
3214 Benjamin Bldg.
College Park, MD 20742
FAX 301-405-9995
ATTN: D. Riccobono
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Selection will be made by a review committee comprised of professionals in the field of special education. *Connections Beyond Sight and Sound* staff members **do not** serve as grant reviewers.

Applicants who are awarded funding are required to present the funded project during the *Connections Beyond Sight and Sound* Advisory Board Meeting to be held in Columbia, Maryland, on **May 12, 2017**.

Mini-Grant Criteria for the 2016-2017 Application Process
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Criteria 1: *Benefits Students with Dual Sensory Impairment*

Explanation:

Funding of requested program material(s) will positively impact the education of one or more students diagnosed with dual sensory impairment (i.e., deafblindness). For this grant application, deafblindness is defined as any condition that results in a child having both a vision and a hearing loss.

Application Process: (250 words or less)

List the number of students who will benefit from the use of requested program materials, and describe the nature of their sensory and other disabilities. If a student is in an inclusive, home-based, or natural environment for education, please describe this setting.

Scoring Criteria:

Points will be given based on the number of children with dual sensory impairment who will benefit from funding of the requested program material(s), or on the use of requested materials with one or more children in an inclusive or home-based setting.

Criteria 2: *Supports IEP or IFSP Objectives*

Explanation:

Funding of requested program material(s) will support the educational goals of one or more objectives listed on the education or service plan of one or more students with dual sensory impairment. These goals may include education, communication, or other therapeutic objectives.

Application Process: (250 words or less)

List the education objective(s) and measurement criteria that will be affected by funding of the requested program material(s), and briefly describe how the material(s) will enhance specific instructional strategies and/or learning opportunities for the student(s).

Scoring Criteria:

Points will be given based on the use of requested program materials to support the specific education or service plan of one or more students.

Criteria 3: *Supports Student Interaction with Other Children and Adults*

Explanation:

Funding of requested program material(s) will enhance communication opportunities in the classroom or natural environments. This includes strategies that promote social and communication skills during academic and/or recreational activities.

Mini-Grant Criteria for the 2016-2017 Application Process

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Application Process: (250 words or less)

Briefly describe how the requested program material(s) will facilitate communication and support social interaction between the student and other children and/or adults.

Scoring Criteria:

Points will be given based on the strategies listed for using requested program material(s) to facilitate and support interactions between one or more students with deafblindness and other children or adults.

Criteria 4: *Enhances Staff Training and Collaboration*

Explanation:

Funding of requested program material(s) will encourage creative and collaborative approaches to service delivery for children with deafblindness. This includes transdisciplinary and in-service training for a variety of staff members who may work directly or indirectly with students who have deafblindness.

Application Process: (250 words or less)

Briefly describe how staff members will be trained to use the requested program material(s) and to work directly or indirectly with students who have deafblindness.

Scoring Criteria:

Points will be given based on the description of how staff members will be trained, and the number of staff members who will be involved in training and the support of children with deafblindness.

Criteria 5: *Benefits Student in Multiple Settings*

Explanation:

Funding of requested program material(s) will support skill and communication development in a variety of settings outside of a classroom environment, including a student's home and community.

Application Process: (250 words or less)

Briefly describe the settings where a student will have opportunities to use the requested program material(s), and how the material(s) will be used in these settings.

Scoring Criteria:

Points will be given based on the number of settings in which a student will have opportunities to use the requested program material(s).