

Funding Opportunity: ED Announces Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) Program

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC – January 19, 2021

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) issued a Notice Inviting Applications for fiscal year (FY) 2021 competition of the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) Program.

The GAANN program is looking to support graduate fellowships for students who demonstrate financial need and possess excellent academic records through grants to institutions of higher education (IHEs) and academic departments. An absolute priority of the notice is that the funded project must provide one or more fellowships in one of the identified “national areas of need,” or an interdisciplinary program involving at least two of these fields, or for a multidisciplinary project. The support should lead to the obtainment of the highest graduate degree awarded by the IHE in that area. For the FY 2021 competition, GAANN will support the following fields:

- Computer and Information Sciences
 - Cybersecurity
 - Secure computer programming
 - Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Engineering
 - Covers a range of engineering disciplines, details can be found in full solicitation.
- Biological Sciences/Life Sciences
 - Biology, General
 - Biochemistry and Biophysics
 - Botany
 - Cell and Molecular Biology
 - Microbiology/Bacteriology
 - Miscellaneous Biological Specializations
 - Zoology
- Psychology
 - Detailed areas of psychology found in full solicitation.
- Nursing

Applications will receive additional preference if the applicant meets the competitive preference priority that the applicant does not have an active GAANN grant by the deadline of the submission of applications.

Deadline: The application deadline is **March 1, 2021**, with the intergovernmental review process expected to be completed by April 30, 2021.

Award information: The ED plans to fund up to 72 awards, with each award amount ranging between \$101,460 and \$405,840. Project periods are expected to last up to 36 months.

Cost sharing: An institutional matching contribution equal to at least 25 percent of the grant amount received must be provided. For the 2021-22 academic year, the institution must pay the fellow a

stipend at a level of support equal to that provided by the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program.

Eligibility: Any academic department of an IHE that “leads to a graduate degree in an area of national need” and has existed for 4 years, and/or “submits a joint application with one or more eligible non-degree-granting institutions that have formal arrangements for the support of doctoral dissertation research with one or more degree-granting institutions” is eligible to apply.

Sources and Additional Information

- For more details, the full NIA can be found [here](#).