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TO: High School Principals, Local Education Agencies  
FROM: Dr. Jeremy M. Hughes, Ph.D.  
DATE: April 4, 2005

**SUBJECT: U.S. Department of Education Smaller Learning Communities Grant Notice**

The Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE), U.S. Department of Education will be posting a notice for Smaller Learning Communities (SLC) grants. The goal of this program is to increase the academic achievement in large high schools through the creation of smaller, more personalized learning environments. High schools enrolling more than 1,000 students can establish strategies, such as, small learning clusters, career academies, teacher-advisory mentoring, and other innovations designed to create more personalized instruction.

This year’s grant has modifications from previous years, most significantly in the size of the award and length of the grant. Each smaller learning community grant will be funded for a span of 5 years. This allows schools for both planning and implementation. Also, the size of available grants has increased. Note the chart below.

SLC Grant Award Ranges

Student enrollment	Award ranges per school
1,000-2,000 Students.....	\$650,000-\$800,000
2,001-3,000 Students.....	\$650,000-\$925,000
3,001-4,000 Students.....	\$650,000-\$1,050,000
4,001 and Up.....	\$650,000-\$1,175,000

In addition to the regular Smaller Learning Community grant, OVAE has opened a separate, special competition under the SLC Program awarding grants to schools that, in addition to pursuing SLC activities, are willing to participate in a national evaluation of supplemental reading programs in already established freshman academies. Current and former SLC grantees, and schools that have not previously received funding through the SLC program, may be eligible to apply. The maximum award amount is \$1,125,000 per school. Applications are being accepted until May 16.

If your school and district are interested in applying for the regular SLC grant, the literacy intervention grant, or both, log onto the U.S. Department of Education’s Smaller Learning

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Communities website: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/slcp/applicant.html>. The website includes information on each of the grant programs, applicant dates, and samples of successful grant applications.

For more information you may contact Debbie Williams at the U.S. Department of Education, [Deborah.Williams@ed.gov](mailto:Deborah.Williams@ed.gov), or MaryAlice Galloway at the Michigan Department of Education, [gallowaym@michigan.gov](mailto:gallowaym@michigan.gov).