OVERVIEW

Preparation providers are increasingly accountable for conducting an annual evaluation to assess program effectiveness and impact using an evidence-based system to ensure continuous improvement. As a further mechanism to help providers meet these expectations, ESE will fund an initiative that will provide SOs with:

- Formative feedback in alignment with the state’s Program Approval Standards on one or more program areas
- Monetary support ($25,000) for a change initiative in direct response to the key learnings identified from the formative review.

By engaging in external evaluations, SOs will gain insight into their programs in a way they would not otherwise be able to access. This formative feedback review is for continuous improvement purposes only and is not tied in any way to accountability provisions from the state.

In support of this review, ESE has contracted with a vendor to conduct external evaluations. In order to be selected, the vendor demonstrated specific qualities outlined in the full overview (see Attachment A, Section “Selected Vendor”), thereby assuring ESE that the vendor will be able to provide preparation programs with meaningful, professional feedback aligned to our state expectations.

Please note: Due to the expenditure of funds associated with this project, the application is open through the state COMMBUYS system and will require interested SOs to apply as “vendors.” This mechanism is in place to ensure that we can disperse funds appropriately. Please review all documentation requirements carefully as there are additional components required with this process.

COMMITMENT & EXPECTATIONS

Overall, ESE expects selected Sponsoring Organizations to:
1. Participate in a formative feedback review during the 2016-2017 academic year.
2. Use the feedback received through the review to plan and implement a corresponding change initiative in the 2017-2018 year.
3. (Optional) Engage 1-2 interested individuals from the SO in training associated with the review process.

TARGET PARTNERS

This opportunity is open to all Sponsoring Organizations in the state. In selecting SOs to participate, ESE will look for evidence of the following:

- Track record of success being responsive to feedback and data about the quality of preparation
- Commitment from senior/executive leadership to participate in the review
- Ability of senior/executive leadership to lead a major change initiative
- Anticipated level of generalizability of feedback from program(s) under review to the larger work of the organization in preparing educators
- Buy-in from faculty and staff within organization