**Section 1010.20 Selection of Projects for Grants**

a) Types of Projects. Grants will be made for the following types of projects:

1) A regional academic center is a cooperative organization of two or more institutions of higher education that coordinates postsecondary academic programs and services;

2) A short-term experimental educational program which, if successful, can show some reasonable expectation of being continued with support from other sources;

3) An educational program of statewide significance.

b) Criteria. Projects shall meet the following criteria:

1) Use of educational resources in an effective and efficient manner;

2) Development of innovative concepts and applications that effectively deliver educational programs;

3) Involvement of the local community;

4) Effectiveness as a cooperative function as opposed to a function carried out by a single existing institution;

5) Consistency with the Illinois master plan for higher education;

6) Designation as a program to serve a secular purpose as opposed to any sectarian purpose.

c) Additional criteria for regional academic centers. In addition to the criteria listed in 1010.20(b), regional academic centers must meet the following additional criteria in order to be eligible for a grant:

1) Mission

A) The regional academic center must have established a clearly defined mission to serve the educational needs of the region through coordinated planning and delivery of instructional programs. A clearly defined mission explains the purpose, role and function of the center and is written by the participating institutions.

B) The mission of the regional academic center and the mission of each participating institution must be compatible, and the mission of the regional academic center must receive the endorsement of the chief executive officers of each participating institution.

2) Needs and Priorities

A) The regional academic center must provide programs to a region of the State which are not adequately provided by existing postsecondary institutions in the region as determined by needs assessments submitted by the applicants.

B) The programs delivered under the auspices of the regional academic center must be compatible with the Board of Higher Education's master plan policies (23 Ill. Adm. Code 1070), when applicable.

C) The regional academic center must meet local and regional educational needs as identified by periodic needs assessments and community involvement.

3) Governance

A) The regional academic center must have a governance structure that includes institutional and community representation, and thereby assures that the governance of the regional academic center reflects both institutional and regional concerns.

B) The participating institutions collectively must have the academic programs and services to address the educational needs of the region.

4) Administration

A) The regional academic center staff must be qualified to provide academic leadership for the regional academic center commensurate with the level of academic programs and services offered by the center.

B) The regional academic center and its participating institutions must share the responsibility for assuring that the criteria for Board of Higher Education program approval are maintained.

C) The administrative structure of the regional academic center must provide for periodic needs assessments and program planning.

D) The administrative structure of the regional academic center must provide for monitoring of academic policies and evaluation of academic programs.

5) Financing. The regional academic center must provide in its proposal information about additional financial and other resources that are available to maintain long-term support required to fulfill its mission.

(Source: Amended at 9 Ill. Reg. 8146, effective May 16, 1985)