

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202-2649**

**2009 APPLICATION KIT FOR NEW GRANTS
UNDER THE
REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
INSTITUTE ON REHABILITATION ISSUES
CFDA 84.264C**



**FORM APPROVED
OMB No. 1820-0018, EXP. DATE: 05/31/2010
ED FORM 424, OMB APPROVED**

DATED MATERIAL - OPEN IMMEDIATELY

CLOSING DATE: JULY 31, 2009

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REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Dear Applicant:

The Secretary invites applications for new awards for fiscal year 2009 under the Training Program, Institute on Rehabilitation Issues, (CFDA) 84.264. This program is authorized by the statutory authority contained in Part 302 (a) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 772). Please take a few moments to read this letter carefully as it includes important information related to the grant competition. ***The program offers financial assistance to establish projects that will: (1) Train newly employed State agency staff at the administrative, supervisory, professional, paraprofessional, or clerical levels in order to develop needed skills for effective agency performance; (2) Provide training opportunities for experienced State agency personnel at all levels of State agency practice to upgrade their skills and to develop mastery of new program developments dealing with significant issues, priorities, and legislative thrusts of the State and Federal vocational rehabilitation (VR) program; and (3) develop and conduct training programs for staff in client assistance programs, centers for independent living, private rehabilitation agencies and facilities that cooperate with State VR units in providing VR and other rehabilitation services.***

There are several factors that will result in automatic rejection of your application. Please be sure your application addresses each appropriately:

- The maximum funding levels contained in section D of this application kit are strictly enforced. Failure to adhere to them will result in rejection of your application.
- Part III of the application narrative is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria used by reviewers in evaluating the application. The applicant must limit Part III to the equivalent of no more than **45** pages, using the following standards:

(1) A "page" is 8.5" x 11" on one side only with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides.

(2) You must double space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.

If you use a proportional computer font, you may not use a font smaller than a 12-point font or an average character density greater than 18 characters per inch. If you use a nonproportional font or a typewriter, you may not use more than 12 characters per inch.

The page limit does not apply to Part I, the cover sheet; Part II, the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; Part IV; the assurances and certifications; or the one-page abstract, the resumes, the bibliography, or the letters of support. However, you must include all of the application narrative in Part III.

If, in order to meet the page limit, you use print size, spacing, or margins smaller than the standards specified in this notice, the Secretary will not consider your application for funding.

Please remember that peer reviewers are instructed that appendix material is to be considered supplemental material to support or show evidence supporting statements made in the narrative. They are neither requested nor expected to consider appendix material in rating applications.

Per the Adarand decision (Adarand Constructors, Inc. V. Pena 515 U.S. 200), the Department of Education does not allow the selection of staff or program participants on the basis of race or national origin/ethnicity. For this reason, applicants must ensure that any discussion of hiring or program participation distinguishes between increasing the pool of applicants and actually selecting staff or participants, base on race or national origin/ethnicity, for the program.

Applicants for new projects in response to this announcement should become familiar with the Selection criteria contained in this application kit (see Section E). These criteria will be used by Reviewers and Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) staff to evaluate all applications.

Your application should respond to each identified criterion since failure to do so will put your application at a significant disadvantage.

Reviewers of applications report that an application written in a format that follows the peer review criteria and contains a separate budget section greatly facilitates the review process. Such a format would appear as follows:

SECTION A: Application face page

SECTION B: Budget pages/budget narrative

SECTION C: Abstract (one page)

SECTION D: Narrative (not to exceed 45 pages):

- Relevance to State-Federal Rehabilitation Service Program
- Nature and Scope of Curriculum
- Quality of Project Services
- Quality of the Management Plan
- Quality of the Project Evaluation
- Quality of Project Personnel
- Adequacy of Resources

SECTION E: Appendices (assurances/certifications, one-page resumes, bibliography, letters of support, etc.)

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS (EDGAR)

Rehabilitation Training Program grants are subject to the requirements of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations at 34 CFR Parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85,

and 86. These regulations set forth all general rules affecting application submittal, review, grant awarding, and post-award administration of Department of Education grant programs.

Rehabilitation training projects are subject to the requirements for “Intergovernmental Review of Department of Education Programs and Activities,” found in 34 CFR Part 79 and EDGAR. If your State has established a process for intergovernmental review, you must use that process. Applicants should review the material in this kit for information on the intergovernmental review process.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applicants for multi-year projects are required to provide detailed budget information for each of the five project years. Any applicant that exceeds in any way the maximum allowed amount for any year will be disqualified. The Department will determine at the time of the initial award, the funding levels for each year of the grant award. RSA requires annual performance reports, and uses those reports to determine progress and to make a decision as to whether or not to continue funding the project. These reports must be submitted to the designated RSA Project Officer.

Applicants may contact the Competition Manager to discuss any matters relating to this competition. The Competition Manager is Edwin W. Powell, who may be reached at 202-245-7505.

Your concern for the training of skilled rehabilitation personnel to serve persons with disabilities is appreciated.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Thomas E. Finch, Ph.D

Acting Director

Training and Services Projects Division

PROGRAM APPLICATION INDIRECT COST INSTRUCTIONS

The Department of Education (ED) reimburses grantees for its portion of indirect costs that a grantee incurs in projects funded by the Rehabilitation of Individuals Who Are Mentally Ill Program, CFDA 84.129H. Any grantee charging indirect costs to a grant from this program must use the indirect cost rate (ICR), negotiated with its *cognizant agency*, i.e., either the Federal agency from which it has received the most direct funding, subject to indirect cost support, the particular agency specifically assigned cognizance by the Office of Management and Budget or the State agency that provides the most subgrant funds to the grantee.

Note: Applicants should pay special attention to specific questions on the application budget form (ED 524) about their cognizant agency and the ICR they are using in their budget.

If an applicant selected for funding under this program has not already established a current ICR with its cognizant agency as a result of current or previous funding, ED will require it to do so within 90 days after the date the grant was issued by ED. Applicants should be aware that ED is very often *not* the cognizant agency for its own grantees. Rather, ED accepts, for the purpose of funding its awards, the current ICR established by the appropriate cognizant agency.

An applicant that has not previously established an indirect cost rate with the Federal government or a State agency under a Federal program and that is selected for funding will not be allowed to charge its grant for indirect costs until it has negotiated a current indirect cost rate agreement with its cognizant agency.

Applicants are encouraged to use their accountant (or CPA) to calculate an indirect cost rate using information in the IRS Form 990, audited financial statements, actual cost data or a *cost policy statement* that such applicants are urged to prepare (but NOT submit to ED) during the application process.

Applicants should use this proposed rate in their application materials and indicate which of the above methods was used to calculate the rate. Guidance for creating a cost policy statement can be obtained by sending an e-mail to katrina.mcdonald@ed.gov.

Applicants with questions about using indirect cost rates under this program should contact the program contact person shown elsewhere in this application package or in the *Federal Register* application notice of 04/26/2006.

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ FIRST

U.S. Department of Education APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCEDURES AND TIPS FOR APPLICANTS

<http://e-grants.ed.gov>

To facilitate your use of e-Application, this document includes important application preparation and submission procedures you need to be aware of to ensure your application is received in a timely manner and accepted by the Department of Education. Please read and follow these step-by-step directions to create and submit your application.

ATTENTION

Applicants using the Department of Education's e-Application system will need to register first to access an application package. Forms in an application package are completed on line and narratives are uploaded while logged into the system. Therefore, allow sufficient time to complete your application before the closing date. If you have not used e-Application in the past, you may want to walk through the Demo available on the e-Application homepage. If you encounter difficulties, you may also contact the e-Grants help desk on 1-888-336-8930. The following are steps you should follow to successfully complete an application with e-Application.

Step 1 – Determine if your program is accepting electronic applications.

The Federal Register Notice of each program will indicate whether the program is accepting e-Applications as part of the Department's e-Application program. Here is a link to the Department's Federal Register notices:

<http://www.ed.gov/news/fedregister/announce/index.html>

Additional information on the Department's of Education's grant programs can be found at:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/grants/grants.html>

Step 2 – Register in e-Application to access the application package.

If you are a new user, you will need to register to use e-Application. From the e-Grants Portal Page <http://e-grants.ed.gov>, click on the continue button and click the register button on the right side of the next page. Select the e-Application module and click the next button. Please provide the requested information. Your e-Grants password will be sent to the e-mail address you provide. Once you receive the e-mail, enter your username and password and click the login button.

If you already have a username and password for e-Grants, use them to login. If you have access to more than one e-Grants module, you will be directed to select which module you wish

to enter. Keep in mind that this username and password will be used for all e-Grants modules. In order to update your registration for additional e-Grants modules, click the appropriate tab on the top of the screen and provide the requested information.

Note the following browser compatibility problems. The site is viewed best in Internet Explorer 5. We currently support IE 5, Netscape 6.2, Firefox 2.2 (along with later versions of IE, Netscape and Firefox). Please make sure that you have **Cookies** and **JavaScript** enabled in your browser.

Step 3 - Add Application Package to your Start Page.

From your Start Page, click on the "Add" button to see the list of application packages. Click on a specific package link on the List of Application Packages to apply. The package will now appear on your Start Page. From this point forward, you will access your unique application from your Start Page (not the Packages Page).

Step 4 - Begin the Application.

Click on the underlined Application Package Title on your Start Page. This brings you to a page where you will see all of the application's forms and narratives listed as underlined links.

Step 5 - Fill out Forms.

Enter a form by clicking on the underlined form title in order to enter data. Remember to click the "Save" button at the bottom of the form and check the "Form Completed" box for each form as you complete it.

Step 6 - Upload File(s) for Narrative Responses.

Click on an underlined narrative form title for the e-Application. Enter the title of the document, and click on the "Browse" button to locate your file. Remember to click the "Save" button after you upload the document and check the "Form Completed" box when you finish uploading your file(s). Please note for file uploads, we accept .doc, .rtf, and .pdf files only. If you are using Word 2007, please save your document in a lower version of Word before uploading into e-Application.

Step 7 - Verify Information/Print Application.

Verify your information is complete and correct on all required forms and narratives. You have the option to print each form at any time by clicking on the print/view icon  next to the appropriate form. After submission of the forms and narratives, you have the option to print a complete e-Application package in PDF by clicking on the "Request Complete Package in PDF" on the e-Application PR/Award page. A second window will open informing you that your request has been received and that you will be notified via email once it is available. This process can take anywhere from a few minutes to a few hours. Once you receive the email, click on the link in the text of the message and enter your username and password in the new window. This will open the PDF file from which you can view/print the entire package. In addition, a blank complete package in PDF will be accessible from the package page in e-Application.

Step 8 - Submit your Application.

Only authorized individuals for your organization can submit an application. Please check with your Authorizing Representative or sponsored research office before submission. Click on the "Ready to submit" button at the bottom of your application. Enter and verify the Authorizing Representative information. Click the "Submit" button. You will receive an e-mail to confirm that your application was received, and it will include a unique application number. Please print and keep this e-mail for your records. [Reminder: applications must be submitted before 4:30:00 pm, Washington, D.C. time, on the deadline date for applications. e-Application will not accept your application if you try to submit it after 4:30:00 on the deadline date.]

Step 9 - Fax the signed SF 424 Cover Page (or Program Specific Cover Page).

Write your unique application number (received in step 8) on the upper right corner of your printed SF 424 Cover Page (or Program Specific Cover Page), and fax it to the Application Control Center (202) 245-6272 within 3 business days of submitting your e-Application.

NOTE: For more detailed information on submitting an e-Application, please see the **User Guide**. In addition, please try practicing with our e-Application Demo site by clicking on the Demo button found on the upper left corner of the e-Application Home Page. Both the User Guide and Demo can be found at <http://e-grants.ed.gov>.

Other Submission Tips

1) SUBMIT EARLY – We strongly recommend that you do not wait until the last day to submit your application.

The time it takes to upload the narratives for your application will vary depending on a number of factors including the size of the files and the speed of your Internet connection. If you try to submit your application after 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, D.C. time on the deadline date, the e-Application system will not accept it.

2) If electronic submission is optional and you have problems that you are unable to resolve before the deadline date and time for electronic applications, please follow the transmittal instructions for hard copy applications in the Federal Register notice and get a hard copy application postmarked by midnight on the deadline date.

If electronic submission is required, you must submit an electronic application before 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, D.C. time, unless you follow the procedures in the Federal Register notice and qualify for one of the exceptions to the electronic submission requirement and submit, no later than two weeks before the application deadline date, a written statement to the Department that you qualify for one of these exceptions. (See the Federal Register notice for detailed instructions.)

3) Dial-Up Internet Connections

When using a dial up connection to upload and submit your application, it can take significantly longer than when you are connected to the Internet with a high-speed connection, e.g. cable modem/DSL/T1. While times will vary depending upon the size of your application, it can take a few minutes to a few hours to complete your grant submission using a dial up connection. If you do not have access to a high-speed connection and electronic submission is required, you may want to consider following the instructions in the Federal Register notice to obtain an exception to the electronic submission requirement no later than two weeks before the application deadline date. (See the Federal Register notice for detailed instructions.)

Attaching Files – Additional Tips

Please note the following tips related to attaching files to your application:

1. Ensure that you only attach the Education approved file types detailed in the Federal Register application notice (.doc, .pdf or .rtf). If using Word 2007, save your file to an earlier version of Word before uploading. Also, do not upload any password protected files to your application.
2. When attaching files, applicants should limit the size of their file names. Lengthy file names could result in difficulties with opening and processing your application. We recommend you keep your file names to less than 50 characters. In addition, applicants should avoid including special characters in their file names (for example, %, *, /, etc.) Both of these conditions (lengthy file names and/or special characters including in the file names) could result in difficulties opening and processing a submitted application.
3. Applicants should limit the size of their file attachments. Documents submitted that contain graphics and/or scanned material often greatly increase the size of the file attachments and can result in difficulties opening the files. Please note that each file attachment in e-Application has a file size limitation which is anywhere from 2 to 8 MB and the limitation will be indicated on the individual screen when you upload a file. For reference, however, the average discretionary grant application package totals 1 to 2 MB. Therefore, you may want to check the size of your attachments before uploading them into e-Application.

SECTION B

TRAINING PROGRAM UNIT COMPETITION MANAGER

RSA Central Office Contact
Edwin W. Powell
Competition Manager
Department of Education, RSA
Potomac Center Plaza, Room 5038, Mail Stop 2800
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-2550

Telephone: 202-245-7505

SECTION C

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR NEW AWARDS

4000-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

Overview Information

Rehabilitation Training--Rehabilitation Continuing Education

Programs (RCEP)--Institute on Rehabilitation Issues (IRI)

Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY)
2009.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:

84.264C.

Dates:

Applications Available: June 16, 2009.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: July 31, 2009.

Intergovernmental Review: September 29, 2009.

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose of Program: The Rehabilitation Continuing Education

Programs--

(1) Train newly employed State agency staff at the administrative, supervisory, professional, paraprofessional, or clerical levels in order to develop needed skills for effective agency performance;

(2) Provide training opportunities for experienced State agency personnel at all levels of State agency practice to

upgrade their skills and to develop mastery of new program developments dealing with significant issues, priorities, and legislative thrusts of the State and Federal vocational rehabilitation (VR) program; and

(3) Develop and conduct training programs for staff of--

(a) Private rehabilitation agencies and facilities that cooperate with State VR units in providing VR and other rehabilitation services;

(b) Centers for independent living; and

(c) Client assistance programs.

Priorities: These priorities are from the notice of final priorities for this program, published in the Federal Register on October 23, 2003 (68 FR 60828).

Absolute Priorities: For FY 2009 and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applicants from this competition, these priorities are absolute priorities. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) we consider only applications that meet both of these priorities.

Note: Previously the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) has funded multiple grants per fiscal year under these priorities. For FY 2009, we will fund only one grant under these priorities. While RSA had made multiple awards to carry out IRI activities in the past, we have decided to make only one IRI

award for FY 2009 to improve the efficiency of the monitoring process and the quality of the products produced under this competition. Thus, all references to projects should be interpreted as meaning one project and that project will be responsible for two Primary Study Groups and the National Forum.

These priorities are:

Priority 1 -- Leadership of IRI Primary Study Group (PSG).

This priority funds projects to lead a PSG on a topic selected by the IRI Planning Committee. Projects must demonstrate the ability to provide leadership to members of the PSG that results in the production of a high quality document in the assigned topic area. Projects must ensure that documents are relevant to the public rehabilitation system and to the work of VR counselors and accurately interpret and integrate the current body of knowledge of the selected topic contained in published professional research and demonstrations.

Specifically, projects must demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of and understanding of relevant current and emerging issues in the public rehabilitation system, the public VR program, and the continuing education needs of VR personnel and related professionals. Projects must have the demonstrated ability to direct a rehabilitation research investigation in cooperation with a variety of experienced participants.

Projects must provide leadership to all phases of the IRI process, including assisting PSG members to define the areas of focus for the designated topic, to identify and address the continuing education needs of personnel of the public rehabilitation system, and to plan and write the project document. Projects must ensure that the group product meets the expectation of the IRI Planning Committee in terms of content areas and depth of review. At the conclusion of the National IRI Forum, projects must submit the final version of the IRI document to RSA for approval. Projects must distribute the approved document to State VR agencies and to others in an accessible format on request for use in staff development, training, and service planning.

Projects must include a plan to meet the communication, coordination, logistical, and budgetary requirements necessary to conduct at least three in person meetings of the PSG, one of which must take place at the National IRI Forum in Washington, DC, at the end of the project year.

Priority 2 -- Leadership of the National IRI Forum.

This priority funds projects to plan and to lead the annual National IRI Forum of PSG members and other stakeholders in each year of the project period. Projects must demonstrate in-depth knowledge of current, relevant issues in the public rehabilitation system and of methods to facilitate professional

development and continuing education activities. Project staff, in cooperation with the IRI Planning Committee, must identify and solicit key stakeholders to provide input and feedback on selected IRI topics, and facilitate discussion and input sessions of diverse individuals with a wide variety of backgrounds so that each of the two IRI PSGs receives feedback on its draft document in a collaborative and positive manner.

Projects must provide a detailed plan for all aspects of the planning and coordination of the meeting, including, but not limited to, facilitation of document feedback sessions, site planning, coordination of accommodations and travel for PSG members funded by the project, coordination of accommodations requested by other participants, and the provision of on-site support services, including the provision of reasonable accommodations upon request. Projects must include a description of a process and methods that will result in high quality input on the IRI documents presented for review.

Program Authority: 29 U.S.C. 772.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, 97, 98, and 99. (b) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR parts 385 and 389.

Note: The regulations in 34 CFR part 79 apply to all applicants except federally recognized Indian tribes.

Note: The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to institutions of higher education only.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Discretionary grant.

Estimated Available Funds: \$190,000.

Maximum Award: We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding \$190,000 for a single budget period of 12 months. The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services may change the maximum amount through a notice published in the Federal Register.

Estimated Number of Awards: 1.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: Up to 60 months.

III. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants: States and public or nonprofit agencies and organizations, including Indian tribes and institutions of higher education.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching: Cost sharing of at least 10 percent of the total cost of the project is required of grantees under the RCEP (34 CFR 389.40).

IV. Application and Submission Information

1. Address to Request Application Package: You can obtain an application package via the Internet or from the Education

Publications Center (ED Pubs). To obtain a copy via the Internet, use the following address: www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/grantapps/index.html. To obtain a copy from ED Pubs, write, fax, or call the following: Education Publications Center, P.O. Box 1398, Jessup, MD 20794-1398. Telephone, toll free: 1-877-433-7827. Fax: (301) 470-1244. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), call, toll free: 1-877-576-7734.

You can contact ED Pubs at its Web site, also: www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html or at its e-mail address: edpubs@inet.ed.gov.

If you request an application from ED Pubs, be sure to identify this program as follows: CFDA number 84.264C.

Individuals with disabilities can obtain a copy of the application package in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) by contacting the person or team listed under Accessible Format in section VIII of this notice.

2. Content and Form of Application Submission: Requirements concerning the content of an application, together with the forms you must submit, are in the application package for this program.

Page Limit: The application narrative (Part III of the application) is where you, the applicant, address the selection

criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. You must limit the application narrative [Part III] to the equivalent of no more than 45 pages, using the following standards:

- A "page" is 8.5" x 11", on one side only, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides.

- Double space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.

- Use a font that is either 12 point or larger or no smaller than 10 pitch (character per inch).

- Use one of the following fonts: Times New Roman, Courier, Courier New, or Arial. An application submitted in any other font (including Times Roman or Arial Narrow) will not be accepted.

The page limit does not apply to Part I, the cover sheet; Part II, the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; Part IV, the assurances and certifications; or the one-page abstract, the resumes, the bibliography, or the letters of support. However, the page limit does apply to all of the application narrative section [Part III].

We will reject your application if you exceed the page limit or if you apply other standards and exceed the equivalent of the page limit.

3. Submission Dates and Times:

Applications Available: June 16, 2009.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: July 31, 2009.

Applications for grants under this competition must be submitted electronically using the Electronic Grant Application System (e-Application) accessible through the Department's e-Grants site. For information (including dates and times) about how to submit your application electronically, or in paper format by mail or hand delivery if you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, please refer to section IV. 6. Other Submission Requirements of this notice.

We do not consider an application that does not comply with the deadline requirements.

Individuals with disabilities who need an accommodation or auxiliary aid in connection with the application process should contact the person listed under For Further Information Contact in Section VII of this notice. If the Department provides an accommodation or auxiliary aid to an individual with a disability in connection with the application process, the individual's application remains subject to all other requirements and limitations in this notice.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: September 29, 2009.

4. Intergovernmental Review: This competition is subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. Information about Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs under Executive Order 12372 is in the application package for this competition.

5. Funding Restrictions: We reference regulations outlining funding restrictions in the Applicable Regulations section of this notice.

6. Other Submission Requirements: Applications for grants under this competition must be submitted electronically unless you qualify for an exception to this requirement in accordance with the instructions in this section.

a. Electronic Submission of Applications.

Applications for grants under the Rehabilitation Continuing Education Programs competition--CFDA Number 84.264C must be submitted electronically using e-Application, accessible through the Department's e-Grants Web site at: <http://e-grants.ed.gov>.

We will reject your application if you submit it in paper format unless, as described elsewhere in this section, you qualify for one of the exceptions to the electronic submission requirement and submit, no later than two weeks before the application deadline date, a written statement to the Department that you qualify for one of these exceptions. Further

information regarding calculation of the date that is two weeks before the application deadline date is provided later in this section under Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement.

While completing your electronic application, you will be entering data online that will be saved into a database. You may not e-mail an electronic copy of a grant application to us.

Please note the following:

- You must complete the electronic submission of your grant application by 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. E-Application will not accept an application for this competition after 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you do not wait until the application deadline date to begin the application process.

- The hours of operation of the e-Grants Web site are 6:00 a.m. Monday until 7:00 p.m. Wednesday; and 6:00 a.m. Thursday until 8:00 p.m. Sunday, Washington, DC time. Please note that, because of maintenance, the system is unavailable between 8:00 p.m. on Sundays and 6:00 a.m. on Mondays, and between 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and 6:00 a.m. on Thursdays, Washington, DC time. Any modifications to these hours are posted on the e-Grants Web site.

- You will not receive additional point value because you submit your application in electronic format, nor will we

penalize you if you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, as described elsewhere in this section, and submit your application in paper format. You must submit all documents electronically, including all information you typically provide on the following forms: the Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424), the Department of Education Supplemental Information for SF 424, Budget Information--Non-Construction Programs (ED 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications.

- You must attach any narrative sections of your application as files in a .DOC (document), .RTF (rich text), or .PDF (Portable Document) format. If you upload a file type other than the three file types specified in this paragraph or submit a password protected file, we will not review that material.

- Your electronic application must comply with any page limit requirements described in this notice.

- Prior to submitting your electronic application, you may wish to print a copy of it for your records.

- After you electronically submit your application, you will receive an automatic acknowledgment that will include a PR/Award number (an identifying number unique to your application).

- Within three working days after submitting your electronic application, fax a signed copy of the SF 424 to the Application Control Center after following these steps:

- (1) Print SF 424 from e-Application.

- (2) The applicant's Authorizing Representative must sign this form.

- (3) Place the PR/Award number in the upper right hand corner of the hard-copy signature page of the SF 424.

- (4) Fax the signed SF 424 to the Application Control Center at (202) 245-6272.

- We may request that you provide us original signatures on other forms at a later date.

Application Deadline Date Extension in Case of e-Application

Unavailability: If you are prevented from electronically submitting your application on the application deadline date because e-Application is unavailable, we will grant you an extension of one business day to enable you to transmit your application electronically, by mail, or by hand delivery. We will grant this extension if--

- (1) You are a registered user of e-Application and you have initiated an electronic application for this competition; and

- (2) (a) E-Application is unavailable for 60 minutes or more between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date; or

(b) E-Application is unavailable for any period of time between 3:30 p.m. and 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date.

We must acknowledge and confirm these periods of unavailability before granting you an extension. To request this extension or to confirm our acknowledgment of any system unavailability, you may contact either (1) the person listed elsewhere in this notice under For Further Information Contact (see VII. Agency Contact) or (2) the e-Grants help desk at 1-888-336-8930. If e-Application is unavailable due to technical problems with the system and, therefore, the application deadline is extended, an e-mail will be sent to all registered users who have initiated an e-Application. Extensions referred to in this section apply only to the unavailability of e-Application.

Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement: You qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, and may submit your application in paper format, if you are unable to submit an application through e-Application because--

- You do not have access to the Internet; or
- You do not have the capacity to upload large documents to e-Application;

and

- No later than two weeks before the application deadline date (14 calendar days or, if the fourteenth calendar day before the application deadline date falls on a Federal holiday, the next business day following the Federal holiday), you mail or fax a written statement to the Department, explaining which of the two grounds for an exception prevents you from using the Internet to submit your application.

If you mail your written statement to the Department, it must be postmarked no later than two weeks before the application deadline date. If you fax your written statement to the Department, we must receive the faxed statement no later than two weeks before the application deadline date.

Address and mail or fax your statement to: Edwin W. Powell, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5038, Potomac Center Plaza (PCP), Washington, DC 20202-4260. FAX: (202) 245-7505.

Your paper application must be submitted in accordance with the mail or hand delivery instructions described in this notice.

b. Submission of Paper Applications by Mail.

If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you may mail (through the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial carrier) your application to the Department. You must mail the original and two copies of your

application, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address:

U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center
Attention: (CFDA Number 84.264C)
LBJ Basement Level 1
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4260

You must show proof of mailing consisting of one of the following:

- (1) A legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark.
- (2) A legible mail receipt with the date of mailing stamped by the U.S. Postal Service.
- (3) A dated shipping label, invoice, or receipt from a commercial carrier.
- (4) Any other proof of mailing acceptable to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

If you mail your application through the U.S. Postal Service, we do not accept either of the following as proof of mailing:

- (1) A private metered postmark.
- (2) A mail receipt that is not dated by the U.S. Postal Service.

If your application is postmarked after the application deadline date, we will not consider your application.

Note: The U.S. Postal Service does not uniformly provide a dated postmark. Before relying on this method, you should check with your local post office.

c. Submission of Paper Applications by Hand Delivery.

If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you (or a courier service) may deliver your paper application to the Department by hand. You must deliver the original and two copies of your application, by hand, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address:

U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center
Attention: (CFDA Number 84.264C)
550 12th Street, SW
Room 7041, Potomac Center Plaza
Washington, DC 20202-4260

The Application Control Center accepts hand deliveries daily between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, except Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays.

Note for Mail or Hand Delivery of Paper Applications: If you mail or hand deliver your application to the Department--

(1) You must indicate on the envelope and--if not provided by the Department--in Item 11 of the SF 424 the CFDA number, including suffix letter, if any, of the competition under which you are submitting your application; and

(2) The Application Control Center will mail to you a notification of receipt of your grant application. If you do not receive this grant notification within 15 business days from the application deadline date, you should call the U.S. Department of Education Application Control Center at (202) 245-6288.

V. Application Review Information

Selection Criteria: The selection criteria for this competition are from 34 CFR 75.210 and 34 CFR 389.30(a).

VI. Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices: If your application is successful, we notify your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators and send you a Grant Award Notification (GAN). We may notify you informally, also.

If your application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we notify you.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements: We identify administrative and national policy requirements in the application package and reference these and other requirements in the Applicable Regulations section of this notice.

We reference the regulations outlining the terms and conditions of an award in the Applicable Regulations section of this notice and include these and other specific conditions in the GAN. The GAN also incorporates your approved application as part of your binding commitments under the grant.

3. Reporting: At the end of your project period, you must submit a final performance report, including financial information, as directed by the Secretary. If you receive a multi-year award, you must submit an annual performance report that provides the most current performance and financial expenditure information as directed by the Secretary under 34 CFR 75.118. The Secretary may also require more frequent performance reports under 34 CFR 75.720(c). For specific requirements on reporting, please go to www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html.

4. Performance Measures: The Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993 directs Federal departments and agencies to improve the effectiveness of their programs by engaging in strategic planning, setting outcome-related goals for programs, and measuring program results against those goals.

The goal of RSA's RCEP Institute on Rehabilitation Issues program is to synthesize and disseminate information about relevant topics in the form of publications that are used in educating VR professionals and as technical assistance resources for other stakeholders in the VR program. In order to measure the performance of this project, we require the grantee to collect data on the number of IRI documents disseminated; the types of individuals requesting the documents, e.g., State agencies, training programs; the opinion of State VR directors

and training program directors regarding the quality of the IRI publications; and the number of citations of IRI publications in other literature. The grantee is required to report this information annually to RSA using the RSA Grantee Reporting Form, OMB number 1820-0617, an electronic reporting system. This form allows RSA to measure results against the goals of the project. Performance will be measured by assessment of (a) the number of State VR directors and training grant project directors who deem the IRI products to be of high quality and useful to the field and (b) the number of citations of IRI publications in other literature.

VII. Agency Contact

For Further Information Contact: Edwin W. Powell, U.S.

Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration,
400 Maryland Avenue, SW, room 5038, PCP, Washington, DC 20202-
2800. Telephone: (202) 245-7505 or by email:

Edwin.Powell@ed.gov.

If you use a TDD, call the Federal Relay Service (FRS),
toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

VIII. Other Information

Accessible Format: Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document and a copy of the application package in an accessible format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) by contacting the Grants and Contracts Services Team,

U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, room 5075, PCP, Washington, DC 20202-2550. Telephone: (202) 245-7363.

If you use a TDD, call the FRS, toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

Electronic Access to This Document: You can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the Federal Register, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site:

www.ed.gov/news/fedregister.

To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free, at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC, area at (202) 512-1530.

Note: The official version of this document is the document published in the Federal Register. Free Internet access to the official edition of the Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at:

www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html.

Delegation of Authority: The Secretary of Education has delegated authority to Andrew J. Pepin, Executive Administrator for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, to perform the functions of the Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

Dated:

/s/

Andrew J. Pepin,
Executive Administrator for
Special Education and
Rehabilitative Services.

SECTION D

THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973, AS AMENDED

Section 302--Training Programs

Sec. 302. Training

(a) Grants and Contracts for Personnel Training

(1) Authority

The Commissioner shall make grants to, and enter into contracts with, States and public or nonprofit agencies and organizations (including institutions of higher education) to pay part of the cost of projects to provide training, traineeships, and related activities, including the provision of technical assistance, that are designed to assist in increasing the numbers of, and upgrading the skills of, qualified personnel (especially rehabilitation counselors) who are trained in providing vocational, medical, social, and psychological rehabilitation services, who are trained to assist individuals with communication and related disorders, who are trained to provide other services provided under this Act, to individuals with disabilities, and who may include--

(A) personnel specifically trained in providing employment assistance to individuals with disabilities through job development and job placement services;

(B) personnel specifically trained to identify, assess, and meet the individual rehabilitation needs of individuals with disabilities, including needs for rehabilitation technology;

(C) personnel specifically trained to deliver services to individuals who may benefit from receiving independent living services;

(D) personnel specifically trained to deliver services in the client assistance programs;

(E) personnel specifically trained to deliver services, through supported employment programs, to individuals with a most significant disability; and

(F) personnel specifically trained to deliver services to individuals with disabilities pursuing self-employment, business ownership, and telecommuting; and

(G) personnel trained in performing other functions necessary to the provision of vocational, medical, social, and psychological rehabilitation services, and other services provided under this Act.

(2) Authority to provide scholarships

Grants and contracts under paragraph (1) may be expended for scholarships and may include necessary stipends and allowances.

(3) Related federal statutes

In carrying out this subsection, the Commissioner may make grants to and enter into contracts with States and public or nonprofit agencies and organizations, including institutions of higher education, to furnish training regarding provisions of Federal statutes, including section 504, title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12111 et seq.), and the provisions of titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq. and 1381 et seq.), that are related to work incentives for individuals with disabilities.

(4) Training for statewide workforce systems personnel

The Commissioner may make grants to and enter into contracts under this subsection with States and public or nonprofit agencies and organizations, including institutions of higher education, to furnish training to personnel providing services to individuals with disabilities under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. Under this paragraph, personnel may be trained--

(A) in evaluative skills to determine whether an individual with a disability may be served by the State vocational rehabilitation program or another component of a statewide workforce investment system; or

(B) to assist individuals with disabilities seeking assistance through one-stop delivery systems described in section 134(c) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

(5) Joint funding

Training and other activities provided under paragraph (4) for personnel may be jointly funded with the Department of Labor, using funds made available under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

(b) Grants and Contracts for Academic Degrees and Academic Certificate Granting Training Projects

(1) Authority

(A) In general

The Commissioner may make grants to, and enter into contracts with, States and public or nonprofit agencies and organizations (including institutions of higher education) to pay part of the costs of academic training projects to provide training that leads to an academic degree or academic certificate. In making such grants or entering into such contracts, the Commissioner shall target funds to areas determined under subsection (e) to have shortages of qualified personnel.

(B) Types of projects

Academic training projects described in this subsection may include--

(i) projects to train personnel in the areas of assisting and supporting individuals with disabilities pursuing self-employment, business ownership, and telecommuting, and of vocational rehabilitation counseling, rehabilitation technology, rehabilitation medicine, rehabilitation nursing, rehabilitation social work, rehabilitation psychiatry, rehabilitation psychology, rehabilitation dentistry, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech pathology and audiology, physical education, therapeutic recreation, community rehabilitation programs, or prosthetics and orthotics;

(ii) projects to train personnel to provide--

(I) services to individuals with specific disabilities or individuals with disabilities who have specific impediments to rehabilitation, including individuals who are members of populations that are unserved or underserved by programs under this Act;

(II) job development and job placement services to individuals with disabilities;

(III) supported employment services, including services of employment specialists for individuals with disabilities;

(IV) specialized services for individuals with significant disabilities; or

(V) recreation for individuals with disabilities;

(iii) projects to train personnel in other fields contributing to the rehabilitation of individuals with disabilities; and

(iv) projects to train personnel in the use, applications, and benefits of rehabilitation technology.

(2) Application

No grant shall be awarded or contract entered into under this subsection unless the applicant has submitted to the Commissioner an application at such time, in such form, in accordance with such procedures, and including such information as the Secretary may require, including--

(A) a description of how the designated State unit or units will participate in the project to be funded under the grant or contract, including, as appropriate, participation on advisory committees, as practicum sites, in curriculum development, and in other ways so as to build closer relationships between the applicant and the designated State unit and to encourage students to pursue careers in public vocational rehabilitation programs;

(B) the identification of potential employers that provide employment that meets the requirements of paragraph (5)(A)(i); and

(C) an assurance that data on the employment of graduates or trainees who participate in the project is accurate.

(3) Limitation

(A) In general

Except as provided in subparagraph (B), no grant or contract under this subsection may be used to provide any one course of study to an individual for a period of more than 4 years.

(B) Exception

If a grant or contract recipient under this subsection determines that an individual has a disability which seriously affects the completion of training under this subsection, the grant or contract recipient may extend the period referred to in subparagraph (A).

(4) Authority to provide scholarships

Grants and contracts under paragraph (1) may be expanded to provide services that include the provision of scholarships and necessary stipends and allowances.

(5) Agreements

(A) Contents

A recipient of a grant or contract under this subsection shall provide assurances to the Commissioner that each individual who receives a scholarship, for any academic year beginning after June 1, 1992, utilizing funds provided under such grant or contract shall enter into an agreement with the recipient under which the individual shall--

(i) maintain employment--

(I) in a nonprofit rehabilitation agency or related agency or in a State rehabilitation agency or related agency, including a professional corporation or professional practice group through which the individual has a service arrangement with the designated State agency;

(II) on a full- or part-time basis; and

(III) for a period of not less than the full-time equivalent of 2 years for each year for which assistance under this section was received by the individual, within a period, beginning after the recipient completes the training for which the scholarship was awarded, of not more than the sum of the number of years in the period described in subclause (III) and 2 additional years; and

(ii) repay all or part of any scholarship received, plus interest, if the individual does not fulfill the requirements of clause (i), except as the Commissioner by regulation may provide for repayment exceptions and deferrals.

(B) Enforcement

The Commissioner shall be responsible for the enforcement of each agreement entered into under subparagraph (A) upon completion of the training involved under such subparagraph.

(c) Grants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities

The Commissioner, in carrying out this section, shall make grants to historically Black colleges and universities and other institutions of higher education whose minority student enrollment is at least 50 percent of the total enrollment of the institution.

(d) Application

A grant may not be awarded to a State or other organization under this section unless the State or organization has submitted an application to the Commissioner at such time, in such form, in accordance with such procedures, and containing such information as the Commissioner may require. Any such application shall include a detailed description of strategies that will be utilized to recruit and train individuals so as to reflect the diverse populations of the United States as part of the effort to increase the number of individuals with disabilities, and individuals who are from linguistically and culturally diverse backgrounds, who are available to provide rehabilitation services.

(e) Evaluation and Collection of Data

The Commissioner shall evaluate the impact of the training programs conducted under this section, and collect information on the training needs of, and data on shortages of qualified personnel necessary to provide services to individuals with disabilities. The Commissioner shall prepare and submit to Congress, by September 30 of each fiscal year, a report setting forth and justifying in detail how the funds made available for training under this section for the fiscal year prior to such submission are allocated by professional discipline and other program areas. The report shall also contain findings on such personnel shortages, how funds proposed for the succeeding fiscal year will be allocated under the President's budget proposal, and how the findings on personnel shortages justify the allocations.

34 CFR PART 389—REHABILITATION CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Subpart A--General

Sec.

389.1 What is the Rehabilitation Continuing Program?

389.2 Who is eligible for assistance?

389.3 What regulations apply?

389.4 What definitions apply?

Subpart B--How What Kinds of Projects Does the Department of Education Assist Under This Program?

Sec.

389.10 What types of projects are authorized under this program?

Subpart C—[Reserved]

Subpart D—How Does the Secretary Make a Grant?

Sec.

389.30 What additional selection criterion is used under this program?

Subpart E—What Conditions Must Be Met by a Grantee?

Sec.

389.40 What are the matching requirements?

389.41 What are allowable costs?

AUTHORITY: 29 U.S.C. 772, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A--General

§389.1 What is the Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program?

This program is designed to support training centers that serve either a Federal region or another geographical area and provide for a broad integrated sequence of training activities that focus on meeting recurrent and common training needs of employed rehabilitation personnel throughout a multi-State geographical area.

(Authority: Sec. 302 of the Act; 29 U.S.C. 774)

§389.2 Who is eligible for assistance?

Those agencies and organizations eligible for assistance under this program are described in 34 CFR 385.2.

(Authority: Sec. 302 of the Act; 29 U.S.C. 774)

§389.3 What regulations apply?

The following regulations apply to this program:

- (a) 34 CFR part 385 (Rehabilitation Training); and
- (b) The regulations in this part 389.

(Authority: Sec. 302 of the Act; 29 U.S.C. 774)

§389.4 What definitions apply?

The definitions in 34 CFR part 385 apply to this program.

(Authority: Sec. 12(c) of the Act; 29 U.S.C. 711 (c))

Subpart B—What Kinds of Projects Does the Department of Education Assist Under this Program?

§389.10 What types of projects are authorized under this program?

Rehabilitation Continuing Education Programs—

- (a) Train newly employed State agency staff at the administrative, supervisory, professional, subprofessional, or clerical levels in order to develop needs skills for effective agency performance;
- (b) Provide training opportunities for experienced State agency personnel at all levels of State agency practice to upgrade their skills and to develop mastery of new program

developments dealing with significant issues, priorities and legislative thrusts of the State/Federal vocational rehabilitation program; and

(c) Develop and conduct training programs for staff of--

(1) Private rehabilitation agencies and facilities which cooperate with State vocational rehabilitation units in providing vocational rehabilitation and other rehabilitation services;

(2) Centers for independent living; and

(3) Client assistance programs.

(Authority: Sec. 302 of the Act; 29 U.S.C. 774)

[45 FR 86385, Dec. 30, 1980, as amended at 50 FR 38631, Sept. 23, 1985]

Subpart C [Reserved]

Subpart D—How Does the Secretary Make a Grant?

§389.30 What additional selection criterion is used under this program?

In addition to the criteria in 34 CFR 385.31(c), the Secretary uses the following additional selection criterion to evaluate an application:

(a) Relevance to State-Federal rehabilitation service program.

(1) The Secretary reviews each application for information that shows that the proposed project appropriately relates to the mission of the State-Federal rehabilitation service programs.

(2) The Secretary reviews each application for information that shows that the proposed project includes an assessment of the potential of existing programs within the geographical area (including State vocational rehabilitation unit in-service training) to meet the needs for which support is sought.

(3) The Secretary looks for information that shows that the proposed project can be expected to improve the competence of professional and other personnel in the rehabilitation agencies serving individuals with severe disabilities.

(b) [Reserved]

(Authority: 29 U.S. C. 711(c))

Subpart E—What Conditions Must Be Met by the Grantee?

§389.40 What are the matching requirements?

A grantee must contribute to the cost of a project under this program in an amount satisfactory to the Secretary. The part of the cost to be borne by the grantee is determined by the Secretary at the time of the grant award.

(Authority: Secs. 12(c) and 302 of the Act; 29 U.S.C. 711(c) and 774)

§389.41 What are allowable costs?

In addition to those allowable costs established under EDGAR §§ 75.530—75.562, the following items are allowable under Rehabilitation Continuing Education programs—

- (a) Training per diem costs;
- (b) Trainee travel in connection with a training course;
- (c) Trainee tuition and fees; and
- (d) Special accommodations for trainees with handicaps.

(Authority: Secs. 12(c) and 302 of the Act; 29 U.S.C. 711(c) and 774)

[45 FR 86385, Dec. 30, 1980, as amended at 53 FR 17147, May 13, 1988]

SECTION E

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR APPLICATIONS

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR APPLICATIONS

The Secretary uses the following selection criteria to evaluate applications for new grants under this competition. The maximum score for all of these criteria is 100 points. The maximum score for each criterion is indicated in parentheses. Because no points are assigned to the selected factors, the Secretary evaluates each factor within each criterion equally.

The criteria are--

(A) SIGNIFICANCE (10 POINTS)

- (1) The Secretary considers the significance of the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the significance of the proposed project, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
 - (i) The potential contribution of the proposed project to increased knowledge or understanding of rehabilitation problems, issues, or effective strategies.
 - (ii) The likelihood that the proposed project will result in system change or improvement.
 - (iii) The extent to which the proposed project is likely to build local capacity to provide, improve, or expand services that address the needs of the target population.
 - (iv) The extent to which the proposed project involves the development or demonstration of promising new strategies that build on, or are alternatives to, existing strategies.
 - (v) The likely utility of the products (such as information, materials, processes, or techniques) that will result from the proposed project, including the potential for their being used effectively in a variety of other settings.
 - (vi) The extent to which the results of the proposed project are to be disseminated in ways that will enable others to use the information or strategies.
 - (vii) The importance or magnitude of the results or outcomes likely to be attained by the proposed project, especially improvements in employment, independent living services, or both, as appropriate.
 - (viii) The importance or magnitude of the results or outcomes likely to be attained by the proposed project.

(B) RELEVANCE TO STATE/FEDERAL REHABILITATION SERVICES PROGRAMS. (15 POINTS)

- (1) The Secretary reviews each application for information that shows that the proposed project appropriately relates to the mission of the State/Federal rehabilitation service programs.
- (2) The Secretary reviews each application for information that shows that the proposed project includes an assessment of the potential of existing programs within the geographical area (including State vocational rehabilitation unit in-service training) to meet the needs for which support is sought.

(3) The Secretary looks for information that shows that the proposed project can be expected to improve the competence of professionals and other personnel in the rehabilitation agencies serving individuals with severe disabilities.

(4) [Reserved.]

(C) QUALITY OF THE PROJECT DESIGN.

(20 POINTS)

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the design of the proposed project.

(2) In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the proposed project are clearly specified and measurable.

(ii) The extent to which the design of the proposed project is appropriate to, and will successfully address the needs of the target population or other identified needs.

(iii) The extent to which the proposed activities constitutes a coherent, sustained program of training in the field.

(iv) The extent to which the proposed project will be coordinated with similar or related efforts, and with other appropriate community, State and Federal resources.

(v) The extent to which performance feedback and continuous improvement are integral to the design of the proposed project.

(vi) The extent to which the proposed project reflects up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice.

(D) QUALITY OF PROJECT SERVICES.

(10 POINTS)

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project.

(2) In determining the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project, the Secretary considers the quality and sufficiency of strategies for ensuring equal access and treatment for eligible project participants who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.

(3) In addition, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project are appropriate to the needs of the intended recipients or beneficiaries of those services.

(ii) The extent to which the training or professional development services to be provided by the proposed project are of sufficient quality, intensity, and duration to lead to improvements in practice among the recipients of those services.

(iii) The likely impact of the services to be provided by the proposed project on the intended recipients of those services.

(E) QUALITY OF THE PROJECT EVALUATION.

(10 POINTS)

- (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the evaluation to be conducted of the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the quality of the evaluation, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
 - (i) The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the proposed project.
 - (ii) The extent to which the methods of evaluation include the use of objective performance measures that are clearly related to the intended outcomes of the project and will produce quantitative data to extent possible.
 - (iii) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide timely guidance for quality of assurance.
 - (iv) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes.

(F) QUALITY OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(15 POINTS)

- (1) The Secretary considers the quality of management plan for the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
 - (i) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.
 - (ii) The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project.
 - (iii) The adequacy of mechanisms for ensuring high-quality products and services from the proposed project.
 - (iv) The extent to which the time commitments of the project director and principal investigator and other key project personnel are appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives of the proposed project.

(G) QUALITY OF PROJECT PERSONNEL.

(10 POINTS)

- (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the quality of project personnel, the Secretary considers the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.

(3) In addition, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:

(i) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of the project director or principal investigator.

(ii) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel.

(iii) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of project consultants or subcontractors.

(H) ADEQUACY OF RESOURCES.

(10 POINTS)

(1) The Secretary considers the adequacy of resources for the proposed project.

(2) In determining the adequacy of resources for the proposed project, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:

(i) The adequacy of support, including facilities, equipment, supplies, and other resources, from the applicant organization or the lead applicant organization.

(ii) The extent to which the budget is adequate to support the proposed project.

(iii) The extent to which the costs are reasonable in relation to the objectives, design, and potential significance of the proposed project.

(iv) The extent to which costs are reasonable in relation to the number of persons to be served and to the anticipated results and benefits.

PLEASE NOTE – NEW ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION POLICY

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION IS REQUIRED

As outlined in the Federal Register notice for this grant competition, applications must be submitted electronically. You must submit your application using the electronic application system designated in the Federal Register notice. (The notice will designate whether you will use e-Application or Grants.gov). You may not e-mail an electronic copy to us. We will reject your application if you submit it in paper format unless you qualify for one of the exceptions to the electronic submission requirement described below and submit, no later than two weeks before the application deadline date, a written statement to the Department that you qualify for one of these exceptions.

Under mandatory submission, electronic applications must be received by 4:30:00 pm Washington, DC time on the application deadline date. **Under this new policy, Education does not allow for any last minute waiver requests from applicants, which is a change from the previous policy for mandatory electronic submission. Consequently, we strongly encourage you to review the registration and submission procedures for the designated electronic application system right away. In addition, we strongly suggest that you do not wait until the deadline date to submit your application.**

EXCEPTION TO ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION REQUIREMENT:

You qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, and may submit your application in paper format, by mail or hand delivery, if you are unable to submit an application through the electronic application system designated in the Federal Register notice because—

- You do not have access to the Internet; or
 - You do not have the capacity to upload large documents to the system;
- and**
- No later than two weeks before the application deadline date (14 calendar days or, if the fourteenth calendar day before the application deadline date falls on a Federal holiday, the next business day following the Federal holiday), you mail or fax a written statement to the Department, explaining which of the two grounds for an exception prevent you from using the Internet to submit your application. If you mail your written statement to the Department, it must be postmarked no later than two weeks before the application deadline date. If you fax your written statement to the Department, we must receive the faxed statement no later than two weeks before the application deadline date. (Please follow the fax instructions found in the Federal Register notice for this competition. Also, your paper application must be submitted in accordance with the mail or hand delivery instructions also described in the Federal Register notice for this grant competition.)

For detailed information on the electronic submission requirement for this competition, please refer to the Federal Register notice.

SECTION G

APPLICATION FORMS

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES
REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR AN APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

(Nonconstruction Programs)

The enclosed forms shall be used by all applicants for Federal Assistance under all Rehabilitation Services Administration programs. A separate application must be submitted for each grant sought. No grant may be awarded unless the completed application forms have been received. If an item does not appear to be relevant to the assistance requested, write "NA" for not applicable.

This application consists of four parts. These parts are organized in the same manner that the submitted application should be organized. These parts are as follows:

- Part I** - Federal Assistance Application Face Page
- Part II** - Budget Information
- Part III** - Program Narrative
- Part IV** - Assurances, Certifications and Disclosures

The following statement must be included in this section of your general application instructions and information document:

Electronic submission requires that narratives and other files be attached to the following attachment forms as per the instruction in this document such as:

- *One Page Abstract must be attached to the "Department of Education Abstract Form"*
- *Program Narratives must be attached to the "Program Narrative Attachment Form"*
- *Budget Narratives must be attached to the "Budget Narrative Attachment Form"*
- *All vitas, table of contents, letters, certifications, supplementary statements; and other requested appendices must be attached to the "Other Attachment Form"*

NOTE: *Please do not attach any narratives, supporting files, or application components to the Standard Form (SF 424). Although this form accepts attachments, the Department of Education will only review materials/files attached to the attachment forms listed above.*

Each submitted application must include an index or table of contents and a one-page project abstract. Pages should be consecutively numbered.

PART I - FEDERAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION FACE PAGE

According to the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995*, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1820-0018. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 40 hours per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

Under terms of the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980*, as amended, and the regulations implementing that Act, the Department of Education invites comment on the public reporting burden in this collection of information. You may send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Education, Information Management and Compliance Division, Washington, DC 20202-4651; and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project 1820-0018, Washington, DC 20503.

APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE SF-424

APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE SF-424		VERSION 02
*1. Type of Submission: <input type="checkbox"/> Preapplication <input type="checkbox"/> Application <input type="checkbox"/> Changed/Corrected Application	*2. Type of Application <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision	*If Revision, select appropriate letter(s) _____ *Other (Specify) _____
3. Date Received: _____		4. Applicant Identifier: _____
5a. Federal Entity Identifier: _____		*5b. Federal Award Identifier: _____
State Use Only:		
6. Date Received by State: _____		7. State Application Identifier: _____
8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:		
*a. Legal Name:		
*b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): _____		*c. Organizational DUNS: _____
d. Address:		
*Street 1: _____ Street 2: _____ *City: _____ County: _____ *State: _____ Province: _____ *Country: _____ *Zip / Postal Code: _____		
e. Organizational Unit:		
Department Name: _____		Division Name: _____
f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:		
Prefix: _____ *First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____ *Last Name: _____ Suffix: _____		
Title: _____		
Organizational Affiliation: _____		
*Telephone Number: _____		Fax Number: _____
*E-mail: _____		
*9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type: _____ Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type: _____ Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type: _____ *Other (Specify): _____		
*10 Name of Federal Agency:		
11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: _____ CFDA Title: _____		
*12 Funding Opportunity Number: _____ *Title: _____		
13. Competition Identification Number: _____ Title: _____		

APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE SF-424

VERSION 02

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:** _____**16. Congressional Districts Of:**a. Applicant:** _____***b. Program/Project:** _____**17. Proposed Project:*****a. Start Date:** _____***b. End Date:** _____**18. Estimated Funding (\$):**

*a. Federal _____
 *b. Applicant _____
 *c. State _____
 *d. Local _____
 *e. Other _____
 *f. Program Income _____
 *g. TOTAL _____

***19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

- a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on _____
 b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.
 c. Program is not covered by E. O. 12372

***20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes", provide explanation.)**

Yes No

21. *By signing this application, I certify:

- (1) To the statements contained in the list of certifications** and
 (2) That the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties.
 (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)

 ** I AGREE

**The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: _____

*First Name: _____

Middle Name: _____

*Last Name: _____

Suffix: _____

*Title: _____

*Telephone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

* E-mail: _____

*Signature of Authorized Representative: _____

*Date Signed: _____

APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE SF-424

VERSION 02

***Applicant Federal Debt Delinquency Explanation**

The following should contain an explanation if the Applicant organization is delinquent of any Federal Debt.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SF-424

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 45 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0043), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

This is a standard form used by applicants as a required face sheet for pre-applications and applications submitted for Federal assistance. It will be used by Federal agencies to obtain applicant certification that States which have established a review and comment procedure in response to Executive Order 12372 and have selected the program to be included in their process, have been given an opportunity to review the applicant's submission.

Item:	Entry:	Item:	Entry:
1.	Select Type of Submission.	11.	Enter a brief descriptive title of the project. If more than one program is involved, you should append an explanation on a separate sheet. If appropriate (e.g., construction or real property projects), attach a map showing project location. For preapplications, use a separate sheet to provide a summary description of this project.
2.	Date application submitted to Federal agency (or State if applicable) and applicant's control number (if applicable).	12.	List only the largest political entities affected (e.g., State, counties, cities).
3.	State use only (if applicable).	13.	Enter the proposed start date and end date of the project.
4.	Enter Date Received by Federal Agency Federal identifier number: If this application is a continuation or revision to an existing award, enter the present Federal Identifier number. If for a new project, leave blank.	14.	List the applicant's Congressional District and any District(s) affected by the program or project
5.	Enter legal name of applicant, name of primary organizational unit (including division, if applicable), which will undertake the assistance activity, enter the organization's DUNS number (received from Dun and Bradstreet), enter the complete address of the applicant (including country), and name, telephone number, e-mail and fax of the person to contact on matters related to this application.	15.	Amount requested or to be contributed during the first funding/budget period by each contributor. Value of in kind contributions should be included on appropriate lines as applicable. If the action will result in a dollar change to an existing award, indicate only the amount of the change. For decreases, enclose the amounts in parentheses. If both basic and supplemental amounts are included, show breakdown on an attached sheet. For multiple program funding, use totals and show breakdown using same categories as item 15.
6.	Enter Employer Identification Number (EIN) as assigned by the Internal Revenue Service.	16.	Applicants should contact the State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for Federal Executive Order 12372 to determine whether the application is subject to the State intergovernmental review process.

Item:	Entry:	Item:	Entry:
7.	<p>Select the appropriate letter in the space provided.</p> <p>A. State B. County C. Municipal D. Township E. Interstate F. Intermunicipal G. Special District H. Independent School District</p> <p>I. State Controlled Institution of Higher Learning J. Private University K. Indian Tribe L. Individual M. Profit Organization N. Other (Specify) O. Not for Profit Organization</p>	17.	<p>This question applies to the applicant organization, not the person who signs as the authorized representative. Categories of debt include delinquent audit disallowances, loans and taxes.</p>
8.	<p>Select the type from the following list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ "New" means a new assistance award. ▪ "Continuation" means an extension for an additional funding/budget period for a project with a projected completion date. ▪ "Revision" means any change in the Federal Government's financial obligation or contingent liability from an existing obligation. If a revision enter the appropriate letter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Increase Award B. Decrease Award C. Increase Duration D. Decrease Duration 	18	<p>To be signed by the authorized representative of the applicant. A copy of the governing body's authorization for you to sign this application as official representative must be on file in the applicant's office. (Certain Federal agencies may require that this authorization be submitted as part of the application.)</p>
9.	Name of Federal agency from which assistance is being requested with this application.		
10.	Use the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number and title of the program under which assistance is requested.		

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**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

1. Project Director:

Name:

Prefix: _____

*First Name: _____

Middle Name: _____

*Last Name: _____

Suffix: _____

Address:

*Street1: _____

Street2: _____

*City: _____

County: _____

*State: _____

*Zip Code: _____

*Country: _____

*Phone Number (give area code): _____

Fax Number (give area code): _____

E-mail Address: _____

2. Applicant Experience:

Novice Applicant? Yes No Not applicable to this program

3. Human Subjects Research:

Are any research activities involving human subjects planned at any time during the proposed project Period? Yes
No

Are ALL the research activities proposed designated to be exempt from the regulations? Yes Provide Exemption(s) #: _____
No Provide Assurance #, if available: _____

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FORM SF 424**

1. **Project Director.** Name, address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address of the person to be contacted on matters involving this application.
2. **Novice Applicant.** Check “**Yes**” or “**No**” only if assistance is being requested under a program that gives special consideration to novice applicants. Otherwise, **leave blank**.

Check “**Yes**” if you meet the requirements for novice applicants specified in the regulations in 34 CFR 75.225 and included on the attached page entitled “Definitions for Department of Education Supplemental Information for SF 424.” By checking “**Yes**” the applicant certifies that it meets these novice applicant requirements. Check “**No**” if you do not meet the requirements for novice applicants.

3. **Human Subjects Research.** (See I. A. “Definitions” in attached page entitled “Definitions for Department of Education Supplemental Information For SF 424.”)

If Not Human Subjects Research. Check “**No**” if research activities involving human subjects are not planned at any time during the proposed project period. The remaining parts of Item 3 are then not applicable.

If Human Subjects Research. Check “**Yes**” if research activities involving human subjects are planned at any time during the proposed project period, either at the applicant organization or at any other performance site or collaborating institution. Check “**Yes**” even if the research is exempt from the regulations for the protection of human subjects. (See I. B. “Exemptions” in attached page entitled “Definitions for Department of Education Supplemental Information For SF 424.”)

- 3a. **If Human Subjects Research is Exempt from the Human Subjects Regulations.** Check “**Yes**” if all the research activities proposed are designated to be exempt from the regulations. Insert the exemption number(s) corresponding to one or more of the six exemption categories listed in I. B. “Exemptions.” In addition, follow the instructions in II. A. “Exempt Research Narrative” in the attached page entitled “Definitions for Department of Education Supplemental Information For SF 424.”
- 3a. **If Human Subjects Research is Not Exempt from Human Subjects Regulations.** Check “**No**” if some or all of the planned research activities are covered (not exempt). In addition, follow the instructions in II. B. “Nonexempt Research Narrative” in the page entitled “Definitions for Department of Education Supplemental Information For SF 424
- 3a. **Human Subjects Assurance Number.** If the applicant has an approved Federal Wide (FWA) on file with the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP), U.S. Department of Health

and Human Services, that covers the specific activity, insert the number in the space provided. If the applicant does not have an approved assurance on file with OHRP, enter "None." In this case, the applicant, by signature on the SF-424, is declaring that it will comply with 34 CFR 97 and proceed to obtain the human subjects assurance upon request by the designated ED official. If the application is recommended/selected for funding, the designated ED official will request that the applicant obtain the assurance within 30 days after the specific formal request.

Note about Institutional Review Board Approval.

ED does not require certification of Institutional Review Board approval with the application. However, if an application that involves non-exempt human subjects research is recommended/selected for funding, the designated ED official will request that the applicant obtain and send the certification to ED within 30 days after the formal request.

PAPERWORK BURDEN STATEMENT

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1890-0017. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average between 15 and 45 minutes per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC 20202-4700. If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this form write directly to: Joyce I. Mays, Application Control Center, U.S. Department of Education, Potomac Center Plaza, 550 12th Street, SW Room 7076, Washington, DC 20202-4260

DEFINITIONS FOR DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FORM SF 424

(Attachment to Instructions for Supplemental Information for SF 424)

DEFINITIONS:

Novice Applicant (See 34 CFR 75.225).

For discretionary grant programs under which the Secretary gives special consideration to novice applications, a novice applicant means any applicant for a grant from ED that—

- Has never received a grant or subgrant under the program from which it seeks funding;
- Has never been a member of a group application, submitted in accordance with 34 CFR 75.127-75.129, that received a grant under the program from which it seeks funding; and
- Has not had an active discretionary grant from the Federal government in the five years before the deadline date for applications under the program. For the purposes of this requirement, a grant is active until the end of the grant's project or funding period, including any extensions of those periods that extend the grantee's authority to obligate funds.

In the case of a group application submitted in accordance with 34 CFR 75.127-75.129, a group includes only parties that meet the requirements listed above.

PROTECTION OF HUMAN SUBJECTS IN RESEARCH

I. Definitions and Exemptions

A. Definitions.

A research activity involves human subjects if the activity is research, as defined in the Department's regulations, and the research activity will involve use of human subjects, as defined in the regulations.

—Research

The ED Regulations for the Protection of Human Subjects, Title 34, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 97, define research as "a systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge." *If an activity follows a deliberate plan whose purpose is to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge it is research.* Activities which meet this definition constitute research whether or not they are conducted or supported under a program that is considered research for other purposes. For example, some demonstration and service programs may include research activities.

—Human Subject

The regulations define human subject as “a living individual about whom an investigator (whether professional or student) conducting research obtains (1) data through intervention or interaction with the individual, or (2) identifiable private information.” *(1) If an activity involves obtaining information about a living person by manipulating that person or that person’s environment, as might occur when a new instructional technique is tested, or by communicating or interacting with the individual, as occurs with surveys and interviews, the definition of human subject is met. (2) If an activity involves obtaining private information about a living person in such a way that the information can be linked to that individual (the identity of the subject is or may be readily determined by the investigator or associated with the information), the definition of human subject is met.* [Private information includes information about behavior that occurs in a context in which an individual can reasonably expect that no observation or recording is taking place, and information which has been provided for specific purposes by an individual and which the individual can reasonably expect will not be made public (for example, a school health record).]

B. Exemptions.

Research activities in which the **only** involvement of human subjects will be in one or more of the following six categories of **exemptions** are not covered by the regulations:

- (1) Research conducted in established or commonly accepted educational settings, involving normal educational practices, such as (a) research on regular and special education instructional strategies, or (b) research on the effectiveness of or the comparison among instructional techniques, curricula, or classroom management methods.
- (2) Research involving the use of educational tests (cognitive, diagnostic, aptitude, achievement), survey procedures, interview procedures or observation of public behavior, unless: (a) information obtained is recorded in such a manner that human subjects can be identified, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects; and (b) any disclosure of the human subjects’ responses outside the research could reasonably place the subjects at risk of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to the subjects’ financial standing, employability, or reputation. ***If the subjects are children, exemption 2 applies only to research involving educational tests and observations of public behavior when the investigator(s) do not participate in the activities being observed. Exemption 2 does not apply if children are surveyed or interviewed or if the research involves observation of public behavior and the investigator(s) participate in the activities being observed.*** [Children are defined as persons who have not attained the legal age for consent to treatments or procedures involved in the research, under the applicable law or jurisdiction in which the research will be conducted.]

- (3) Research involving the use of educational tests (cognitive, diagnostic, aptitude, achievement), survey procedures, interview procedures or observation of public behavior that is not exempt under section (2) above, if the human subjects are elected or appointed public officials or candidates for public office; or federal statute(s) require(s) without exception that the confidentiality of the personally identifiable information will be maintained throughout the research and thereafter.
- (4) Research involving the collection or study of existing data, documents, records, pathological specimens, or diagnostic specimens, if these sources are publicly available or if the information is recorded by the investigator in a manner that subjects cannot be identified, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects.
- (5) Research and demonstration projects which are conducted by or subject to the approval of department or agency heads, and which are designed to study, evaluate, or otherwise examine: (a) public benefit or service programs; (b) procedures for obtaining benefits or services under those programs; (c) possible changes in or alternatives to those programs or procedures; or (d) possible changes in methods or levels of payment for benefits or services under those programs.
- (6) Taste and food quality evaluation and consumer acceptance studies, (a) if wholesome foods without additives are consumed or (b) if a food is consumed that contains a food ingredient at or below the level and for a use found to be safe, or agricultural chemical or environmental contaminant at or below the level found to be safe, by the Food and Drug Administration or approved by the Environmental Protection Agency or the Food Safety and Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

II. INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXEMPT AND NONEXEMPT HUMAN SUBJECTS RESEARCH NARRATIVES

If the applicant marked “Yes” for Item 3 of Department of Education Supplemental Information for SF 424, the applicant must provide a human subjects “exempt research” or “nonexempt research” narrative. Insert the narrative(s) in the space provided. If you have multiple projects and need to provide more than one narrative, be sure to label each set of responses as to the project they address.

A. Exempt Research Narrative.

If you marked “Yes” for item 3 a. and designated exemption numbers(s), provide the “exempt research” narrative. The narrative must contain sufficient information about the involvement of human subjects in the proposed research to allow a determination by ED that the designated exemption(s) are appropriate. The narrative must be succinct.

B. Nonexempt Research Narrative.

If you marked “No” for item 3 a. you must provide the “nonexempt research” narrative. The narrative must address the following seven points. Although no specific page limitation applies to this section of the application, be succinct.

- (1) **Human Subjects Involvement and Characteristics:** Provide a detailed description of the proposed involvement of human subjects. Describe the characteristics of the subject population, including their anticipated number, age range, and health status. Identify the criteria for inclusion or exclusion of any subpopulation. Explain the rationale for the involvement of special classes of subjects, such as children, children with disabilities, adults with disabilities, persons with mental disabilities, pregnant women, prisoners, institutionalized individuals, or others who are likely to be vulnerable
- (2) **Sources of Materials:** Identify the sources of research material obtained from individually identifiable living human subjects in the form of specimens, records, or data. Indicate whether the material or data will be obtained specifically for research purposes or whether use will be made of existing specimens, records, or data.
- (3) **Recruitment and Informed Consent:** Describe plans for the recruitment of subjects and the consent procedures to be followed. Include the circumstances under which consent will be sought and obtained, who will seek it, the nature of the information to be provided to prospective subjects, and the method of documenting consent. State if the Institutional Review Board (IRB) has authorized a modification or waiver of the elements of consent or the requirement for documentation of consent.
- (4) **Potential Risks:** Describe potential risks (physical, psychological, social, legal, or other) and assess their likelihood and seriousness. Where appropriate, describe alternative treatments and procedures that might be advantageous to the subjects.
- (5) **Protection Against Risk:** Describe the procedures for protecting against or minimizing potential risks, including risks to confidentiality, and assess their likely effectiveness. Where appropriate, discuss provisions for ensuring necessary medical or professional intervention in the event of adverse effects to the subjects. Also, where appropriate, describe the provisions for monitoring the data collected to ensure the safety of the subjects.
- (6) **Importance of the Knowledge to be Gained:** Discuss the importance of the knowledge gained or to be gained as a result of the proposed research. Discuss why the risks to subjects are reasonable in relation to the anticipated benefits to subjects and in relation to the importance of the knowledge that may reasonably be expected to result.
- (7) **Collaborating Site(s):** If research involving human subjects will take place at collaborating site(s) or other performance site(s), name the sites and briefly describe their involvement or role in the research.

Copies of the Department of Education’s Regulations for the Protection of Human Subjects, 34 CFR Part 97 and other pertinent materials on the protection of human subjects in research are available from the Grants Policy and Oversight Staff, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC 20202-4250, telephone: 202-245-6120, and on the U.S. Department of Education’s Protection of Human Subjects in Research Web Site: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/OCFO/humansub.html>

NOTE: The **State Applicant Identifier** on the SF 424 is for State Use only. Please complete it on the OMB Standard 424 in the upper right corner of the form (if applicable).

SECTION B - BUDGET SUMMARY

NON-FEDERAL FUNDS

If you are required to provide or volunteer to provide cost-sharing or matching funds or other non-Federal resources to the project, these should be shown for each applicable budget category on lines 1-11 of Section B.

Lines 1-11, columns (a)-(e): For each project year, for which matching funds or other contributions are provided, show the total contribution for each applicable budget category.

Lines 1-11, column (f): Show the multi-year total for each budget category. If non-Federal contributions are provided for only one year, leave this column blank.

Line 12, columns (a)-(e): Show the total matching or other contribution for each project year.
Line 12, column (f): Show the total amount to be contributed for all years of the multi-year project. If non-Federal contributions are provided for only one year, leave this space blank.

SECTION C - BUDGET NARRATIVE [ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET(S)]

Pay attention to applicable program specific instructions, if attached.

1. Provide an itemized budget breakdown, and justification by project year, for each budget category listed in Sections A and B. For grant projects that will be divided into two or more separately budgeted major activities or sub-projects, show for each budget category of a project year the breakdown of the specific expenses attributable to each sub-project or activity.
2. For non-Federal funds or resources listed in Section B that are used to meet a cost-sharing or matching requirement or provided as a voluntary cost-sharing or matching commitment, you must include:
 - a. The specific costs or contributions by budget category;
 - b. The source of the costs or contributions; and

- c. In the case of third-party in-kind contributions, a description of how the value was determined for the donated or contributed goods or services.

Please review ED's general cost sharing and matching regulations, which include specific limitations, in 34 CFR 74.23, applicable to non-governmental entities, and 80.24, applicable to governments, and the applicable Office of Management and Budget (OMB) cost principles for your entity type regarding donations, capital assets, depreciation and use allowances. OMB cost principle circulars are available on OMB's website at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/index.html>

3. If applicable to this program, provide the rate and base on which fringe benefits are calculated.
4. If you are requesting reimbursement for indirect costs on line 10, this information is to be completed by your Business Office. Specify the estimated amount of the base to which the indirect cost rate is applied and the total indirect expense. Depending on the grant program to which you are applying and/or your approved Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, some direct cost budget categories in your grant application budget may not be included in the base and multiplied by your indirect cost rate. For example, you must multiply the indirect cost rates of "Training grants" (34 CFR 75.562) and grants under programs with "Supplement not Supplant" requirements ("Restricted Rate" programs) by a "modified total direct cost" (MTDC) base (34 CFR 75.563 or 76.563). Please indicate which costs are included and which costs are excluded from the base to which the indirect cost rate is applied.

When calculating indirect costs (line 10) for "Training grants" or grants under "Restricted Rate" programs, you must refer to the information and examples on ED's website at: <http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html>.

You may also contact (202) 377-3838 for additional information regarding calculating indirect cost rates or general indirect cost rate information.

5. Provide other explanations or comments you deem necessary.

PART III - APPLICATION NARRATIVE

This narrative section of the application requires applicants to address the selection criteria that will be used by reviewers in evaluating individual applications. Please refer to the "Selection Criteria and Format" sections in this package for the competition to which you wish to submit an application.

Also, all of the competitions covered by this package have page limitations for the application narrative. Please refer to the "Page Limits" information for the competition to which you wish to submit an application.

Approved by OMB
0348-0046

DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

Complete this form to disclose lobbying activities pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1352
(See reverse for public burden disclosure)

1. Type of Federal Action: a. contract b. grant c. cooperative agreement d. loan e. loan guarantee f. loan insurance	2. Status of Federal Action: a. bid/offer/application b. initial award c. post-award	3. Report Type: a. initial filing b. material change For material change only: Year: _____ quarter: _____ Date of last report: _____
4. Name and Address of Reporting Entity: <input type="checkbox"/> Prime <input type="checkbox"/> Subawardee Tier, if Known: _____ <i>Congressional District, if known:</i>	5. If Reporting Entity in No. 4 is Subawardee, Enter Name and Address of Prime: _____ <i>Congressional District, if known:</i>	
6. Federal Department/Agency: _____	7. Federal Program Name/Description: _____ _____ <i>CEDA Number, if applicable:</i>	
8. Federal Action Number, if known:	9. Award Amount, if known: \$	
10. a. Name and Address of Lobbying Registrant <i>(if individual, last name, first name, MI):</i> _____	b. Individuals Performing Services <i>(including address if different from No. 10a)</i> <i>(last name, first name, MI):</i> _____	
11. Information requested through this form is authorized by title 31 U.S.C. Section 1352. This disclosure of lobbying activities is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed by the tier above when this transaction was made or entered into. This disclosure is required pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1352. This information will be reported to the Congress semi-annually and will be available for public inspection. Any person who fails to file the required disclosure shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.	Signature: _____ Print Name: _____ Title: _____ Telephone No.: _____ Date: _____	
Federal Use Only	Authorized for Local Reproduction Standard Form — LLL (Rev. 7-97)	

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION OF SF-LLL, DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

This disclosure form shall be completed by the reporting entity, whether subawardee or prime Federal recipient, at the initiation or receipt of a covered Federal action, or a material change to a previous filing, pursuant to title 31 U.S.C. section 1352. The filing of a form is required for each payment or agreement to make payment to any lobbying entity for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with a covered Federal action. Complete all items that apply for both the initial filing and material change report. Refer to the implementing guidance published by the Office of Management and Budget for additional information.

1. Identify the type of covered Federal action for which lobbying activity is and/or has been secured to influence the outcome of a covered Federal action.
2. Identify the status of the covered Federal action.
3. Identify the appropriate classification of this report. If this is a follow up report caused by a material change to the information previously reported, enter the year and quarter in which the change occurred. Enter the date of the last previously submitted report by this reporting entity for this covered Federal action.
4. Enter the full name, address, city, State and zip code of the reporting entity. Include Congressional District, if known. Check the appropriate classification of the reporting entity that designates if it is, or expects to be, a prime or subaward recipient. Identify the tier of the subawardee, e.g., the first subawardee of the prime is the 1st tier. Subawards include but are not limited to subcontracts, subgrants and contract awards under grants.
5. If the organization filing the report in item 4 checks "Subawardee," then enter the full name, address, city, State and zip code of the prime Federal recipient. Include Congressional District, if known.
6. Enter the name of the federal agency making the award or loan commitment. Include at least one organizational level below agency name, if known. For example, Department of Transportation, United States Coast Guard.
7. Enter the Federal program name or description for the covered Federal action (item 1). If known, enter the full Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for grants, cooperative agreements, loans, and loan commitments.
8. Enter the most appropriate Federal identifying number available for the Federal action identified in item 1 (e.g., Request for Proposal (RFP) number; Invitations for Bid (IFB) number; grant announcement number; the contract, grant, or loan award number; the application/proposal control number assigned by the Federal agency). Included prefixes, e.g., "RFP-DE-90-001."

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>9. For a covered Federal action where there has been an award or loan commitment by the Federal agency, enter the Federal amount of the award/loan commitment for the prime entity identified in item 4 or 5.</p> | <p>entity identified in item 4 to influence the covered Federal action.</p> |
| <p>10. (a) Enter the full name, address, city, State and zip code of the lobbying registrant under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 engaged by the reporting</p> | <p>(b) Enter the full names of the individual(s) performing services, and include full address if different from 10(a). Enter Last Name, First Name, and Middle Initial (MI).</p> |
| <p>11. The certifying official shall sign and date the form, print his/her name, title, and telephone number.</p> | |

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act, as amended, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control Number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is OMB No. 0348-0046. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0046), Washington, DC 20503.

SECTION H

IMPORTANT NOTICES

NOTICE REGARDING SUBMISSION OF TRAINING MATERIALS TO THE NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE OF REHABILITATION TRAINING MATERIALS

For a number of years the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) has provided funding for a National Clearinghouse Rehabilitation Training Materials (NCHRTM). The purpose of the NCHRTM is to provide training materials that would benefit rehabilitation personnel. NCHRTM promotes a computerized on-line catalog of RSA training materials by circulation of its materials collection through electronic catalogs and inventory systems.

The success of the NCHRTM depends largely upon training projects sharing their materials with the NCHRTM. To this end, RSA requires training grantees to submit any training materials developed for their projects to:

The National Clearinghouse on Rehabilitation Training Materials
Michael Millington, Ph.D.
Director
Utah State University
Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation
6524 Old Main Hill
Logan, UT 84322-6524

Toll Free #: 1-866-821-5355
E-mail: ncrtm@cc.usu.edu

ESTIMATED BURDEN STATEMENT FOR GEPA REQUIREMENTS

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1890-0007. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 1.5 hours per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: Director, Grants Policy and Oversight Staff, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-4250

**NOTICE TO ALL APPLICANTS:
PROGRAM PERFORMANCE MEASURES UNDER THE
GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS ACT (GPRA)**

WHAT IS GPRA

The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 is a straightforward statute that requires all Federal agencies to manage their activities with attention to the consequences of those activities. Each agency is to clearly state what it intends to accomplish, identify the resources required, and periodically report its progress to the Congress. In doing so, it is expected that GPRA will contribute to improvements in accountability for the expenditures of public funds, improve Congressional decision-making through more objective information on the effectiveness of Federal programs, and promote a new government focus on results, service delivery and customer satisfaction.

HOW HAS THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RESPONDED TO THE GPRA REQUIREMENTS?

As required by GPRA, the United States Department of Education (the Department) has prepared a strategic plan for 2007-2012. This plan reflects the Department's priorities and integrates them with its mission and program authorities and describes how the Department will work to improve education for all children and adults in the United States. The Department's goals, as listed in the plan, are:

- Goal 1:* Create a Culture of Achievement: Create a culture of achievement throughout the nation's education system by effectively implementing the new law, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, and by basing all federal education programs on its principles: accountability, flexibility, expanded parental options and doing what works.
- Goal 2:* Improve Student Achievement: Improve student achievement for all groups of students by putting reading first, expanding high-quality mathematics and science teaching, reforming high schools, and boosting teacher and principal quality, thereby closing the achievement gap.
- Goal 3:* Develop Safe Schools and Strong Character: Establish disciplined and drug-free education environments that foster the development of good character and citizenship.
- Goal 4:* Transform Education into an Evidence-based Field: Strengthen the quality of education research.
- Goal 5:* Enhance the Quality of and Access to Postsecondary and Adult Education: Increase opportunities for students and the effectiveness of institutions.
- Goal 6:* Establish Management Excellence: Create a culture of accountability throughout the Department of Education.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE PARTICIPANTS
IN U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
GRANT AND CONTRACT PROGRAMS**

GRANTS

Applicants for grants from the U.S. Department of Education (ED) have to compete for limited funds. Deadlines assure all applicants that they will be treated fairly and equally, without last minute haste. For these reasons, ED must set strict deadlines for grant applications. Prospective applicants can avoid disappointment if they understand that:

Failure to meet a deadline will mean that an applicant will be rejected without any consideration.

The rules, including the deadline, for applying for each grant are published, individually, in the Federal Register. A one-year subscription to the Register may be obtained by sending \$555.00 to: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402-9371. (Send check or money order only, no cash or stamps.) In addition, the Federal Register is available on-line for free on Government Printing Office (GPO) Access:
<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr>.

Depository Library location and Federal Register services: <http://www.archives.gov>.

The instructions in the Federal Register must be followed exactly. Do not accept any other advice you may receive. No ED employee is authorized to extend any deadline published in the Register. No ED employees are authorized to extend any deadline published in the Federal Register. Questions regarding submission of applications may be addressed to:

U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center
Washington, D.C. 20202-4725

CONTRACTS

Competitive procurement actions undertaken by the ED are governed by the Federal Acquisition Regulations and implementing Department of Education Acquisition Regulations.

Generally, prospective competitive procurement actions are synopsisized in the Commerce Business Daily (CBD). Prospective offerors are therein advised of the nature of the procurement and where to apply for copies of the Request for Proposals (RFP). All of ED's RFP's are now available on-line for downloading at the following URL:

<http://www.ed.gov/offices/ocfo/contracts/currfrfp.html>

Offerors are advised to be guided solely by the contents of the CBD synopsis and the instructions contained in the RFP. Questions regarding the submission of offers should be addressed to the Contracts Specialist identified on the face page of the RFP. Offers are judged in competition with others, and failure to conform with any substantive requirements of the RFP will result in rejection of the offer without any consideration whatever.

Do not accept any advice you receive that is contrary to instructions contained in either the CBD synopsis or the RFP. No ED employee is authorized to consider a proposal which is non-responsive to the RFP. A subscription to the CBD is available for \$208.00 per year via second class mailing or \$261.00 per year via first class mailing. Information included in the Federal Acquisition Regulation is contained in Title 48, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 1 (\$49.00). The foregoing publication may be obtained by sending your check or money order only, no cash or stamps, to:

Superintendent of Documents
U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington, DC 20402-9371

In addition, the Commerce Business Daily is available on-line for free at the following URL: <http://cbdnet.access.gpo.gov>. The Federal Acquisition Regulations are available on-line at the following URL: <http://www.arnet.gov/far>. In an effort to be certain this important information is widely disseminated, this notice is being included in all ED mail to the public. You may therefore, receive more than one notice. If you do, we apologize for any annoyance it may cause you.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

This appendix applies to each program that is subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12372 (Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs) and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79.

The objective of the Executive order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and to strengthen federalism by relying on State and local processes for State and local government coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

Applicants must contact the appropriate State Single Point of Contact to find out about, and to comply with, the State's process under Executive Order 12372. Applicants proposing to perform activities in more than one State should immediately contact the Single Point of Contact for each of those States and follow the procedure established in each of those States under the Executive order. A listing containing the Single Point of Contact for each State is included in this appendix.

In States that have not established a process or chosen a program for review, State, area wide, regional and local entities may submit comments directly to the Department.

Any State Process Recommendation and other comments submitted by a State Single Point of Contact and any comments from State, area wide, regional and local entities must be mailed or hand-delivered by the date indicated in the actual application notice to the following address:

The Secretary, EO 12372--CFDA# [*commenter must insert number--including suffix letter, if any*]
U.S. Department of Education, Room 7W301
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Proof of mailing will be determined on the same basis as applications (see 34 CFR 75.102). Recommendations or comments may be hand-delivered until 4:30:00 p.m. (Washington, D.C. time) on the date indicated in the actual application notice.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ABOVE ADDRESS IS NOT THE SAME ADDRESS AS THE ONE TO WHICH THE APPLICANT SUBMITS ITS COMPLETED APPLICATION. DO NOT SEND APPLICATIONS TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS.

STATE SINGLE POINTS OF CONTACT (SPOCs)

It is estimated that in 2004 the Federal Government will outlay \$400 billion in grants to State and local governments. Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs," was issued with the desire to foster the intergovernmental partnership and strengthen federalism by relying on State and local processes for the coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance and direct Federal development. The Order allows each State to designate an entity to perform this function. Below is the official list of those entities. For those States that have a home page for their designated entity, a direct link has been provided on the official version: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html>.

States that are not listed on this page have chosen not to participate in the intergovernmental review process, and therefore do not have a SPOC. If you are located within one of these States, you may still send application materials directly to a Federal awarding agency.

Contact information for Federal agencies that award grants can be found in The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Contents Page. You can access Appendix IV by:

Agency: [http://12.46.245.173/CFDA/appx4_web.pdf]

or by

State: [http://12.46.245.173/CFDA/appx4_web_state.pdf].

Changes to this list can be made only after OMB is notified by a State's officially designated representative. E-mail messages can be sent to ephillips@omb.eop.gov. If you prefer, you may send correspondence to the following postal address:

Attn: Grants Management
Office of Management and Budget
New Executive Office Building, Suite 6025
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Please note: Inquiries about obtaining a Federal grant should not be sent to the OMB e-mail or postal address shown above. The best source for this information is the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance or CFDA <http://www.cfda.gov> and the Grants.gov Web site (<http://www.grants.gov>).

SECTION I

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

DOES YOUR APPLICATION INCLUDE EACH OF THE FOLLOWING?

- Cover page (If paper application use the ED 424, If Grants.gov use SF 424 and ED Supplement)
- Budget form (ED Form 524)
- Program specific budget form [if applicable]
- Budget narrative – Attach this to the Budget Narrative Attachment form [if applicable]
- Program narrative and responses to the selection criteria should be attached to the project narrative attachment form
- The one page abstract should be attached to the ED Abstract Form
- Assurances and Certifications [list]
- Other supporting documents, i.e. appendices, resumes, should be attached to the Other Attachment Form

DID YOU:

- Provide one (1) original plus two (2) copies of the application (One original and six copies are requested)?
- Include all required forms with original signatures and dates?
- Submit a copy of the application to the State Single Point of Contact, if applicable?

***Mail Application To:**

OR ****Hand-deliver* Application To:**

Rehabilitation Services Administration
ATTN: 84.264C
U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center
Room 7041, Potomac Center Plaza
550 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Rehabilitation Services Administration
ATTN: 84.264C
U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center
Room 7041, Potomac Center Plaza
550 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20202

- * The Application Control Center accepts deliveries daily between 8:00:00 a.m. and 4:30:00 p.m. (Washington, D.C. time), except Saturdays, Sundays and federal holidays. Application must be received by mail postmarked no later than the closing date.
- ** Hand-delivered applications must be received by 4:30:00 p.m. no later than the closing date. A person delivering an application must show identification to enter the building.

NOTE:

These options are available only to applicants who qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirements

COMMON QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Below are some examples of Q's & A's that programs may include in their application booklets. Programs may want to add others. Generally speaking, Q's & A's should not repeat information that is given elsewhere in the application. However, there may be exceptions to this "rule of thumb." Q's & A's should not be subregulatory and should not take the place of instructions.

Q. What happens to my application after it is received in the Department?

- A. The Department's Application Control Center receives each application, assigns each an identifying number (PR/Award number), confirms receipt of applications and sends the applications to the appropriate program office, which screens them for eligibility. The program conducts a peer review of all eligible applications sent to a program competition, ranks them and recommends the highest ranked applications for funding with exceptions as provided by law. The responsible official for the applicable program reviews the program office's recommendations, checks the adequacy of the documentation supporting the recommendations and approves a final list, or slate, of recommended projects and funding amounts. RSA Training Division staff discusses the recommendations with the successful applicants and awards the grants.

Q. What happens to my application if the Department finds it to be ineligible?

- A. The Department immediately returns an application that does not meet the eligibility criteria for the particular program. A letter from the Department explaining why it is not being reviewed in the competition accompanies the application.

Q. How does the Department review an application?

- A. Each application is assessed by knowledgeable persons from outside and sometimes inside the Department who are asked for their judgments about the quality and significance of the proposed project. These persons represent a diversity of disciplines and institutional, regional and cultural backgrounds. The advice of these experts is compiled by Departmental staff members who comment on matters of fact or on significant issues that would otherwise be missing from the review. The results are then presented to the responsible official responsible for the program who approves the recommendations for funding.

Q. What Criteria do the reviewers use when scoring an application?

- A. Reviewers score each application using the selection criteria published in the Federal Register as part of the program regulations, which are given in Section F of this application package. Reviewers are instructed to use only the published criteria.

Q. Is a recommended application guaranteed funding?

A. No. Funding is not final until discussions have been successfully concluded and a grant award notification has been signed by the grants office and mailed to the applicant.

Q. How long does it take the Department to complete the review process?

A. Most review processes take from four to six months.

Q. How does the invitational, competitive and absolute priorities differ?

A. Invitational Priority

The Secretary may simply invite applicants to meet a priority. However, an application that addresses invitational priorities receives no competitive or absolute preference over applications that do not meet this priority.

Competitive Priority

If a program uses weighted selection criteria, the Secretary may award selection points to an application that meets the priority. These points are in addition to any points the application earns under the selection criteria. The notice states the maximum number of additional points that the Secretary may award to applications that meet the priority in a particularly effective way. Or the Secretary may simply select applications that meet the competitive priority over applications of comparable merit that do not meet the priority.

Absolute Priority

Under an absolute priority, the Secretary may select for funding only those applications that meet the priority.

Q. Can changes in the size of subsequent year awards be made after the multi-year budget has been negotiated?

A. Yes, a grantee can renegotiate his or her multi-year budget and may be awarded additional funds if sufficient justification is presented to the Secretary and funds are available. Also, funds can be decreased if it is determined that the multi-year budget was overestimated.

Q. How will funding continuation decisions be made if the Department is phasing out the use of non-competing continuation applications after fiscal year 1995?

A. Grantees will be required to complete annual performance reports that describe the projects accomplishments, evaluations and finances. These performance reports, along with other information, will be used by the Department to decide whether to continue funding projects.

DUNS NUMBER INSTRUCTIONS

D-U-N-S No.: Please provide the applicant's D-U-N-S Number. You can obtain your D-U-N-S Number at no charge by calling 1-800-333-0505 or by completing a D-U-N-S Number Request Form. The form can be obtained via the Internet at the following URL:

<http://www.dnb.com/dbis/aboutdb/intlduns.htm>

The D-U-N-S Number is a unique nine-digit number that does not convey any information about the recipient. A built in check digit helps assure the accuracy of the D-U-N-S Number. The ninth digit of each number is the check digit, which is mathematically related to the other digits. It lets computer systems determine if a D-U-N-S Number has been entered correctly.

Dun & Bradstreet, a global information services provider, has assigned D-U-N-S numbers to over 43 million companies worldwide.

GRANT APPLICATION RECEIPT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

If you fail to receive the notification of application within fifteen (15) days from the closing date, call:

U.S. Department of Education Application Control Center
202-245-6288

GRANT AND CONTRACT FUNDING INFORMATION

The Department of Education provides information about grant and contract opportunities electronically in several ways:

ED Internet Home Page: www.ed.gov