

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No.: 84.811A]

Systems-Change Projects to Expand Employment Opportunities for Individuals With Mental or Physical Disabilities, or Both, Who Receive Public Support; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 1998

Purpose of Program: To provide financial assistance to model demonstration projects that stimulate and advance systems change in order to expand employment outcomes for individuals with mental or physical disabilities, or both, who are participants in Federal, State, and local public support programs.

Eligible Applicants: Consortiums composed of, at a minimum, the State vocational rehabilitation agency, the State welfare agency, the State educational agency, the State agency responsible for administering the Medicaid program, and an agency administering an employment or employment training program supported by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Deadline for Receipt of Applications: September 3, 1998.

In order to ensure timely receipt and processing of applications, an application must be received on or before the deadline date announced in this application notice. The Secretary will not consider an application for funding if it is not received by the deadline date unless the applicant can show proof that the application was: (1) sent by registered or certified mail not later than five days before the deadline date; or (2) sent by commercial carrier not later than two days before the deadline date. An applicant must show proof of mailing in accordance with 34 CFR 75.102 (d) and (e). Applications delivered by hand must be received by 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time on the deadline date. For the purposes of this program competition, the Secretary does not apply 34 CFR 74.102(b) which requires an application to be mailed, rather than received, by the deadline date.

Note: All applications must be received on or before the deadline date. This requirement takes exception to the Education Department

General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), 34 CFR 75.102. In accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553), it is the practice of the Secretary to offer interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed regulations. However, this amendment to EDGAR makes procedural changes only and does not establish new substantive policy. Therefore, under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(A), proposed rulemaking is not required.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: September 18, 1998.

Applications Available: July 8, 1998.

Available Funds: \$1,000,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$250,000–\$600,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$500,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 2.

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

Project Period: Up to 60 months.

Applicable Regulations: The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, and 85.

Selection Criteria: In evaluating an application for a new grant under this competition, the Secretary uses selection criteria chosen from the general selection criteria in § 75.210 of EDGAR. The selection criteria to be used for this competition will be provided in the application package for this competition.

For Applications Contact: The Grants and Contracts Service Team (GCST), U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 3317, Switzer Building, Washington, D.C. 20202–2550. Telephone: (202) 205–8351. The preferred method for requesting applications is to FAX your request to (202) 205–8717. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain a copy of the application package in an alternate format by contacting the GCST. However, the Department is not able to reproduce in an alternate format the standard forms included in the application package.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Pedro Romero, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 3316, Switzer Building, Washington, D.C. 20202–2650. Telephone: (202) 205–9797. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternate format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed in the preceding paragraph.

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Note: The official version of a document is the document published in the **Federal Register**.

Program Authority: Section 12(a)(3) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 762(b)(3)).

Dated: July 1, 1998.

Judith E. Heumann,

Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

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