U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION & REHABILITATIVE SERVICES
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202

FISCAL YEAR 2009
APPLICATION FOR NEW GRANTS UNDER THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)

TECHNOLOGY AND MEDIA SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES (CFDA 84.327)

NATIONAL INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS ACCESSIBILITY STANDARD (NIMAS) (CFDA 84.327P)

NATIONAL CENTER ON ACCESSIBLE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS (AIM) (CFDA 84.327T)

DATED MATERIAL - <u>OPEN IMMEDIATELY</u>
CLOSING DATE: July 6, 2009

FORM APPROVED - OMB No. 1820-0028, EXP. DATE: 08/31/10

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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 1820-0028. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 45 hours and 40 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 time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC 20202-2600. If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this form, write directly to: Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-2600.

Dear Applicant:

This application packet contains information and the required forms for you to use in submitting a new application for funding under one program authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This packet covers two competitions under the Technology and Media Services for Individuals with Disabilities (CFDA 84.327) Program--National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) (CFDA No. 84.327P) and National Center on Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) (CFDA No. 84.327T).

An application for an award must be: (1) hand-delivered, submitted electronically or mailed by the closing date; and, (2) for paper applications, have an original signature on at least one copy of the assurances and certifications (Part IV of the application form). It is also important to include the appropriate Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) numeric and alpha in Item #4 on ED Form 424 (e.g., CFDA No. 84.327P) for paper applications.

Please note the following:

- **APPLICATION SUBMISSION**. Based on the precautionary procedures the U.S. Postal Service is using to process mail, we are experiencing delays in the delivery of mail to the Department. Therefore, you may want to consider sending your application by overnight courier or submitting your application electronically.

- **E-APPLICATION SUBMISSION**. Applications for grants under these competitions may be submitted electronically using the Department of Education's e-Application system. Please read carefully the document that we have included entitled, E-Application Submission Procedures and Tips for Applicants, about submitting electronically using the E-Application site. Please note that you must follow the Application Procedures as described in the Federal Register notice announcing these grant competitions. Information (including dates and times) about how to submit your application electronically, or by mail or hand delivery, can also be found in section D-1 Application Transmittal Instructions and Requirements for Intergovernmental Review of this application package.

- **MAXIMUM AWARD AMOUNT**. In addition to providing detailed budget information for the total grant period requested, the competitions included in this package have a maximum award amount. Please refer to the specific information for the priority/competition to which you are submitting an application (i.e., Section B of this package). Please be advised that for the priorities in this package, the maximum award amount covers all project costs including indirect costs.

- **STRICT PAGE LIMITS**. The competitions included in this package limit the Part III Application Narrative to a specified number of double-spaced pages. This page limitation applies to all material presented in the application narrative -- including, for example, any charts, tables, figures, and graphs. (Please refer to the specific requirements on page limits for the priority/competition to which you are submitting an application - i.e., Section B of this package). The Department will reject, and will NOT consider an application that does not adhere to the page limit requirements for the competition.

- **FORMAT FOR APPLICATIONS**. Please note that additional information regarding formatting applications has been included on Pages C-3 and C-4 of the "General Information on Completing an Application" section of this package.

- **PROTECTION OF HUMAN SUBJECTS IN RESEARCH.** The discretionary grant Application Form SF 424 requires applicants to indicate whether they plan to conduct research involving human subjects at any time during the proposed project period. The Protection of Human Subjects in Research Attachment is an integral part of the SF 424 form. It includes information that applicants need to complete the protection of human subjects item and, as appropriate, to provide additional information to the Department regarding human subjects research projects. Additional information on completing the protection of human subjects item is also available and can be accessed on the INTERNET at:

  www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/gcsindex.html
  http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/humansub.html

- **RESPONSE TO GPRA.** As required by the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993 OSEP has developed a strategic plan for measuring GPRA performance. The program included in this announcement is authorized under Part D - National Activities to Improve Education of Children with Disabilities of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) will collect information to assess progress and performance. See Performance Measures included in the Priority Description section of this application package. Applicants are encouraged to consider this information, as applications are prepared.

- **COPIES OF THE APPLICATION.** Current Government-wide policy requires that an original and two copies need to be submitted. OSEP would appreciate receiving three additional copies to facilitate the peer review process. This would mean an original and two copies need to be submitted and we would appreciate your voluntarily submitting an additional three copies (six applications in all). If you are submitting your application electronically, you do not need to submit paper copies of the application. Please note: If an application is recommended for funding and a grant award is issued, we will contact the applicant to request a copy of the application on a diskette or CD. The Department is moving toward an electronic grant filing system and an electronic copy of all applications that are being funded will facilitate this effort.

A program officer is available to provide information to you regarding this competition. Please refer to the name of the program contact at the end of the priority description. For information about other U.S. Department of Education grant and contract opportunities, we encourage you to use the Department's grant information web page which can be accessed on the INTERNET at:

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

We appreciate your efforts to improve the provision of services for individuals with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Wexler, Ed.D.
Director, Research to Practice Division
Office of Special Education Programs

4000-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

Overview Information

Technology and Media Services for Individuals with Disabilities--National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS)

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

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.327P.

Dates:

Applications Available: June 3, 2009.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: July 6, 2009.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: September 1, 2009.

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose of Program: The purposes of the Technology and Media Services for Individuals with Disabilities program are to: (1) improve results for children with disabilities by promoting the development, demonstration, and use of technology; (2) support educational media services activities designed to be of educational value in the classroom setting to children with disabilities; and (3) provide support for captioning and video description of educational materials that are appropriate for use in the classroom setting.

Priority: In accordance with 34 CFR 75.105(b)(2)(v), this priority is from allowable activities specified in the statute or otherwise authorized in the statute (see sections 674 and 681(d) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. 1474 and 1481(d)).

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

This priority is:

Technology and Media Services for Individuals with Disabilities--NIMAS.

Background:

The National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) was established by the Secretary of Education, pursuant to sections 612(a)(23)(A) and 674(e)(4) of IDEA, for publishers to create electronic files that can be used by States and accessible media producers (AMPs) to produce accessible versions of print instructional materials. Publishers must apply NIMAS in the production of electronic file sets for all print instructional materials, as defined in section 674(e)(3)(C) of IDEA (20 U.S.C. 1474(e)(3)(C)), published after July 19, 2006. The purpose of this requirement is to ensure that publishers use a common standard to create electronic files that facilitate the production of accurate and reliable accessible versions of instructional materials. The goal is to help increase the quality, availability, and timely delivery of print instructional materials in accessible formats to children in elementary and secondary schools who are blind or who have print disabilities.

The Department of Education (Department) funded the NIMAS Development Center in September 2004 and charged it with providing recommendations to the Department on revisions and updates to the technical specifications of NIMAS. These updates were needed to ensure that NIMAS remained current with technological advances, was consistent with updates to the Digital Accessible Information System (DAISY) specification (DAISY is a worldwide standard for digital talking books), and addressed concerns that were identified during the implementation of NIMAS. The NIMAS Development Center also has developed technical clarification documents, conducted training and presentations, and contributed to the development of production and workflow models for publishers, distributors, AMPs, States, and local educational agencies (LEAs). Foremost among the NIMAS Development Center's activities to promote, develop, and use technology related to making NIMAS a more effective standard has been its use of a NIMAS advisory board to address the challenges of maintaining alignment with the Extensible Markup Language (XML) standard upon which NIMAS is based and supporting the development and use of Mathematical Markup Language (MathML). The following Web site provides more information on the work of the NIMAS Development Center: www.nimas.cast.org.

The Department seeks to fund a center to continue some of the work of the NIMAS Development Center that was funded in 2004, including the provision of technical updates to NIMAS at least once during its five-year project period to ensure that state-of-the art technology is being used.

Priority:

The purpose of this priority is to fund a cooperative agreement to support the establishment and operation of a NIMAS center (Center) that will maintain and update the technical specifications of NIMAS to ensure that children with blindness and other print disabilities will have access to as broad a range of print instructional materials as possible through the use of electronic file formatting technology.

To be considered for funding under this absolute priority, applicants must meet the application requirements contained in this priority. Any project funded under this absolute priority also must meet the programmatic and administrative requirements specified in the priority.

Application Requirements. An applicant must include in its application--

(a) A logic model that depicts, at a minimum, the goals, activities, outputs, and outcomes of the proposed project. A logic model communicates how a project will achieve its outcomes and provides a framework for both the formative and summative evaluations of the project;

Note: The following Web site provides more information on logic models: www.cdc.gov/eval/resources.htm.

(b) A plan to implement the activities described in the Project Activities section of this priority;

(c) A plan, linked to the proposed project's logic model, for a formative evaluation of the proposed project's activities. The plan must describe how the formative evaluation will use clear performance objectives to ensure continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project, including objective measures of progress in implementing the project and ensuring the quality of products and services;

(d) A budget for a summative evaluation to be conducted by an independent third party;

(e) A budget for attendance at the following:

(1) A one day kick-off meeting to be held in Washington, DC, within four weeks after receipt of the award, and an annual planning meeting held in Washington, DC, with the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Project Officer during each subsequent year of the project period.

(2) A three-day Project Directors' Conference in Washington, DC, during each year of the project period.

(3) A one-day trip annually to attend Department briefings, Department-sponsored conferences, and other meetings, as requested by OSEP.

Project Activities. To meet the requirements of this priority, the Center, at a minimum, must conduct the following activities:

Technical Assistance and Dissemination Activities.

(a) Facilitate and support the technical compatibility of the NIMAS file set with the National Instructional Materials Access Center's (NIMAC) distribution system, including the technologies employed by publishers and other production facilities to create both high-quality NIMAS files as well as accessible commercial products.

(b) Maintain a Web site that meets government or industry-recognized standards for accessibility and that links to the Web site operated by OSEP's Technical Assistance Coordination Center (TACC) and the Web site for each OSEP-funded project that supports the implementation of NIMAS.

(c) Prepare and disseminate to the Department (1) reports at least midway through the project period on issues identified regarding the implementation of NIMAS and (2) recommendations on revising the technical specifications of NIMAS no later than during the fourth year of the project period. In consultation with the OSEP Project Officer, make selected reports, documents, and other materials available to, at a minimum, publishers, software developers, and AMPs.

Leadership and Coordination Activities.

(a) Establish and maintain a Standards Board to recommend updates to the technical specifications of NIMAS, including the extent to which future versions of NIMAS should incorporate universal design features, and provide technical support to OSEP throughout the project period. At a minimum, the Standards Board must meet on an annual basis in Washington, DC, and may meet more frequently through alternate means such as teleconferencing. The Standards Board must include: technology experts; software engineers; accessible instructional materials (AIM) producers; and representatives from the publishing industry, the DAISY consortium, the Access Board, NIMAC, and the National Center on AIM that OSEP intends to fund in FY 2009. The Center must submit the names of proposed members of the Standards Board to OSEP for approval within eight weeks of receipt of the award.

(b) Communicate with, and solicit input from, a wide range of stakeholders, including currently funded OSEP programs (e.g., NIMAC, the American Printing House for the Blind, Bookshare.org for Education, and Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic), and the National Center on AIM that OSEP intends to fund in FY 2009.

(c) Participate in, organize, or facilitate, as directed by OSEP, communities of practice (see www.tacommunities.org) that are aligned with the Center's objectives as a way to support discussions and collaboration among key stakeholders such as technology experts; software engineers; AIM producers; and representatives from the publishing industry, the DAISY consortium, the Access Board, NIMAC, and the National Center on AIM that OSEP intends to fund in FY 2009.

(d) Maintain ongoing communication with the OSEP Project Officer through monthly phone conversations and e-mail communication.

Waiver of Proposed Rulemaking: Under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (5 U.S.C. 553), the Department generally offers interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed priorities and requirements. Section 681(d) of IDEA, however, makes the public comment requirements of the APA inapplicable to the priority in this notice.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1474 and 1481.

Applicable Regulations: 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.

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 (IHEs) only.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Cooperative Agreement.

Estimated Available Funds: $400,000.

Contingent upon the availability of funds and the quality of applications, we may make additional awards in FY 2010 from the list of unfunded applicants from this competition.

Maximum Awards: We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding $400,000 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: State educational agencies (SEAs); LEAs, including public charter schools that are considered LEAs under State law; IHEs; other public agencies; private nonprofit organizations; outlying areas; freely associated States; Indian tribes or tribal organizations; and for-profit organizations.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching: This competition does not require cost sharing or matching.

3. Other: General Requirements--(a) The projects funded under this competition must make positive efforts to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities (see section 606 of IDEA).

(b) Applicants and grant recipients funded under this competition must involve individuals with disabilities or parents of individuals with disabilities ages birth through 26 in planning, implementing, and evaluating the project (see section 682(a)(1)(A) of IDEA).

IV. Application and Submission Information

1. Address to Request Application Package: Education Publications Center (ED Pubs), 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 package from ED Pubs, be sure to identify this competition as follows: CFDA number 84.327P.

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 competition.

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 to the equivalent of no more than 50 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, abstracts, 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 (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, the references, 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 3, 2009.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: July 6, 2009.

Applications for grants under this competition may be submitted electronically using the Electronic Grant Application System (e-Application) accessible through the Department's e-Grants site, or in paper format by mail or hand delivery. For information (including dates and times) about how to submit your application electronically, or in paper format by mail or hand delivery, 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 1, 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 may be submitted electronically or in paper format by mail or hand delivery.

a. Electronic Submission of Applications.

If you choose to submit your application to us electronically, you must use e-Application, accessible through the Department's e-Grants Web site at: http://e-grants.ed.gov.

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:

• Your participation in e-Application is voluntary.

• 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 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 System 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. If e-Application is available, and, for any reason, you are unable to submit your application electronically or you do not receive an automatic acknowledgment of your submission, you may submit your application in paper format by mail or hand delivery in accordance with the instructions in this notice.

b. Submission of Paper Applications by Mail.

If you submit your application in paper format by mail (through the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial carrier), 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 84.327P)
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 submit your application in paper format by hand delivery, you (or a courier service) 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 84.327P)
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

1. Selection Criteria: The selection criteria for this competition are from 34 CFR 75.210 and are listed in the application package.

2. Review and Selection Process: In the past, the Department has had difficulty finding peer reviewers for certain competitions because so many individuals who are eligible to serve as peer reviewers have conflicts of interest. The Standing Panel requirements under IDEA also have placed additional constraints on the availability of reviewers. Therefore, the Department has determined that, for some discretionary grant competitions, applications may be separated into two or more groups and ranked and selected for funding within the specific groups. This procedure will make it easier for the Department to find peer reviewers by ensuring that greater numbers of individuals who are eligible to serve as reviewers for any particular group of applicants will not have conflicts of interest. It also will increase the quality, independence, and fairness of the review process while permitting panel

members to review applications under discretionary grant competitions for which they also have submitted applications. However, if the Department decides to select an equal number of applications in each group for funding, this may result in different cut-off points for fundable applications in each group.

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: Under the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA), the Department has established a set of performance measures, including long-term measures, that are designed to yield information on various aspects of the effectiveness and quality of the Technology and Media Services for Individuals with Disabilities program. These measures focus on the extent to which projects provide high-quality products and services, are relevant to improving outcomes for children with disabilities, and contribute to improving outcomes for children with disabilities. We will collect data on these measures from the project funded under this competition.

The grantee will be required to report information on its project's performance in annual reports to the Department (34 CFR 75.590).

VII. Agency Contact

For Further Information Contact: Michael Slade, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, room 4175, PCP, Washington, DC 20202-2550. Telephone: (202) 245-7527.

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:

_____

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

4000-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

Overview Information

Technology and Media Services for Individuals with Disabilities--National Center on Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM)

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

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.327T.

Dates:

Applications Available: June 3, 2009.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: July 6, 2009.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: September 1, 2009.

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose of Program: The purposes of the Technology and Media Services for Individuals with Disabilities program are to: (1) improve results for children with disabilities by promoting the development, demonstration, and use of technology, (2) support educational media services activities designed to be of educational value in the classroom setting to children with disabilities, and (3) provide support for captioning and video description of educational materials that are appropriate for use in the classroom setting.

Priority: In accordance with 34 CFR 75.105(b)(2)(v), this priority is from allowable activities specified in the statute (see sections 674 and 681(d) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.).

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

This priority is:

Technology and Media Services for Individuals with Disabilities--National Center on Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM).

Background:

IDEA requires that the individualized education program for each child with a disability be designed to enable the child to be involved in and make progress in the general education curriculum (20 U.S.C. 1414 (d)(1)(A)(i)(II)(aa)). Some children with disabilities, however, experience a significant barrier to making progress in the general education curriculum because they cannot effectively utilize print instructional materials such as textbooks (Rose & Meyer, 2002; Rose, Meyer & Hitchcock, 2005; Stahl, 2007). For example, studies show that, for many children with disabilities, a neurologically based reading dysfunction limits their ability to read and learn from print instructional materials (Shaywitz, 1998; 2002; 2005; 2006).

The 2004 amendments to IDEA required the Secretary to establish the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) and required States to adopt NIMAS for the purpose of providing instructional materials in specialized formats in a timely manner for use in elementary and secondary schools by children who are blind or who have print disabilities (20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(23)(A)). The 2004 amendments also established the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC) as a national repository to receive and store NIMAS source files and make them available to States.

State educational agencies (SEAs) and local educational agencies (LEAs) now obtain NIMAS file sets directly from publishers or from NIMAC and convert those files into specialized formats for use by students who need accessible instructional materials (AIM). The files obtained from NIMAC may only be used for children with disabilities who are eligible under IDEA and meet the definition of blind or other persons with print disabilities in the Act to Provide Books for the Adult Blind (2 U.S.C. 135a), which establishes eligibility criteria for individuals served by the Library of Congress (LOC) regulations (36 CFR 701.6(b)(1)). These eligibility criteria cover individuals who are blind, have other visual disabilities, are unable to read or use standard print as a result of physical limitations, or have reading disabilities resulting from organic dysfunction. The regulations implementing Part B of IDEA require SEAs and LEAs to ensure that children with disabilities who need instructional materials in accessible formats, but are not included under the LOC definition of blind or other persons with print disabilities or who need materials that cannot be produced from NIMAS files obtained through NIMAC, receive those instructional materials in a timely manner (34 CFR 300.172(b)(3) and 300.210(b)(3)).

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) funded the NIMAS TA Center (www.nimas.cast.org) in September 2004 to support the implementation of NIMAS-related requirements and to provide technical assistance

(TA) and information to SEAs, LEAs, and other stakeholders in the preparation, delivery, and conversion of NIMAS file sets. However, the NIMAS TA Center targeted its efforts on addressing the need for AIM for children eligible under LOC regulations. A recent national survey of States found that the implementation of NIMAS is underway within States, but that States have encountered difficulty in developing and implementing unified distribution systems for AIM to serve the needs of all children with disabilities (Project Forum, 2007). SEAs and LEAs need sustained TA to provide high-quality materials in a timely manner and to improve their distribution systems because of the complexity of developing and implementing a unified distribution system that is responsive to IDEA requirements, the LOC criteria for eligibility, and section 121 of the Copyright Act.[1] State systems must address simultaneously the concerns of multiple participants in the system, including students and families, teachers, local schools, SEAs and LEAs, educational publishers, software developers, accessible media producers (AMPs), and distributors. Continued TA can help States develop efficient State distribution systems so that all children with disabilities receive AIM in a timely manner.

Priority:

The purpose of this priority is to fund a cooperative agreement to support the establishment and operation of a national center on AIM (Center). The Center will provide TA to SEAs, LEAs, and other stakeholders: (1) to improve the implementation of NIMAS; and (2) to develop and implement unified distribution systems in SEAs that will improve the timely delivery of high-quality AIM to all children with disabilities who need instructional materials in accessible formats.

To be considered for funding under this absolute priority, applicants must meet the application requirements contained in this priority. Any project funded under this absolute priority also must meet the programmatic and administrative requirements specified in the priority.

Application Requirements. An applicant must include in its application--

(a) A logic model that depicts, at a minimum, the goals, activities, outputs, and outcomes of the proposed project. A logic model communicates how a project will achieve its outcomes and provides a framework for both the formative and summative evaluations of the project;

[1] The Chafee Amendment to Chapter 1 of Title 17, United States Code, adds section 121, establishing a limitation on the exclusive rights in copyrighted works. The Amendment allows authorized entities to reproduce or distribute copies or phonorecords of previously published nondramatic literary works in specialized formats exclusively for use by blind or other persons with disabilities.

Note: The following Web site provides more information on logic models and lists multiple online resources: www.cdc.gov/eval/resources.htm.

(b) A plan to implement the activities described in the Project Activities section of this priority;

(c) A plan, linked to the proposed project's logic model, for a formative evaluation of the proposed project's activities. The plan must describe how the formative evaluation will use clear performance objectives to ensure continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project, including objective measures of progress in implementing the project and ensuring the quality of products and services;

(d) A budget for a summative evaluation to be conducted by an independent third party;

(e) A budget for attendance at the following:

(1) A one and one half day kick-off meeting to be held in Washington, DC, within four weeks after receipt of the award, and an annual planning meeting held in Washington, DC, with the OSEP Project Officer during each subsequent year of the project period.

(2) A three-day Project Directors' Conference in Washington, DC, during each year of the project period.

(3) A four-day Technical Assistance and Dissemination Conference in Washington, DC, during each year of the project period.

(4) A one-day trip annually to attend Department briefings, Department-sponsored conferences, and other meetings, as requested by OSEP; and

(f) A line item in the proposed budget for an annual set-aside of five percent of the grant amount to support emerging needs that are consistent with the proposed project's activities, as those needs are identified in consultation with OSEP.

Note: With approval from the OSEP Project Officer, the Center must reallocate any remaining funds from this annual set-aside no later than the end of the third quarter of each budget period.

Project Activities. To meet the requirements of this priority, the Center, at a minimum, must conduct the following activities:

Knowledge Development Activities.

(a) Identify and document current approaches used by SEAs and LEAs, where appropriate, for developing and implementing efficient, unified distribution systems for the delivery of AIM to all children with disabilities who

require instructional materials produced in accessible formats. This activity should occur during the first year of the project.

(b) Describe in detail the necessary components of efficient, unified distribution systems for the delivery of AIM in a timely manner. These components must include but are not limited to the following:

(1) Implementation of tracking systems that provide for digital rights management and measure timely delivery.

(2) Coordination with textbook adoption authorities and assistive technology projects within SEAs.

(3) Utilization of existing general education distribution systems, resource centers, and professional development systems. This knowledge development activity should occur during the first and second years of the project.

Technical Assistance and Dissemination Activities.

(a) Work directly with SEAs to ensure that distribution systems are high-quality and deliver AIM in a timely manner to children with disabilities. To address this requirement the Center must--

(1) Work directly with a minimum of ten States to assist the SEAs in developing and implementing a plan to develop a unified distribution system or improve their existing distribution system for AIM;

(2) Develop and coordinate a national TA network comprised of a cadre of experts that the Center will use to provide TA to SEAs, LEAs, and other stakeholders to develop a unified distribution system or improve their existing State distribution systems for the delivery of AIM to children with disabilities; and

(3) Disseminate information to SEAs and LEAs about improving the timely delivery of AIM and increasing the quantity and improving the quality of commercially available AIM through their print instructional materials adoption processes, procurement contracts, or other practices or instruments used for purchase of print instructional materials (34 CFR 300.172(c)).

(4) Disseminate information to SEAs and LEAs on developing and implementing a unified distribution system that is responsive to IDEA requirements, the LOC criteria for eligibility, and section 121 of the Copyright Act.

(b) Provide a continuum of general TA and dissemination (TA&D) activities, (e.g. managing Web sites, listservs, and communities of practice, and holding training institutes) to assist SEAs--

(1) In developing and implementing quality indicators of their distribution systems that: define high-quality AIM, describe the State definition of "timely manner" (34 CFR 300.172(a)(2)) and use that definition to assess whether children who need AIM receive these materials in a timely manner, identify elements that support an efficient flow of materials in the distribution system, and use effective protocols for digital rights management;

(2) In providing exemplars and other information to publishers, AMPs, and other stakeholders on the use of NIMAS (e.g., in support for Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG) and Mathematical Markup Language (MathML)). The following Web sites provide information on SVG and MathML: www.w3.org/Graphics/SVG and www.w3.org/Math; and

(3) To the maximum extent possible, in meeting their obligation to work collaboratively with the State agency responsible for assistive technology programs (34 CFR 300.172(d); 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(23)(D)).

(c) Prepare and disseminate reports, documents, practice guides, and other materials on the implementation of State distribution systems for the delivery of AIM, the quality indicators related to an effective distribution system, the use of AIM, and related topics, as requested by OSEP, for specific audiences, including parents, teachers, textbook selection committees, and SEA administrators.

(d) Maintain a Web site that meets government or industry-recognized standards for accessibility and that links to the Web site operated by the Technical Assistance Coordination Center (TACC).

Leadership and Coordination Activities.

(a) On an annual basis, compile and share data, in collaboration with other currently funded OSEP centers, on the implementation of NIMAS. To complete this activity, the Center must--

(1) Review and summarize NIMAS-related data from sources such as IDEA State Annual Performance Reports (APRs) and the updated State Performance Plans (SPPs). The following Web site provides more information on APRs and SPPs: www.rrfcnetwork.org/content/view/409/47/;

(2) Prepare a summary report annually on the status of the implementation of NIMAS and disseminate the findings of the summary report to OSEP, SEAs, LEAs, and other stakeholders; and

(3) Provide recommendations to OSEP on the most meaningful and useful ways to analyze and aggregate the data reported by States on IDEA Part B indicators relevant to NIMAS implementation at the national level. The following Web site provides more information on the SEAs' adoption of NIMAS: www.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/monitor/nimac.html.

(b) Establish and maintain an advisory committee to review the activities and outcomes of the Center and provide programmatic support and advice throughout the project period. At a minimum, the advisory committee must meet on an annual basis and must include: SEA and LEA personnel involved with the distribution of AIM, textbook adoption personnel, individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities, OSEP-funded technology grants that relate to NIMAS and that improve results for children with disabilities, and other stakeholders and project directors of Department-funded centers that relate to the implementation of NIMAS requirements. The Center must submit the names of the proposed members of the advisory committee to OSEP for approval within eight weeks after receipt of the award.

(c) Communicate and collaborate with currently funded OSEP projects including NIMAC; Bookshare.org for Education; Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic; the NIMAS center (which OSEP intends to fund in FY 2009); and TACC. This collaboration could include the joint development of products, the coordination of TA services, and the planning and carrying out of TA meetings and events, including the convening of an annual meeting of these projects to ensure a well-designed national distribution system for SEAs and LEAs and to reduce duplication of effort and improve the delivery time for specialized formats.

(d) Communicate and collaborate with postsecondary groups to help facilitate coordinated efforts between the K-12 and postsecondary AIM distribution systems, as appropriate.

(e) Participate in, organize, or facilitate, as directed by OSEP, communities of practice (www.tacommunities.org/) that are aligned with the Center's objectives as a way to support discussions and collaboration among key stakeholders.

(f) Prior to developing any new product, whether paper or electronic, submit to the OSEP Project Officer and the Proposed Product Advisory Board at OSEP's TACC for approval, a proposal describing the content and purpose of the product.

(g) Coordinate with the National Dissemination Center for Individuals with Disabilities to develop an efficient and high-quality dissemination strategy that reaches broad audiences. The Center must report to the OSEP Project Officer the outcomes of these coordination efforts.

(h) Contribute, on an ongoing basis, updated information on the Center's services to OSEP's Technical Assistance and Dissemination Matrix (http://matrix.rrfcnetwork.org/), which provides current information on Department-funded TA services to a range of stakeholders.

(i) Conduct formative and summative evaluations of the Center that are aligned with the evaluation plan. These evaluations must examine the outcomes or impact of the Center's activities in order to assess the effectiveness of those activities. These evaluations will be reported to OSEP at least annually in the case of the formative evaluation and at the end of the project period for the summative evaluation.

(j) Maintain ongoing communication with the OSEP Project Officer through monthly phone conversations and e-mail communication.

Fourth and Fifth Years of the Project:

In deciding whether to continue funding the Center for the fourth and fifth years, the Secretary will consider the requirements of 34 CFR 75.253(a), and in addition--

(a) The recommendation of a review team consisting of experts selected by the Secretary. This review will be conducted during a one-day meeting in Washington, DC, that will be held during the last half of the second year of the project period.

(b) The timeliness and effectiveness with which all requirements of the negotiated cooperative agreement have been or are being met by the Center; and

(c) The quality, relevance, and usefulness of the Center's activities and products, and the degree to which the Center's activities and products have contributed to the development and improvement of State distribution systems for the efficient delivery of AIM for children with disabilities.

References:

Mueller, E. & Burdett, P. (2007). The National

Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard

(NIMAS): Current State Implementation. Project Forum: Alexandria, VA.

Waiver of Proposed Rulemaking: Under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (5 U.S.C. 553), the Department generally offers interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed priorities and requirements. Section 681(d) of IDEA, however, makes the public comment requirements of the APA inapplicable to the priority in this notice.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1474 and 1481.

Applicable Regulations: 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.

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 (IHEs) only.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Cooperative Agreement.

Estimated Available Funds: $1,000,000.

Contingent upon the availability of funds and the quality of applications, we may make additional awards in FY 2010 from the list of unfunded applicants from this competition.

Maximum Award: We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding $1,000,000 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: SEAs; LEAs, including public charter schools that are considered LEAs under State law; IHEs; other public agencies; private nonprofit organizations; outlying areas; freely associated States; Indian tribes or tribal organizations; and for-profit organizations.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching: This competition does not require cost sharing or matching.

3. Other: General Requirements--(a) The projects funded under this competition must make positive efforts to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities (see section 606 of IDEA).

(b) Applicants and grant recipients funded under this competition must involve individuals with disabilities or parents of individuals with disabilities ages birth through 26 in planning, implementing, and evaluating the projects (see section 682(a)(1)(A) of IDEA).

IV. Application and Submission Information

1. Address to Request Application Package: Education Publications Center (ED Pubs), 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 package from ED Pubs, be sure to identify this competition as follows: CFDA number 84.327T.

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 competition.

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 to the equivalent of no more than 50 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, abstracts, 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 (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, the references, 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 3, 2009.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: July 6, 2009.

Applications for grants under this competition may be submitted electronically using the Electronic Grant Application System (e-Application) accessible through the Department's e-Grants site, or in paper format by mail or

hand delivery. For information (including dates and times) about how to submit your application electronically, or in paper format by mail or hand delivery, 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 1, 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 may be submitted electronically or in paper format by mail or hand delivery.

a. Electronic Submission of Applications.

If you choose to submit your application to us electronically, you must use e-Application, accessible through the Department's e-Grants Web site at: http://e-grants.ed.gov.

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:

• Your participation in e-Application is voluntary.

• 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 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 System 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. If e-Application is available, and, for any reason, you are unable to submit your application electronically or you do not receive an automatic acknowledgment of your submission, you may submit your application in paper format by mail or hand delivery in accordance with the instructions in this notice.

b. Submission of Paper Applications by Mail.

If you submit your application in paper format by mail (through the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial carrier), 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 84.327T)
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 submit your application in paper format by hand delivery, you (or a courier service) 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 84.327T)
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

1. Selection Criteria: The selection criteria for this competition are from 34 CFR 75.210 and are listed in the application package.

2. Review and Selection Process: In the past, the Department has had difficulty finding peer reviewers for certain competitions because so many individuals who are eligible to serve as peer reviewers have conflicts of interest. The Standing Panel requirements under IDEA also have placed additional constraints on the availability of reviewers. Therefore, the Department has determined that, for some discretionary grant competitions, applications may be separated into two or more groups and ranked and selected for funding within the specific groups. This procedure will make it easier for the Department to find peer reviewers by ensuring that greater numbers of individuals who are eligible to serve as reviewers for any particular group of applicants will not have conflicts of interest. It also will increase the quality, independence, and fairness of the review process while permitting panel members to review applications under discretionary grant competitions for which they also have submitted applications. However, if the Department decides to select an equal number of applications in each group for funding, this may result in different cut-off points for fundable applications in each group.

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: Under the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA), the Department has established a set of performance measures, including long-term measures, that are designed to yield information on various aspects of the effectiveness and quality of the Technology and Media Services for Individuals with Disabilities program. These measures focus on the extent to which projects provide high–quality products and services, are relevant to improving outcomes for children with disabilities, and contribute to improving outcomes for children with disabilities. We will collect data on these measures from the project funded under this competition.

The grantee will be required to report information on its project's performance in annual reports to the Department (34 CFR 75.590).

VII. Agency Contact

For Further Information Contact: Michael Slade, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, room 4175, Potomac Center Plaza (PCP), Washington, DC 20202-2550. Telephone: (202) 245-7527.

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:

_____

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

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ FIRST

U.S. Department of Education
E-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 helpdesk 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 certifying official 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 on the deadline date, the e-Application system will not accept it.

2) If electronic submission is <u>optional</u> 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 <u>required</u>, you must submit an electronic application before 4:30:00 p.m., unless you follow the procedures in the Federal Register notice and qualify for one of the exceptions to the electronic submission requirement <u>and</u> 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 a lower 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.

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.

PRIORITY DESCRIPTION

AND

SELECTION CRITERIA

FOR THE

TECHNOLOGY AND MEDIA SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM

NATIONAL INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS ACCESSIBILITY STANDARD (NIMAS)

(84.327P)

DEADLINE: 07/06/09

ABSOLUTE PRIORITY:

Background:

The National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) was established by the Secretary of Education, pursuant to sections 612(a)(23)(A) and 674(e)(4) of IDEA, for publishers to create electronic files that can be used by States and accessible media producers (AMPs) to produce accessible versions of print instructional materials. Publishers must apply NIMAS in the production of electronic file sets for all print instructional materials, as defined in section 674(e)(3)(C) of IDEA (20 U.S.C. 1474(e)(3)(C)), published after July 19, 2006. The purpose of this requirement is to ensure that publishers use a common standard to create electronic files that facilitate the production of accurate and reliable accessible versions of instructional materials. The goal is to help increase the quality, availability, and timely delivery of print instructional materials in accessible formats to children in elementary and secondary schools who are blind or who have print disabilities.

The Department of Education (Department) funded the NIMAS Development Center in September 2004 and charged it with providing recommendations to the Department on revisions and updates to the technical specifications of NIMAS. These updates were needed to ensure that NIMAS remained current with technological advances, was consistent with updates to the Digital Accessible Information System (DAISY) specification (DAISY is a worldwide standard for digital talking books), and addressed concerns that were identified during the implementation of NIMAS. The NIMAS Development Center also has developed technical clarification documents, conducted training and presentations, and contributed to the development of production and workflow models for publishers, distributors, AMPs, States, and local educational agencies (LEAs). Foremost among the NIMAS Development Center's activities to promote, develop, and use technology related to making NIMAS a more effective standard has been its use of a NIMAS advisory board to address the challenges of maintaining alignment with the Extensible Markup Language (XML) standard upon which NIMAS is based and supporting the development and use of Mathematical Markup Language (MathML). The following Web site provides more information on the work of the NIMAS Development Center: www.nimas.cast.org.

The Department seeks to fund a center to continue some of the work of the NIMAS Development Center that was funded in 2004, including the provision of technical updates to NIMAS at least once during its five-year project period to ensure that state-of-the art technology is being used.

Priority:

The purpose of this priority is to fund a cooperative agreement to support the establishment and operation of a NIMAS center (Center) that will maintain and update the technical specifications of NIMAS to ensure that children with blindness and other print disabilities will have access to as broad a range of print instructional materials as possible through the use of electronic file formatting technology.

To be considered for funding under this absolute priority, applicants must meet the application requirements contained in this priority. Any project funded under this absolute priority also must meet the programmatic and administrative requirements specified in the priority.

Application Requirements. An applicant must include in its application--

(a) A logic model that depicts, at a minimum, the goals, activities, outputs, and outcomes of the proposed project. A logic model communicates how a project will achieve its outcomes and provides a framework for both the formative and summative evaluations of the project; Note: The following Web site provides more information on logic models: www.cdc.gov/eval/resources.htm.

(b) A plan to implement the activities described in the Project Activities section of this priority;

(c) A plan, linked to the proposed project's logic model, for a formative evaluation of the proposed project's activities. The plan must describe how the formative evaluation will use clear performance objectives to ensure continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project, including objective measures of progress in implementing the project and ensuring the quality of products and services;

(d) A budget for a summative evaluation to be conducted by an independent third party;

(e) A budget for attendance at the following:

(1) A one day kick-off meeting to be held in Washington, DC, within four weeks after receipt of the award, and an annual planning meeting held in Washington, DC, with the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Project Officer during each subsequent year of the project period.

(2) A three-day Project Directors' Conference in Washington, DC, during each year of the project period.

(3) A one-day trip annually to attend Department briefings, Department-sponsored conferences, and other meetings, as requested by OSEP.

Project Activities. To meet the requirements of this priority, the Center, at a minimum, must conduct the following activities:

Technical Assistance and Dissemination Activities.

(a) Facilitate and support the technical compatibility of the NIMAS file set with the National Instructional Materials Access Center's (NIMAC) distribution system, including the technologies employed by publishers and other production facilities to create both high-quality NIMAS files as well as accessible commercial products.

(b) Maintain a Web site that meets government or industry-recognized standards for accessibility and that links to the Web site operated by OSEP's Technical Assistance Coordination Center (TACC) and the Web site for each OSEP-funded project that supports the implementation of NIMAS.

(c) Prepare and disseminate to the Department (1) reports at least midway through the project period on issues identified regarding the implementation of NIMAS and (2) recommendations on revising the technical specifications of NIMAS no later than during the fourth year of the project period. In consultation with the OSEP Project Officer, make selected reports, documents, and other materials available to, at a minimum, publishers, software developers, and AMPs.

Leadership and Coordination Activities.

(a) Establish and maintain a Standards Board to recommend updates to the technical specifications of NIMAS, including the extent to which future versions of NIMAS should incorporate universal design features, and provide technical support to OSEP throughout the project period. At a minimum, the Standards Board must meet on an annual basis in Washington, DC, and may meet more frequently through alternate means such as teleconferencing. The Standards Board must include: technology experts; software engineers; accessible instructional materials (AIM) producers; and representatives from the publishing industry, the DAISY consortium, the Access Board, NIMAC, and the National Center on AIM that OSEP intends to fund in FY 2009. The Center must submit the names of proposed members of the Standards Board to OSEP for approval within eight weeks of receipt of the award.

(b) Communicate with, and solicit input from, a wide range of stakeholders, including currently funded OSEP programs (e.g., NIMAC, the American Printing House for the Blind, Bookshare.org for Education, and Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic), and the National Center on AIM that OSEP intends to fund in FY 2009.

(c) Participate in, organize, or facilitate, as directed by OSEP, communities of practice (see www.tacommunities.org) that are aligned with the Center's objectives as a way to support discussions and collaboration among key stakeholders such as technology experts; software engineers; AIM producers; and representatives from the publishing industry, the DAISY consortium, the Access Board, NIMAC, and the National Center on AIM that OSEP intends to fund in FY 2009.

(d) Maintain ongoing communication with the OSEP Project Officer through monthly phone conversations and e-mail communication.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1474 and 1481.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES: Under the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA), the Department has established a set of performance measures, including log-term measures, that are designed to yield information on various aspects of the effectiveness and quality of the Technology and Media Services for Individuals with Disabilities program. These measures focus on the extent to which projects provide high quality products and services, are relevant to improving outcomes of children with disabilities, and contribute to improving outcomes for children with disabilities. We will collect data on these measures from the project funded under this competition.

The grantee also will be required to report information on its projects' performance in annual reports to the Department (34 CFR 75.590).

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE: June 3, 2009.

DEADLINE FOR TRANSMITTAL OF APPLICATIONS: July 6, 2009.

DEADLINE FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW: September 1, 2009.

ESTIMATED AVAILABLE FUNDS: $400,000. Contingent upon the availability of funds and the quality of applications, we may make additional awards in FY 2010 from the list of unfunded applicants from this competition.

MAXIMUM AWARD: We will reject, any application that proposes a budget exceeding $400,000 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.

PAGE LIMITS: If you are an applicant, Part III of an application submitted under this notice, the application narrative is where an applicant addresses the selection criteria that are used by reviewers in evaluating the application. You must limit Part III to the equivalent of no more than 50 pages, using the following standards:

- A "page" is 8.5" x 11" (on one side only) with 1" margins (top, bottom, and 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 and no smaller than 10 pitch (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, references, or the letters of support. However, you must include all of the application narrative in Part III.

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

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS—

(a) The projects funded under this competition must make positive efforts to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities (see section 606 of IDEA).

(b) Applicants and grant recipients funded under this competition must involve individuals with disabilities or parents of individuals with disabilities ages birth through 26 in planning, implementing, and evaluating the project (see section 682(a)(1)(A) of IDEA).

APPLICABLE REGULATIONS:

(a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, 86, 97, 98, and 99; and

(b) The notice of final priority for this program published in the Federal Register on June 9, 2006 (71 FR 33578).

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

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

State educational agencies; local educational agencies (LEAs); public charter schools that are LEAs under State law; institutions of higher education; other public agencies; private nonprofit organizations; outlying areas; freely associated States; Indian tribes or tribal organizations; and for-profit organizations.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW:

The program in this notice is subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. One of the objectives of the Executive Order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism. The Executive order relies on

processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

This document provides early notification of our specific plans and actions for this program.

For further information about this priority contact:

Michael Slade, Competition Manager
Research to Practice Division
Office of Special Education Programs
Telephone: (202) 245-7527
FAX: (202) 245-7619
Internet: Michael.Slade@ed.gov
TDD: 1-800-877-8339

NATIONAL CENTER ON ACCESSIBLE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS (AIM)

(84.327P)

DEADLINE: 07/06/09

ABSOLUTE PRIORITY:

Background:

IDEA requires that the individualized education program for each child with a disability be designed to enable the child to be involved in and make progress in the general education curriculum (20 U.S.C. 1414 (d)(1)(A)(i)(II)(aa)). Some children with disabilities, however, experience a significant barrier to making progress in the general education curriculum because they cannot effectively utilize print instructional materials such as textbooks (Rose & Meyer, 2002; Rose, Meyer & Hitchcock, 2005; Stahl, 2007). For example, studies show that, for many children with disabilities, a neurologically based reading dysfunction limits their ability to read and learn from print instructional materials (Shaywitz, 1998; 2002; 2005; 2006).

The 2004 amendments to IDEA required the Secretary to establish the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) and required States to adopt NIMAS for the purpose of providing instructional materials in specialized formats in a timely manner for use in elementary and secondary schools by children who are blind or who have print disabilities (20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(23)(A)). The 2004 amendments also established the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC) as a national repository to receive and store NIMAS source files and make them available to States.

State educational agencies (SEAs) and local educational agencies (LEAs) now obtain NIMAS file sets directly from publishers or from NIMAC and convert those files into specialized formats for use by students who need accessible instructional materials (AIM). The files obtained from NIMAC may only be used for children with disabilities who are eligible under IDEA and meet the definition of blind or other persons with print disabilities in the Act to Provide Books for the Adult Blind (2 U.S.C. 135a), which establishes eligibility criteria for individuals served by the Library of Congress (LOC) regulations (36 CFR 701.6(b)(1)). These eligibility criteria cover individuals who are blind, have other visual disabilities, are unable to read or use standard print as a result of physical limitations, or have reading disabilities resulting from organic dysfunction. The regulations implementing Part B of IDEA require SEAs and LEAs to ensure that children with disabilities who need instructional materials in accessible formats, but are not included under the LOC definition of blind or other persons with print disabilities or who need materials that cannot be produced from NIMAS files obtained through NIMAC, receive those instructional materials in a timely manner (34 CFR 300.172(b)(3) and 300.210(b)(3)).

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) funded the NIMAS TA Center (www.nimas.cast.org) in September 2004 to support the implementation of NIMAS-related

requirements and to provide technical assistance (TA) and information to SEAs, LEAs, and other stakeholders in the preparation, delivery, and conversion of NIMAS file sets. However, the NIMAS TA Center targeted its efforts on addressing the need for AIM for children eligible under LOC regulations. A recent national survey of States found that the implementation of NIMAS is underway within States, but that States have encountered difficulty in developing and implementing unified distribution systems for AIM to serve the needs of all children with disabilities (Project Forum, 2007). SEAs and LEAs need sustained TA to provide high-quality materials in a timely manner and to improve their distribution systems because of the complexity of developing and implementing a unified distribution system that is responsive to IDEA requirements, the LOC criteria for eligibility, and section 121 of the Copyright Act.[2] State systems must address simultaneously the concerns of multiple participants in the system, including students and families, teachers, local schools, SEAs and LEAs, educational publishers, software developers, accessible media producers (AMPs), and distributors. Continued TA can help States develop efficient State distribution systems so that all children with disabilities receive AIM in a timely manner.

Priority:

The purpose of this priority is to fund a cooperative agreement to support the establishment and operation of a national center on AIM (Center). The Center will provide TA to SEAs, LEAs, and other stakeholders: (1) to improve the implementation of NIMAS; and (2) to develop and implement unified distribution systems in SEAs that will improve the timely delivery of high-quality AIM to all children with disabilities who need instructional materials in accessible formats.

To be considered for funding under this absolute priority, applicants must meet the application requirements contained in this priority. Any project funded under this absolute priority also must meet the programmatic and administrative requirements specified in the priority.

Application Requirements. An applicant must include in its application--

(a) A logic model that depicts, at a minimum, the goals, activities, outputs, and outcomes of the proposed project. A logic model communicates how a project will achieve its outcomes and provides a framework for both the formative and summative evaluations of the project; Note: The following Web site provides more information on logic models and lists multiple online resources: www.cdc.gov/eval/resources.htm.

(b) A plan to implement the activities described in the Project Activities section of this priority;

[2] The Chafee Amendment to Chapter 1 of Title 17, United States Code, adds section 121, establishing a limitation on the exclusive rights in copyrighted works. The Amendment allows authorized entities to reproduce or distribute copies or phonorecords of previously published nondramatic literary works in specialized formats exclusively for use by blind or other persons with disabilities.

(c) A plan, linked to the proposed project's logic model, for a formative evaluation of the proposed project's activities. The plan must describe how the formative evaluation will use clear performance objectives to ensure continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project, including objective measures of progress in implementing the project and ensuring the quality of products and services;

(d) A budget for a summative evaluation to be conducted by an independent third party;

(e) A budget for attendance at the following:

(1) A one and one half day kick-off meeting to be held in Washington, DC, within four weeks after receipt of the award, and an annual planning meeting held in Washington, DC, with the OSEP Project Officer during each subsequent year of the project period.

(2) A three-day Project Directors' Conference in Washington, DC, during each year of the project period.

(3) A four-day Technical Assistance and Dissemination Conference in Washington, DC, during each year of the project period.

(4) A one-day trip annually to attend Department briefings, Department-sponsored conferences, and other meetings, as requested by OSEP; and

(f) A line item in the proposed budget for an annual set-aside of five percent of the grant amount to support emerging needs that are consistent with the proposed project's activities, as those needs are identified in consultation with OSEP.
Note: With approval from the OSEP Project Officer, the Center must reallocate any remaining funds from this annual set-aside no later than the end of the third quarter of each budget period.

Project Activities. To meet the requirements of this priority, the Center, at a minimum, must conduct the following activities:

Knowledge Development Activities.

(a) Identify and document current approaches used by SEAs and LEAs, where appropriate, for developing and implementing efficient, unified distribution systems for the delivery of AIM to all children with disabilities who require instructional materials produced in accessible formats. This activity should occur during the first year of the project.

(b) Describe in detail the necessary components of efficient, unified distribution systems for the delivery of AIM in a timely manner. These components must include but are not limited to the following:

(1) Implementation of tracking systems that provide for digital rights management and measure timely delivery.

(2) Coordination with textbook adoption authorities and assistive technology projects within SEAs.

(3) Utilization of existing general education distribution systems, resource centers, and professional development systems. This knowledge development activity should occur during the first and second years of the project.

Technical Assistance and Dissemination Activities.

(a) Work directly with SEAs to ensure that distribution systems are high-quality and deliver AIM in a timely manner to children with disabilities. To address this requirement the Center must--

(1) Work directly with a minimum of ten States to assist the SEAs in developing and implementing a plan to develop a unified distribution system or improve their existing distribution system for AIM;

(2) Develop and coordinate a national TA network comprised of a cadre of experts that the Center will use to provide TA to SEAs, LEAs, and other stakeholders to develop a unified distribution system or improve their existing State distribution systems for the delivery of AIM to children with disabilities; and

(3) Disseminate information to SEAs and LEAs about improving the timely delivery of AIM and increasing the quantity and improving the quality of commercially available AIM through their print instructional materials adoption processes, procurement contracts, or other practices or instruments used for purchase of print instructional materials (34 CFR 300.172(c)).

(4) Disseminate information to SEAs and LEAs on developing and implementing a unified distribution system that is responsive to IDEA requirements, the LOC criteria for eligibility, and section 121 of the Copyright Act.

(b) Provide a continuum of general TA and dissemination (TA&D) activities, (e.g. managing Web sites, listservs, and communities of practice, and holding training institutes) to assist SEAs--

(1) In developing and implementing quality indicators of their distribution systems that: define high-quality AIM, describe the State definition of "timely manner" (34 CFR 300.172(a)(2)) and use that definition to assess whether children who need AIM receive these materials in a timely manner, identify elements that support an efficient flow of materials in the distribution system, and use effective protocols for digital rights management;

(2) In providing exemplars and other information to publishers, AMPs, and other stakeholders on the use of NIMAS (e.g., in support for Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG) and Mathematical Markup Language (MathML)). The following Web sites provide information on SVG and MathML: www.w3.org/Graphics/SVG and www.w3.org/Math; and

(3) To the maximum extent possible, in meeting their obligation to work collaboratively with the State agency responsible for assistive technology programs (34 CFR 300.172(d); 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(23)(D)).

(c) Prepare and disseminate reports, documents, practice guides, and other materials on the implementation of State distribution systems for the delivery of AIM, the quality indicators related to an effective distribution system, the use of AIM, and related topics, as requested by OSEP, for specific audiences, including parents, teachers, textbook selection committees, and SEA administrators.

(d) Maintain a Web site that meets government or industry-recognized standards for accessibility and that links to the Web site operated by the Technical Assistance Coordination Center (TACC).

Leadership and Coordination Activities.

(a) On an annual basis, compile and share data, in collaboration with other currently funded OSEP centers, on the implementation of NIMAS. To complete this activity, the Center must--

(1) Review and summarize NIMAS-related data from sources such as IDEA State Annual Performance Reports (APRs) and the updated State Performance Plans (SPPs). The following Web site provides more information on APRs and SPPs: www.rrfcnetwork.org/content/view/409/47/;

(2) Prepare a summary report annually on the status of the implementation of NIMAS and disseminate the findings of the summary report to OSEP, SEAs, LEAs, and other stakeholders; and

(3) Provide recommendations to OSEP on the most meaningful and useful ways to analyze and aggregate the data reported by States on IDEA Part B indicators relevant to NIMAS implementation at the national level. The following Web site provides more information on the SEAs' adoption of NIMAS: www.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/monitor/nimac.html.

(b) Establish and maintain an advisory committee to review the activities and outcomes of the Center and provide programmatic support and advice throughout the project period. At a minimum, the advisory committee must meet on an annual basis and must include: SEA and LEA personnel involved with the distribution of AIM, textbook adoption personnel, individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities, OSEP-funded technology grants that relate to NIMAS and that improve results for children with disabilities, and other stakeholders and project directors of Department-funded centers that relate to the implementation of NIMAS requirements. The Center must submit the names of the proposed members of the advisory committee to OSEP for approval within eight weeks after receipt of the award.

(c) Communicate and collaborate with currently funded OSEP projects including NIMAC; Bookshare.org for Education; Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic; the NIMAS center

(which OSEP intends to fund in FY 2009); and TACC. This collaboration could include the joint development of products, the coordination of TA services, and the planning and carrying out of TA meetings and events, including the convening of an annual meeting of these projects to ensure a well-designed national distribution system for SEAs and LEAs and to reduce duplication of effort and improve the delivery time for specialized formats.

(d) Communicate and collaborate with postsecondary groups to help facilitate coordinated efforts between the K-12 and postsecondary AIM distribution systems, as appropriate.

(e) Participate in, organize, or facilitate, as directed by OSEP, communities of practice (www.tacommunities.org/) that are aligned with the Center's objectives as a way to support discussions and collaboration among key stakeholders.

(f) Prior to developing any new product, whether paper or electronic, submit to the OSEP Project Officer and the Proposed Product Advisory Board at OSEP's TACC for approval, a proposal describing the content and purpose of the product.

(g) Coordinate with the National Dissemination Center for Individuals with Disabilities to develop an efficient and high-quality dissemination strategy that reaches broad audiences. The Center must report to the OSEP Project Officer the outcomes of these coordination efforts.

(h) Contribute, on an ongoing basis, updated information on the Center's services to OSEP's Technical Assistance and Dissemination Matrix (http://matrix.rrfcnetwork.org/), which provides current information on Department-funded TA services to a range of stakeholders.

(i) Conduct formative and summative evaluations of the Center that are aligned with the evaluation plan. These evaluations must examine the outcomes or impact of the Center's activities in order to assess the effectiveness of those activities. These evaluations will be reported to OSEP at least annually in the case of the formative evaluation and at the end of the project period for the summative evaluation.

(j) Maintain ongoing communication with the OSEP Project Officer through monthly phone conversations and e-mail communication.

Fourth and Fifth Years of the Project:

In deciding whether to continue funding the Center for the fourth and fifth years, the Secretary will consider the requirements of 34 CFR 75.253(a), and in addition--

(a) The recommendation of a review team consisting of experts selected by the Secretary. This review will be conducted during a one-day meeting in Washington, DC, that will be held during the last half of the second year of the project period.

(b) The timeliness and effectiveness with which all requirements of the negotiated cooperative agreement have been or are being met by the Center; and

(c) The quality, relevance, and usefulness of the Center's activities and products, and the degree to which the Center's activities and products have contributed to the development and improvement of State distribution systems for the efficient delivery of AIM for children with disabilities.

References:

Mueller, E. & Burdett, P. (2007). The National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS): Current State Implementation. Project Forum: Alexandria, VA.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1474 and 1481.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES: Under the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA), the Department has established a set of performance measures, including log-term measures, that are designed to yield information on various aspects of the effectiveness and quality of the Technology and Media Services for Individuals with Disabilities program. These measures focus on the extent to which projects provide high quality products and services, are relevant to improving outcomes of children with disabilities, and contribute to improving outcomes for children with disabilities. We will collect data on these measures from the project funded under this competition.

The grantee also will be required to report information on its projects' performance in annual reports to the Department (34 CFR 75.590).

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE: June 3, 2009.

DEADLINE FOR TRANSMITTAL OF APPLICATIONS: July 6, 2009.

DEADLINE FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW: September 1, 2009.

ESTIMATED AVAILABLE FUNDS: $1,000,000. Contingent upon the availability of funds and the quality of applications, we may make additional awards in FY 2010 from the list of unfunded applicants from this competition.

MAXIMUM AWARD: We will reject, any application that proposes a budget exceeding $1,000,000 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.

PAGE LIMITS: If you are an applicant, Part III of an application submitted under this notice, the application narrative, is where an applicant addresses the selection criteria that are used by reviewers in evaluating the application. You must limit Part III to the equivalent of no more than 50 pages, using the following standards:

- A "page" is 8.5" x 11" (on one side only) with 1" margins (top, bottom, and 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 and no smaller than 10 pitch (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, references, or the letters of support. However, you must include all of the application narrative in Part III.

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

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS—

(a) The projects funded under this competition must make positive efforts to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities (see section 606 of IDEA).

(b) Applicants and grant recipients funded under this competition must involve individuals with disabilities or parents of individuals with disabilities ages birth through 26 in planning, implementing, and evaluating the project (see section 682(a)(1)(A) of IDEA).

APPLICABLE REGULATIONS:

(a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, 86, 97, 98, and 99; and

(b) The notice of final priority for this program published in the Federal Register on June 9, 2006 (71 FR 33578).

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

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

State educational agencies; local educational agencies (LEAs); public charter schools that are LEAs under State law; institutions of higher education; other public agencies; private nonprofit

organizations; outlying areas; freely associated States; Indian tribes or tribal organizations; and for-profit organizations.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW:

The program in this notice is subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. One of the objectives of the Executive Order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism. The Executive order relies on processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

This document provides early notification of our specific plans and actions for this program.

For further information about this priority contact:

Michael Slade, Competition Manager
Research to Practice Division
Office of Special Education Programs
Telephone: (202) 245-7527
FAX: (202) 245-7619
Internet: Michael.Slade@ed.gov
TDD: 1-800-877-8339

SELECTION CRITERIA AND FORMAT FOR THE NATIONAL INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS ACCESSIBILITY STANDARD (NIMAS) (CFDA 84.327P) AND THE NATIONAL CENTER ON ACCESSIBLE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS (AIM) (CFDA 84.327T) COMPETITIONS

Part III of the application form requires a narrative that addresses the selection criteria that will be used by reviewers in evaluating individual proposals. Applications are more likely to receive favorable reviews by panels when they are organized according to the format suggested below. This format addresses all the selection criteria used to evaluate applications required by regulations. If you prefer to use a different format, you may wish to cross-reference the sections of your application to the selection criteria to be sure that reviewers are able to find all relevant information.

The selection criteria that will be used to evaluate applications submitted to the **National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) (CFDA No. 84.327P) and the National Center on Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) (CFDA No. 84.327T)** competitions are the selection criteria for new grants required by the EDGAR general selection criteria menu. The maximum score for all of the criteria is 100 points.

An **abstract**, not to exceed one page, should precede the application narrative of all applications and it would be helpful if it included the following information: Purpose of the project; disability addressed by the project; age group (e.g., 0-3, preschool, elementary school, middle school, high school, secondary transition, and postsecondary); geography (e.g., rural, suburban, urban); severity (e.g., mild, moderate, and severe); proposed products; proposed outcomes; names/affiliations of key collaborators. It would be helpful if the abstract includes: (a) the title of the program, (b) the name of the Absolute Priority, and (c) the CFDA Number (e.g., 84.327P or 84.327T).

The application narrative should include the following sections in this order:

(a) Significance (15 points)

(1) The Secretary considers the significance of the proposed project.

(2) In determining the significance of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The potential contribution of the proposed project to increased knowledge or understanding of educational problems, issues, or effective strategies.

(ii) The importance or magnitude of the results or outcomes likely to be attained by the proposed project, especially improvements in teaching and student achievement.

(b) 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 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 includes a thorough, high-quality review of the relevant literature, a high-quality plan for project implementation, and the use of appropriate methodological tools to ensure successful achievement of project objectives.

(c) Quality of project services (20 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 the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project reflect up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice.

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

(iii) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project involve the collaboration of appropriate partners for maximizing the effectiveness of project services.

(d) Quality of project personnel (15 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 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.

(e) 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 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 relevance and demonstrated commitment of each partner in the proposed project to the implementation and success of the project.

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

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

(f) Quality of the management plan (10 points)

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project.

(2) In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers 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 mechanisms for ensuring high-quality products and services from the proposed project.

(iii) 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.

(iv) How the applicant will ensure that a diversity of perspectives are brought to bear in the operation of the proposed project, including those of parents, teachers, the business community, a variety of disciplinary and professional fields, recipients or beneficiaries of services, or others, as appropriate.

(g) 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 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 will provide timely guidance for quality assurance.

(iii) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ON COMPLETING

AN APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION ON COMPLETING AN APPLICATION

Potential applicants frequently direct questions to officials of the Department regarding application notices and programmatic and administrative regulations governing various direct grant programs. To assist potential applicants, the Office of Special Education Programs staff have assembled the following most commonly raised issues. In general, this information applies to the grant competitions covered by this application package.

- **EXTENSION OF DEADLINES**

  Waivers for individual applications are not granted, regardless of the circumstances. Under very extraordinary circumstances a closing date may be changed. Such changes are announced in the Federal Register.

- **COPIES OF THE APPLICATION**

  Current Government-wide policy is that only an original and two copies need to be submitted. OSEP would appreciate receiving three additional copies to facilitate the peer review process. This would mean an original and two copies need to be submitted and we would appreciate your voluntarily submitting an additional three copies (six applications in all). Copies of the application may be bound, but it is not necessary or required. If bound, one copy should be left unbound to facilitate electronic scanning and any necessary reproduction. Applicants should not use colored paper, foldouts, photographs, or other materials that are hard to duplicate.

  Please Note: If an application is recommended for funding and a grant award is issued, we will contact the applicant to request a copy of the application on a diskette or CD. The Department is moving toward an electronic grant filing system and an electronic copy of all applications that are being funded will facilitate this effort.

- **MAKING APPLICATIONS MORE ACCESSIBLE TO REVIEWERS WHO ARE BLIND OR HAVE LOW VISION**

  The Department will accept one copy of the application in an accessible format (i.e., IBM PC compatible WordPerfect or ASCII code diskette) along with the original and two print copies of the application. The accessible format copy can be used with available software to convert the text of the application into Braille, or with text to voice applications. If there are any differences in the print original provided on the disk and in print, the print original is assumed to be the correct version. Please note that it is not a requirement that one copy of the application be in an accessible format.

- **MISSED DEADLINES AND SUBMISSION UNDER OTHER COMPETITIONS**

  Should an application miss the deadline for a particular competition, it may be submitted to another competition. However, if an application is properly prepared to meet the

specifications of one competition, it is extremely unlikely that it would be favorably evaluated under a different competition.

- **SUBMISSION TO MORE THAN ONE PROGRAM**

  Applications may be submitted to more than one Federal program if you are unsure of the most appropriate program. Each application should be prepared following the instructions for that particular program as closely as possible (which may require some reformulation). It is very helpful if each program is notified that an identical or similar application is being submitted to another program.

- **HELP PREPARING APPLICATIONS**

  We are happy to provide general program information. Clearly it would not be appropriate for staff to participate in the actual writing of an application, but we can respond to specific questions about our application requirements and evaluation criteria, or about the announced priorities. Applicants should understand that such previous contact is not required, nor does it guarantee the success of an application.

- **NOTIFICATION OF FUNDING**

  The time required to complete the evaluation of applications is variable. Once applications have been received staff must determine the areas of expertise needed to appropriately evaluate the applications, identify and contact potential reviewers, convene peer review panels, and summarize and review the recommendations of the review panels. You can expect to receive notification within 3 to 6 months of the application closing date, depending on the number of applications received and the number of competitions with closing dates at about the same time. The requested start date should therefore be a minimum of 6 months after the application closing date.

- **POSSIBILITY OF LEARNING THE OUTCOME OF REVIEW PANELS PRIOR TO OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION**

  Every year we are called by a number of applicants who have legitimate reasons for needing to know the outcome of the review prior to official notification. Some applicants need to make job decisions, some need to notify a local school district, etc. Regardless of the reason, we cannot share information about the review with anyone until the Assistant Secretary has approved a slate of projects recommended for funding. You will be notified as quickly as possible either by telephone (if your application is recommended for funding), or through a letter (if your application is not successful).

- **FORMAT FOR APPLICATIONS**

  The application narrative (Part III of the application form) should be organized to follow the exact sequence of the components in the selection criteria used to evaluate applications. (The selection criteria for the competitions covered by this packet are listed following the specific

competition information in section “B” of this packet.) A table of contents, list of priority requirements, and a two-page abstract summarizing the objectives, activities, project participants, and expected outcomes of the proposed project should precede the application narrative. If you prefer to use a different format, you may wish to cross-reference the sections of your application to the selection criteria to be sure that reviewers are able to find all relevant information.

To aid in screening and reviewing the application, applicants should list in Part II and prior to the abstract, all general, special, and other requirements for the priority and corresponding page number (s) where requirements are addressed within the application. Page limits do not apply to this list. (All requirements are found in each priority description included in this application package.) The format included below is an example of how you might provide this information in your application.

Page # **Requirements**

_____ (a) Projects funded under this notice must make positive efforts to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities in project activities. (See Section 606 of IDEA)

_____ (b) Applicants and grant recipients funded under this notice must involve individuals with disabilities or parents of individuals with disabilities ages birth through 26 in planning, implementing, and evaluating the project (see section 682(a)(1)(A) of IDEA).

_____ (c) Applicant must describe steps to ensure equitable access to, and participation in, its program for students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries with special needs. (See Section 427, GEPA)

_____ (d) Projects funded under these priorities must budget for a three-day Project’s Directors’ meeting in Washington, D.C. during each year of the project.

- **PAGE LIMITS**

Please note that all applications submitted under the competition in this application package must adhere to the Part III - Application Narrative page limit requirements that are specified under each priority/competition description. Your application should provide enough information to allow the review panel to evaluate the importance and impact of the project as well as to make knowledgeable judgments about the methods you propose to use (design, subjects, sampling procedures, measures, instruments, data analysis strategies, etc.). It is often helpful to have:

(l) Staff Vitae--They should include each person's title and role in the proposed project and contain only information that is relevant to this proposed project's activities and/or publications. Vitae for consultants and Advisory Council members should be similarly brief.

(2) Instruments--except in the case of generally available and well known instruments.

(3) Agreements--when the participation of an agency other than the applicant is critical to the project. This is particularly critical when an intervention will be implemented within an agency, or when subjects will be drawn from particular agencies. Letters of cooperation should be specific, indicating agreement to implement a particular intervention or to provide access to a particular group of students.

The items listed above are not included under page limits.

- **MAKING SURE APPLICATION IS ASSIGNED TO THE CORRECT COMPETITION**

Applicants should clearly indicate in Item 11 on the application (SF Form 424) the CFDA number of the program priority (e.g., 84.327P, etc.) representing the competition in which the application should be considered. If this information is not provided, your application may inadvertently be assigned and reviewed under a different competition from the one you intended.

- **RETURN OF NON-FUNDED APPLICATIONS**

We do not return original copies of applications. Thus, applicants should retain at least one copy of the application. Copies of reviewer comments will be mailed to all applicants.

- **PROPOSED STAFF AVAILABILITY TO PROJECT**

For each staff person named in the application, please provide documentation of all internal and external time commitments. In instances where a staff person is committed on a federally supported project, please provide the project name, Federal office, program title, the project Federal award number, and the amount of committed time by each project year. This information (e.g., Staff: Jane Doe; Project Name: Succeeding in the General Curriculum; Federal office: Office of Special Education Programs; Program title: Field Initiated Research; Award number: H324C980624; Time commitments: Year 1—30%; Year 2—25% and Year 3—40%) can be provided as an Appendix to the application.

In general, we will not reduce time commitments on currently funded grants from the time proposed in the original application. Therefore, we will not consider for funding any application where key staff are bid above a time commitment level that staff have available to bid. Further, the time commitments stated in newly submitted applications will not be negotiated down to permit the applicant to receive a new grant award.

- **USE OF PERSON LOADING CHARTS**

It is important for applicants to include proposed time commitments for all project personnel. Also, program officials and applicants often find person loading charts useful formats for

showing project personnel and their time commitments to individual activities. A person loading chart is a tabular representation of major evaluation activities by number of days spent by each key person involved in each activity, as shown in the following example.

Table #
Person Loading Chart - Time in Day(s) by Person*

Activity	Time in Day(s) by Person			
	Person A	**Person B**	**Person C**	**Person D**
Library Research	15	20	0	0
Hire Staff	0	0	0	5
Prepare Materials	5	25	0	0
Train Raters	0	2	0	0
Data Collection	60	60	0	0
Data Analysis	0	0	25	5
Dissemination (manuscripts, etc.)	0	1	0	10

*Note: All figures represent FTE for the academic year.

- **DELIVERING/SENDING APPLICATIONS TO THE COMPETITION MANAGER**

Applications can be mailed or hand delivered, or submitted electronically but in either case must go to the Application Control Center at the address listed in the Application Transmittal Instructions. Delivering or sending the application to the competition manager in the program office may prevent it from being logged in on time to the appropriate competition and may result in the application not being reviewed.

- **ALLOWED TRAVEL UNDER THESE PROJECTS**

Travel is allowed if the travel specifically relates to the expressed goals of the project. Travel by students to further their education under the project's goals is also allowed. Travel to conferences is the travel item that is most likely to be questioned during negotiations. Such travel is sometimes allowed when it is for purposes of dissemination, when there will be results to be disseminated, and when it is clear that a conference presentation or workshop is an effective way of reaching a particular target group.

- **FUNDING OF APPROVED APPLICATIONS**

It is often the case that the number of applications recommended for approval by the reviewers exceeds the dollars available for funding projects under a particular competition. When the panel reviews are completed for a particular competition, the individual reviewer scores and applications are ranked. The higher ranked, approved applications are funded first, and there are often lower ranked, approved applications that do not receive funding. Sometimes, one or two applications that are approved and fall next in rank order (after those

projects selected for funding) are placed on hold. If dollars become available as a result of negotiations, or if a higher ranked applicant declines the award, the projects on hold may receive funding. If you receive a letter stating that you will not receive funding, then your project has neither been selected for funding nor placed on hold.

- **INDIRECT COST RATE**

  There is no maximum indirect cost for the competitions in this application package. An organization's current effective indirect cost rate is the rate that should be reflected in your proposed budget. The Department of Education (ED) reimburses grantees for its portion of indirect costs that a grantee incurs in projects funded by the Technology and Media Services for Individuals with Disabilities program, 84.327. 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.

- **ISSUES RAISED DURING DISCUSSIONS PRIOR TO AWARD**

  If your application is recommended for funding, discussions may be held prior to award to clarify technical or budget issues. These are issues that have been identified during panel and staff review. Generally, technical issues are minor issues that require clarification. Alternative approaches may be presented for your consideration, or you may be asked to provide additional information or rationale for something you have proposed to do. Sometimes, concerns are stated as "conditions". These are concerns that have been identified as so critical that the award cannot be made unless those conditions are met. Questions are also raised about the proposed budget during the discussion phase. Generally, budget issues are raised because there is inadequate justification or explanation of the particular budget item, or because the budget item does not seem critical to the successful completion of the project. A Federal project officer will present the issues to you and ask you to respond. If you do not understand the question, you should ask for clarification. In responding to discussion items you should provide any additional information or clarification requested. You may feel that an issue was addressed in the application. It may not, however, have been explained in enough detail to make it understood by reviewers, and more information should be provided. If you are asked to make changes that you feel could seriously affect the project's success, you may provide reasons for not making the changes, or provide alternative suggestions. Similarly, if proposed budget reductions will, in your opinion, seriously affect the proposed activities, you may want to explain why and provide additional justification for the proposed expenses. Your changes, explanations, and alternative suggestions will be carefully evaluated by staff. In some instances, an applicant may again be contacted for additional information. An award cannot be made until all issues have been resolved and conditions met.

- **TREATING A PRIORITY AS TWO SEPARATE COMPETITIONS.**

  In the past, there have been problems in finding peer reviewers without conflicts of interest where applications are made by many entities throughout the country. The Standing Panel requirements under the IDEA Amendments of 1997 have also placed additional constraints on the availability of reviewers. Therefore, The Department has determined that, for some discretionary priorities, applications may be ranked and selected for funding in two or more groups, which will ensure the availability of a much larger group of reviewers without conflicts of interest. This procedure will increase the quality, independence and fairness of the review process and will permit panel members to review applications under discretionary priorities to which they have also submitted applications.

- **SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS AND ESTIMATED/PROJECTED BUDGET AMOUNTS IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS**

  There is a maximum award amount specified for the priority/competitions included in this package. The Department rejects and does not consider an application that proposes a budget exceeding the maximum amount for any single budget period of 12 months for the priorities included in this package. Please refer to the priority description to determine the maximum award for any one particular competition. Since the yearly budgets for multi-year projects will be negotiated at the time of the initial award, applicants must include detailed budgets

for each year of their proposed project. Generally, out-year funding levels most likely will not exceed 1st year budgets. However, budget modifications during the negotiation process, the findings from the previous year, or needed changes in the study design can affect your budget requirements in subsequent years, but in no case will out-year budgets exceed the maximum award amount.

- **REQUIREMENT TO REPORT THE RESULTS OF GRANT ACTIVITIES**

  The Department shall, where appropriate, require recipients of all grants, contracts and cooperative agreements under Part D of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to prepare reports describing their procedures, findings, and other relevant information. The Department shall require their delivery to the Department of Education and to the ERIC Clearinghouse on Disabilities and Gifted Education, and other networks as The Department may determine appropriate. (20 U.S.C. 1482)

- **DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT AND A GRANT**

  A cooperative agreement is similar to a grant in that its principal purpose is to accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation as authorized by a Federal statute. It differs from a grant in the sense that in a cooperative agreement substantial involvement is anticipated between the executive agency (in this case the Department of Education) and the recipient during the performance of the contemplated activity.

- **DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN ABSOLUTE PRIORITY, AN INVITATIONAL PRIORITY AND A COMPETITIVE PRIORITY**

  An absolute priority is a priority that an applicant must address in order to receive an award. If an applicant does not address an absolute priority, their application will be returned as being non-responsive to the priority.

  An invitational priority is a priority that reflects a particular interest of the Department, and an applicant is encouraged to address the invitational priority along with the required absolute priority. However, an applicant choosing to address an invitational priority, will not receive any competitive preference over other applications.

  A competitive priority is like an invitational priority in that it reflects a particular interest of the Department, and an applicant is encouraged to address the competitive priority along with the required absolute priority. A competitive priority may be handled in one of two ways: (1) an application may be awarded additional points depending on how effectively it addresses the competitive priority; or (2) an application that meets a competitive priority may be selected over an application of comparable merit that does not address the competitive priority. The type of competitive priority for a particular competition is always included in the FEDERAL REGISTER announcement.

- **OBTAINING COPIES OF THE FEDERAL REGISTER, PROGRAM REGULATIONS AND FEDERAL STATUTES**

  Copies of these materials can usually be found at your local library. If not, they can be obtained by writing to:

  Superintendent of Documents
  U.S. Government Printing Office
  Washington, DC 20402
  Telephone: (202) 512-1800

  Information about the Department's funding opportunities, including copies of application notices for discretionary grant competitions, can be viewed on the Department's grant information web page which can be accessed on the INTERNET at:

  http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/gcsindex.html

  However, the official application notice for a discretionary grant competition is the notice published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS

AND

REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS

ATTENTION ELECTRONIC APPLICANTS: Please note that you must follow the Application Procedures as described in the Federal Register notice announcing the grant competition. Some programs may require electronic submission of applications, and those programs will have specific requirements and waiver instructions in the Federal Register notice.

If you want to apply for a grant and be considered for funding, you must meet the following deadline requirements:

Applications Submitted Electronically

You must submit your grant application through the Internet using the software provided on the e-application Web site (http://e-grants.ed.gov/,) by 4:30:00 p.m. (Washington, DC time) on the application deadline date.

If you submit your application through the Internet via the e-Grants Web site, you will receive an automatic acknowledgment when we receive your application.

For more information on using e-application, please refer to the Notice Inviting Applications that was published in the Federal Register, the e-application Submission Procedures and Tips document found in the application package instructions, and visit http://e-grants.ed.gov/.

Applications Sent by Mail

You must mail the original and two copies of the application on or before the deadline date to. To help expedite our review of your application, we would appreciate your voluntarily including an additional 3 copies of your application.

Please mail copies to:

U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center
Attention: CFDA# 84.327P or 84.327T
LBJ Basement Level 1
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4260

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

(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.

If you mail an 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 Services.

An applicant should note that the U.S. Postal Service does not uniformly provide a dated postmark. Before relying on this method, an applicant should check with its local post office.

Applications Delivered by Commercial Carrier:

Special Note: Due to recent disruptions to normal mail delivery, the Department encourages you to consider using an alternative delivery method (for example, a commercial carrier, such as Federal Express or United Parcel Service; or U. S. Postal Service Express Mail) to transmit your application for this competition to the Department. If you use an alternative delivery method, please obtain the appropriate proof of mailing under "Applications Sent by Mail," then follow the mailing instructions under the appropriate delivery method.

Applications that are delivered by commercial carrier, such as Federal Express, United Parcel Service, etc. should be mailed to the:

U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center – Stop 4260
Attention: CFDA# 84.327P or 84.327T
550 12th Street, SW
Room 7041, Potomac Center Plaza
Washington, DC 20202-4260

Applications Delivered by Hand

You or your courier must hand deliver the original and number of copies requested of the application by 4:30:00 p.m. (Washington, DC time) on or before the deadline date. To help expedite our review of your application, we would appreciate your voluntarily including an additional 3 copies of your application.

Please hand deliver copies to:

U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center
Attention: CFDA# 84.327P or 84.327T
550 12th Street, SW
PCP - Room 7041
Washington, DC 20202–4260

The Application Control Center accepts application deliveries daily between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30:00 p.m. (Washington, D.C. time), except Saturdays, Sundays and Federal holidays.

APPENDIX

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, areawide, 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, areawide, 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 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 2008 the Federal Government will outlay $449 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 below by clicking on the State Name.

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 a State that does not have a SPOC, you may send application materials directly to a Federal awarding agency.

Contact information for Federal agencies that award grants can be found in Appendix IV of the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

ARKANSAS Tracy L. Copeland Manager, State Clearinghouse Office of Intergovernmental Services Department of Finance and Administration 1515 W. 7th St., Room 412 Little Rock, Arkansas 72203 Telephone: (501) 682-1074 Fax: (501) 682-5206 tracy.copeland@dfa.state.ar.us	**CALIFORNIA** Grants Coordination State Clearinghouse Office of Planning and Research P.O. Box 3044, Room 222 Sacramento, California 95812-3044 Telephone: (916) 445-0613 Fax: (916) 323-3018 state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov
DELAWARE Jennifer L. Carlson Associate Fiscal and Policy Analyst Office of Management and Budget Budget Development, Planning & Administration Haslet Armory, Third Floor 122 William Penn Street Dover, Delaware 19901 Telephone: (302) 739-4206 Fax: (302) 739-5661 jennifer.carlson@state.de.us	**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA** Donna Bexley DC Government Office of Partnerships and Grants Development 441 4th Street, NW Washington, DC 20001 Telephone: (202) 727-6437 Fax: (202) 727-1652 Donna.bexley@dc.gov
FLORIDA Lauren P. Milligan Florida State Clearinghouse Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection 3900 Commonwealth Blvd., Mail Station 47 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000 Telephone: (850) 245-2161 Fax: (850) 245-2190 Lauren.Milligan@dep.state.fl.us	**GEORGIA** Barbara Jackson Georgia State Clearinghouse 270 Washington Street, SW, 8th Floor Atlanta, Georgia 30334 Telephone: (404) 656-3855 Fax: (404) 656-7916 gach@opb.state.ga.us

IOWA Kathy Mabie Iowa Department of Management State Capitol Building Room G12 1007 E Grand Avenue Des Moines, Iowa 50319 Telephone: (515) 281-8834 Fax: (515) 242-5897 Kathy.Mabie@iowa.gov	**KENTUCKY** Lee Nalley The Governor's Office for Local Development 1024 Capital Center Drive, Suite 340 Frankfort, Kentucky 40601 Telephone: (502) 573-2382 Ext. 274 Fax: (502) 573-1519 Lee.Nalley@ky.gov
MAINE Joyce Benson State Planning Office 184 State Street 38 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333 Telephone: (207) 287-3261 (Direct) (207) 287-1461 Fax: (207) 287-6489 Joyce.benson@maine.gov	**MARYLAND** Linda C. Janey, J.D. Director, Maryland State Clearinghouse for Intergovernmental Assistance 301 West Preston Street, Room 1104 Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2305 Telephone: (410) 767-4490 Fax: (410) 767-4480 ljaney@mdp.state.md.us
MICHIGAN William Parkus Southeast Michigan Council of Governments 535 Griswold, Suite 300 Detroit, Michigan 48226 Telephone: (313) 961-4266 Fax: (313) 961-4869 mailto:parkus@semcog.org	**MISSISSIPPI** Janet Riddell Clearinghouse Officer Department of Finance and Administration 1301 Woolfolk Building, Suite E 501 North West Street Jackson, Mississippi 39201 Telephone: (601) 359-6762 Fax: (601) 359-6758 JRiddell@dfa.state.ms.us
MISSOURI Sara VanderFeltz Federal Assistance Clearinghouse Office of Administration Commissioner's Office Capitol Building, Room 125 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102 Telephone: (573) 751-0337 Fax: (573) 751-1212 sara.vanderfeltz@oa.mo.gov	**NEVADA** Gosia Sylwesprzak Department of Administration Nevada State Clearinghouse Coordinator/SPOC 209 E. Musser Street, Room 200 Carson City, Nevada 89701 Telephone: (775) 684-0209 Fax: (775) 684-0260 clearinghouse@budget.state.nv.us
NEW HAMPSHIRE Amy Ignatius Acting Director, New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning Attn: Intergovernmental Review Process, Mark Toussiant 57 Regional Drive Concord, New Hampshire 03301-8519 Telephone: (603) 271-2155 Fax: (603) 271-2615 amy.ignatius@nh.gov	**NORTH DAKOTA** Jim Boyd ND Department of Commerce 1600 East Century Avenue, Suite 2 P.O. Box 2057 Bismarck, North Dakota 58502-2057 Telephone: (701) 328-2676 Fax: (701) 328-2308 jboyd@state.nd.us

RHODE ISLAND Bill McKenna Division of Planning One Capitol Hill Providence, Rhode Island 02908-5870 Telephone: (401) 222-6185 Fax: (401) 222-2083 billm@doa.ri.gov	**SOUTH CAROLINA** Jean Ricard Office of State Budget 1201 Main Street, Suite 870 Columbia, South Carolina 29201 Telephone: (803) 734-1314 Fax: (803) 734-0645 JRicard@budget.sc.gov
TEXAS Denise S. Francis Director, State Grants Team Governor's Office of Budget and Planning P.O. Box 12428 Austin, Texas 78711 Telephone: (512) 305-9415 Fax: (512) 936-2681 Grants@governor.state.tx.us	**UTAH** Tenielle Young Utah State Clearinghouse Governor's Office of Planning and Budget Utah State Capitol Complex Suite E210, PO Box 142210 Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-2210 Telephone: (801) 538-1570 Fax: (801) 538-1547 Tenielleyoung@utah.gov
WEST VIRGINIA Bobby Lewis Director, Community Development Division West Virginia Development Office Building #6, Room 553 Charleston, West Virginia 25305 Telephone: (304) 558-4010 Fax: (304) 558-3248 rlewis@wvdo.org	**WISCONSIN** Division of Intergovernmental Relations Wisconsin Department of Administration 101 East Wilson Street, 10th Floor P.O. Box 8944 Madison, Wisconsin 53708 Telephone: (608) 261-7533 Fax: (608) 267-6917 spoc@wisconsin.gov
AMERICAN SAMOA Pat M. Galea=i Federal Grants/Programs Coordinator Office of Grants Policy/Office of the Governor Department of Commerce American Samoa Government Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799 Telephone: (684) 633-5155/4116 Fax: (684) 633-4195/2269 pmgaleai@yahoo.com	**GUAM** Roland C.P. Villaverde Administrator Guam State Clearinghouse Office of I Segundo na Maga'lahen Guåhan Office of the Governor P.O. Box 2950 Hågatña, Guam 96932 Telephone: (671) 475-9380 ext. 901 Fax: (671) 477-2007 administrator@guamclearinghouse.com
NORTH MARIANA ISLANDS Mr. Antonio S. Muna Special Assistant for Management Office of Management and Budget Office of the Governor Saipan, MP 96950 Telephone: (670) 664-2289 Fax: (670) 323-2272 e_macaranas@yahoo.com	**PUERTO RICO** Ing. David Rodríguez / Luz H. Olmeda Puerto Rico Planning Board Federal Proposals Review Office PO Box 41119 San Juan, Puerto Rico 00940-1119 Telephone: 787-723-6190 Fax: 787-722-6783 Olmeda_L@jp.gobierno.pr

VIRGIN ISLANDS Debra Gottlieb (Acting Director) Director, Office of Management and Budget #41 Norre Gade Emancipation Garden Station, Second Floor Saint Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802 Telephone: (340) 774-0750 Fax: (340) 776-0069 dbgottlieb@omb.gov.vi	

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 Hai_M._Tran@omb.eop.gov. If you prefer, you may send correspondence to the following postal address:

Office of Management and Budget
Attn: Grants Management
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 E-application website (http://e-grants.ed.gov).

NOTICE TO ALL APPLICANTS

(ENSURING EQUITABLE ACCESS)

AND

APPLICATION FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS

OMB Control No. 1894-0005 (Exp. 01/31/2011)

NOTICE TO ALL APPLICANTS

The purpose of this enclosure is to inform you about a new provision in the Department of Education's General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) that applies to applicants for new grant awards under Department programs. This provision is Section 427 of GEPA, enacted as part of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law (P.L.) 103-382).

To Whom Does This Provision Apply?

Section 427 of GEPA affects applicants for new grant awards under this program. **ALL APPLICANTS FOR NEW AWARDS MUST INCLUDE INFORMATION IN THEIR APPLICATIONS TO ADDRESS THIS NEW PROVISION IN ORDER TO RECEIVE FUNDING UNDER THIS PROGRAM.**

(If this program is a State-formula grant program, a State needs to provide this description only for projects or activities that it carries out with funds reserved for State-level uses. In addition, local school districts or other eligible applicants that apply to the State for funding need to provide this description in their applications to the State for funding. The State would be responsible for ensuring that the school district or other local entity has submitted a sufficient section 427 statement as described below.)

What Does This Provision Require?

Section 427 requires each applicant for funds (other than an individual person) to include in its application a description of the steps the applicant proposes to take to ensure equitable access to, and participation in, its Federally-assisted program for students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries with special needs. This provision allows applicants discretion in developing the required description. The statute highlights six types of barriers that can impede equitable access or participation: gender, race, national origin, color, disability, or age. Based on local circumstances, you should determine whether these or other barriers may prevent your students, teachers, etc. from such access or participation in, the Federally-funded project or activity. The description in your application of steps to be taken to overcome these barriers need not be lengthy; you may provide a clear and succinct description of how you plan to address those barriers that are applicable to your circumstances. In addition, the information may be provided in a single narrative, or, if appropriate, may be discussed in connection with related topics in the application.

Section 427 is not intended to duplicate the requirements of civil rights statutes, but rather to ensure that, in designing their projects, applicants for Federal funds address equity concerns that may affect the ability of certain potential beneficiaries to fully participate in the project and to achieve to high standards. Consistent with program requirements and its approved application, an applicant may use the Federal funds awarded to it to eliminate barriers it identifies.

What are Examples of How an Applicant Might Satisfy the Requirement of This Provision?

The following examples may help illustrate how an applicant may comply with Section 427.

(1) An applicant that proposes to carry out an adult literacy project serving, among others, adults with limited English proficiency, might describe in its application how it intends to distribute a brochure about the proposed project to such potential participants in their native language.

(2) An applicant that proposes to develop instructional materials for classroom use might describe how it will make the materials available on audio tape or in braille for students who are blind.

(3) An applicant that proposes to carry out a model science program for secondary students and is concerned that girls may be less likely than boys to enroll in the course, might indicate how it intends to conduct "outreach" efforts to girls, to encourage their enrollment.

We recognize that many applicants may already be implementing effective steps to ensure equity of access and participation in their grant programs, and we appreciate your cooperation in responding to the requirements of this provision.

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 **1894-0005.** 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:** U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-4537.

APPLICATION FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS

The application is divided into four parts. These parts are organized in the same manner that the submitted application should be organized. These parts are as follows:

Part I: Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424) and Instructions.

Part II: Budget Information -- Non-Construction Programs (ED Form 524) and Instructions.

Part III: Application Narrative.

Part IV: Assurances and Certifications --

Assurances -- Non-Construction Programs (Standard Form 424B).

Certifications Regarding Lobbying (ED Form 80-0013).

Disclosure of Lobbying Activities.

An applicant may submit information on a photostatic copy of the application and budget forms, the assurances, and the certifications. However, the application form, the assurances, and the certifications must each have an original signature. No grant may be awarded unless a completed application form has been received.

OMB Number: 4040-0004
Expiration Date: 01/31/2009

APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE SF-424

VERSION 02

***1. Type of Submission:**	***2. Type of Application**	* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s)
☐ Preapplication	☐ New	
☐ Application	☐ Continuation	*Other (Specify)
☐ Changed/Corrected Application	☐ Revision	_____

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:

APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE SF-424 VERSION 02

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:

*Email:

***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:

_____

APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE SF-424 VERSION 02

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

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

APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE SF-424	VERSION 02

***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:

* Email:

*Signature of Authorized Representative:	*Date Signed:

OMB Number: 4040-0004

Expiration Date: 01/31/2009

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.
7.	Select the appropriate letter in the space provided. A. State B. County C. Municipal D. Township E. Interstate F. Intermunicipal G. Special District H. Independent School District 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	**17.**	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.
8.	Select the type from the following list:	**18**	To be signed by the authorized representative of the

Item:	Entry:	Item:	Entry:
	• "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: A. Increase Award B. Decrease Award C. Increase Duration D. Decrease Duration		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.)
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.		

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
REQUIRED FOR DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

1. Project Director:

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)

Email 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:

Please attach an explanation Narrative:

Add Attachment Delete Attachment View Attachment

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR 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 FOR 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).

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
BUDGET INFORMATION
NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Control Number: 1894-0008
Expiration Date: 02/28/2011

Name of Institution/Organization	Applicants requesting funding for only one year should complete the column under "Project Year 1." Applicants requesting funding for multi-year grants should complete all applicable columns. Please read all instructions before completing form.

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FUNDS

Budget Categories	Project Year 1 (a)	Project Year 2 (b)	Project Year 3 (c)	Project Year 4 (d)	Project Year 5 (e)	Total (f)
1. Personnel						
2. Fringe Benefits						
3. Travel						
4. Equipment						
5. Supplies						
6. Contractual						
7. Construction						
8. Other						
9. Total Direct Costs (lines 1-8)						
10. Indirect Costs*						
11. Training Stipends						
12. Total Costs (lines 9-11)						

***Indirect Cost Information** ***(To Be Completed by Your Business Office)*:**
If you are requesting reimbursement for indirect costs on line 10, please answer the following questions:
(1) Do you have an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement approved by the Federal government? ____Yes ____ No
(2) If yes, please provide the following information:
Period Covered by the Indirect Cost Rate Agreement: From: ___/___/_____ To: ___/___/_____ (mm/dd/yyyy)
Approving Federal agency: ____ ED ____ Other (please specify): _____ The Indirect Cost Rate is _____%
(3) For Restricted Rate Programs (check one) -- Are you using a restricted indirect cost rate that:
___ Is included in your approved Indirect Cost Rate Agreement? or ___ Complies with 34 CFR 76.564(c)(2)? The Restricted Indirect Cost Rate is _____%

Name of Institution/Organization	Applicants requesting funding for only one year should complete the column under "Project Year 1." Applicants requesting funding for multi-year grants should complete all applicable columns. Please read all instructions before completing form.

SECTION B - BUDGET SUMMARY
NON-FEDERAL FUNDS

Budget Categories	Project Year 1 (a)	Project Year 2 (b)	Project Year 3 (c)	Project Year 4 (d)	Project Year 5 (e)	Total (f)
1. Personnel						
2. Fringe Benefits						
3. Travel						
4. Equipment						
5. Supplies						
6. Contractual						
7. Construction						
8. Other						
9. Total Direct Costs (Lines 1-8)						
10. Indirect Costs						
11. Training Stipends						
12. Total Costs (Lines 9-11)						

SECTION C – BUDGET NARRATIVE (see instructions)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ED 524

General Instructions

This form is used to apply to individual U.S. Department of Education (ED) discretionary grant programs. Unless directed otherwise, provide the same budget information for each year of the multi-year funding request. Pay attention to applicable program specific instructions, if attached. Please consult with your Business Office prior to submitting this form.

Section A - Budget Summary
U.S. Department of Education Funds

All applicants must complete Section A and provide a breakdown by the applicable budget categories shown in lines 1-11.

Lines 1-11, columns (a)-(e): For each project year for which funding is requested, show the total amount requested for each applicable budget category.

Lines 1-11, column (f): Show the multi-year total for each budget category. If funding is requested for only one project year, leave this column blank.

Line 12, columns (a)-(e): Show the total budget request for each project year for which funding is requested.

Line 12, column (f): Show the total amount requested for all project years. If funding is requested for only one year, leave this space blank.

Indirect Cost Information:

If you are requesting reimbursement for indirect costs on line 10, this information is to be completed by your Business Office. (1): Indicate whether or not your organization has an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement that was approved by the Federal government. (2): If you checked "yes" in (1), indicate in (2) the beginning and ending dates covered by the Indirect Cost Rate Agreement. In addition, indicate whether ED or another Federal agency (Other) issued the approved agreement. If you check "Other," specify the name of the Federal agency that issued the approved agreement. (3): If you are applying for a grant under a Restricted Rate Program (34 CFR 75.563 or 76.563), indicate whether you are using a restricted indirect cost rate that is included on your approved Indirect Cost Rate Agreement or whether you are using a restricted indirect cost rate that complies with

34 CFR 76.564(c)(2). Note: State or Local government agencies may not use the provision for a restricted indirect cost rate specified in 34 CFR 76.564(c)(2). Check only one response. Leave blank, if this item is not applicable.

Section B - Budget Summary
Non-Federal Funds

If you are required to provide or volunteer to provide 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. If applicable to this program, provide the rate and base on which fringe benefits are calculated.

3. 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.

4. Provide other explanations or comments you deem necessary.

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 **1890-0004**. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to vary from 13 to 22 hours per response, with an average of 17.5 hours per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data sources, 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: U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC 20202-4651. If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this form, write directly to (insert program office), U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202.

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.

OMB Approval No. 0348-0040

ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 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 (0348-0040), 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.

Note: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the awarding agency. Further, certain Federal awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management, and completion of the project described in this application.

2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States, and if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.

3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.

4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.

5. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).

6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§ 523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§ 290 dd-3 and 290 ee 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. § 3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.

7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.

8. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

9. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §§874) and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§ 327-333), regarding labor standards for federally assisted construction subagreements.

10. Will comply, if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is $10,000 or more.

11. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clear Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clear Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, (P.L. 93-523); and (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, (P.L. 93-205).

12 Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1721 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.

13. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).

14. Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.

15. Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. §§2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.

16. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead- based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.

17. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."

18. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations and policies governing this program.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL	TITLE
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	DATE SUBMITTED

CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

CERTIFICATION FOR CONTRACTS, GRANTS, LOANS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person 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 the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal Loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person 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 this Federal contract, grant, loam or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form – LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $10,000 and not more than $100,000 for each such failure.

STATEMENT FOR LOAN GUARANTEES AND LOAN INSURANCE.

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee or any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions. Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $10,000 and not more than $100,000 for each such failure.

Applicant's Organization	
Printed Name of Authorized Representative	Printed Title of Authorized Representative
Signature	Date

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: ____ Prime _____ Subawardee Tier_____, if Known: **Congressional District, if known:**	**5. If Reporting Entity in No. 4 is Subawardee,** Enter Name and Address of Prime: **Congressional District, if known:**
6. Federal Department/Agency:	**7. Federal Program Name/Description:** CFDA Number, *if applicable*: _____
8. Federal Action Number, *if known:*	**9. Award Amount**, *if known:* **$**
10. a. Name and Address of Lobbying Registrant *(if individual, last name, first name, MI):*	**b. Individuals Performing Services** *(including address if different from No. 10a)* *(last name, first name, MI):*
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 followup 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."

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.

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 entity identified in item 4 to influence the covered Federal action.

    (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).

11. The certifying official shall sign and date the form, print his/her name, title, and telephone number.

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.

SURVEY ON ENSURING EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR APPLICANTS

Purpose

The Federal government is committed to ensuring that all qualified applicants, small or large, non-religious or faith-based, have an equal opportunity to compete for Federal funding. In order for us to better understand the population of applicants for Federal funds, we are asking nonprofit private organizations (not including private universities) to fill out this survey.

Upon receipt, the survey will be separated from the application. Information provided on the survey will not be considered in any way in making funding decisions and will not be included in the Federal grants database. While your help in this data collection process is greatly appreciated, completion of this survey is voluntary.

Instructions for Submitting the Survey

If you are applying using a hard copy application, please place the completed survey in an envelope labeled "Applicant Survey." Seal the envelope and include it along with your application package. If you are applying electronically, please submit this survey along with your application.

Applicant's (Organization) Name: _____

Applicant's DUNS Number: _____

Federal Program: _____ **CFDA Number:** _____

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1. Has the applicant ever received a grant or contract from the Federal government?

   ☐ Yes ☐ No

2. Is the applicant a faith-based organization?

   ☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Is the applicant a secular organization?

   ☐ Yes ☐ No

4. Does the applicant have 501(c)(3) status?

   ☐ Yes ☐ No

5. Is the applicant a local affiliate of a national organization?

   ☐ Yes ☐ No

6. How many full-time equivalent employees does the applicant have?
   (Check only one box).

   ☐ 3 or Fewer ☐ 15-50
   ☐ 4-5 ☐ 51-100
   ☐ 6-14 ☐ over 100

7. What is the size of the applicant's annual budget? *(Check only one box.)*

   ☐ Less Than $150,000
   ☐ $150,000–$299,999
   ☐ $300,000–$499,999
   ☐ $500,000–$999,999
   ☐ $1,000,000–$4,999,999
   ☐ $5,000,000 or more

SURVEY INSTRUCTIONS ON ENSURING EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR APPLICANTS

Provide the applicant's (organization) name and DUNS number and the grant name and CFDA number.

1. Self-explanatory.

2. Self-identify.

3. Self-identify.

4. 501(c)(3) status is a legal designation provided on application to the Internal Revenue Service by eligible organizations. Some grant programs may require nonprofit applicants to have 501(c)(3) status. Other grant programs do not.

5. Self-explanatory.

6. For example, two part-time employees who each work half-time equal one full-time equivalent employee. If the applicant is a local affiliate of a national organization, the responses to survey questions 2 and 3 should reflect the staff and budget size of the local affiliate.

7. Annual budget means the amount of money your organization spends each year on all of its activities.

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 1890-0014. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average five (5) 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 time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to:** The Agency Contact listed in this grant application package.

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 it's 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 2002-2007. 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.

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/us/

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