U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202-2575

FY 2006 APPLICATION KIT FOR NEW GRANTS UNDER THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH

Assistive Technology (AT) Outcomes Research Project

CFDA NUMBER: 84.133A-8

FORM APPROVED
OMB No. 1820-0027, EXP. DATE 02/28/2007
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DATED MATERIAL - OPEN IMMEDIATELY

CLOSING DATE: JULY 21, 2006

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SECTION
A

DEAR APPLICANT LETTER

Dear Applicant:

The Secretary invites applications for a new award for fiscal year (FY) 2006 for a project on the Assistive Technology (AT) Outcomes Research Project (CFDA Number - 84.133A-8). The purpose of the DRRP program is to plan and conduct research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities, and to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Include a one page abstract. The abstract is a critical component of the proposal, and it should describe the purpose, target population to be served during the project period, planned goals and objectives, proposed methodological approach, and anticipated project outcomes.

It is critical that proposals describe expected public benefits, especially benefits for individuals with disabilities and propose projects that are designed to demonstrate outcomes that are consistent with the proposed goals.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

This application kit contains information and the required forms for potential applicants to apply and be considered for a FY 2006 grant award under this competition, including the published Federal Register notice dated Friday, June 2, 2006. The general requirements for the DRRP program were published in a Federal Register notice dated Friday, April 28, 2006 and are in Section D of this application kit.

Potential applicants are advised to read the materials carefully, particularly the information on the types of organizations that are eligible to apply for these grants, how to prepare an application, the dollar amount for any year, the protection of human subjects, and the appropriate selection criteria (Section F) used by the reviewers to evaluate each application.

These instructions indicate that you can either submit your application electronically through the grants.gov system or you can mail (postmarked) or hand-deliver or by carrier service one original and two copies of your application on or before the application deadline date, to the address listed in Section B, Notice Inviting Applications, and Section J - Application Transmittal Instructions. The closing date (application deadline) is **Friday, July 21, 2006**.

Cost sharing is required and will be negotiated at the time of the grant award.

If you are submitting by paper

Applications must be postmarked by the closing date of **Friday, July 21, 2006,** if submitting in paper. Follow the Application Transmittal Instructions for submitting in paper found in Section J. Please include an electronic copy (disk) with your application. NIDRR would appreciate your including 9 additional copies of your application to facilitate the peer review process (12 copies in all). Also, we would like to suggest that the original copy of the application be secured with a binder clip to facilitate any additional copying that might be required.

If you are submitting electronically

We are encouraging you to submit your application electronically. Electronic copies must be uploaded on Grants.gov and then processed by Grants.gov successfully by 4:30 pm, Washington DC time on the closing date. It may take up to several hours for this process. Please allow several hours or a full day because, if there is a submission error, time will be needed to correct the error and resubmit either electronically or by paper to meet the deadline time and date. For additional information on electronic submission procedures, see the Grants.gov Submission Procedures and Tips for Applicants - Section J. Do not e-mail a copy of your application directly to the Department; electronic submissions can only be made to Grants.gov. We strongly suggest that you carefully check your submission to ensure that you have attached the correct files in the appropriate fields.

We encourage you to read Section J -- Grants.gov Submission Procedures and Tips for Applicants

PROGRAM REGULATIONS

These grants are subject to the requirements of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), in 34 CFR Parts 74, 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, and 97, which set forth general rules affecting the submittal, review, grant award, and post-award administration for Department of Education grant programs.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Pre-Application Meeting: A pre-application meeting will be held between 10:00 p.m. and 12:00 noon on Monday, June 19, 2006 either in person or by teleconference. Interested parties are invited to participate in a pre-application meeting to discuss the funding priority and to receive information and technical assistance through individual consultation. You must contact Lynn Medley at either 202-245-7338 or lynn.medley@ed.gov by Thursday, June 15, 2006 in order to participate in this meeting with NIDRR between 10:00 p.m. and 12:00 noon. After the meeting, NIDRR staff also will be available, by phone with prior request, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on that same day to provide information and technical assistance through individual consultation.

If you have any questions about the information in this application packet, please contact Donna Nangle at Donna.Nangle@ed.gov or by telephone at (202) 245-7462. Individuals who use a telecommunications device (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., EST, Monday through Friday.

If you need help with Grants.gov before the closing date, please contact Grants.gov Customer Support at 1-800-518-4726 or use the customer support available on the Web site: http://www.grants.gov/CustomerSupport.

NOTE: Please forward this entire application packet to the individual or office responsible for preparing an application, as they will need the entire packet to complete the grant application.

Thank you for your interest in these programs.

Sincerely,

Steven James Tingus, M.S., C.Phil.
Director,
National Institute on Disability
and Rehabilitation Research

SECTION
B

FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR NEW AWARDS

4000-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

Overview Information

National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR)--Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRPs)--Assistive Technology (AT) Outcomes Research Project

Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2006.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.133A-8

Dates:

Applications Available: June 2, 2006.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: July 21, 2006.

Date of Pre-Application Meeting: June 19, 2006.

Eligible Applicants: States; public or private agencies, including for-profit agencies; public or private organizations, including for-profit organizations; institutions of higher education (IHEs); and Indian tribes and tribal organizations.

Estimated Available Funds: $450,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: $400,000 - $450,000.

Maximum Award: We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding $450,000 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.

Note: The maximum amount includes direct and indirect costs.

Estimated Number of Awards: 1.

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

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose of Program: The purpose of the DRRP program is to plan and conduct research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social

self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities, and to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. DRRPs carry out one or more of the following types of activities, as specified and defined in 34 CFR 350.13 through 350.19: research, development, demonstration, training, dissemination, utilization, and technical assistance.

An applicant for assistance under this program must demonstrate in its application how it will address, in whole or in part, the needs of individuals with disabilities from minority backgrounds (34 CFR 350.40(a)). The approaches an applicant may take to meet this requirement are found in 34 CFR 350.40(b).

Additional information on the DRRP program can be found at: http://www.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/res-program.html#DRRP

Priorities: NIDRR has established two priorities for this competition. The General DRRP Requirements priority is from the notice of final priorities for the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers program, published in the Federal Register on April 28, 2006 (71 FR 25472). The Assistive Technology (AT) Outcomes Research Project priority is from the notice of final priorities for the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers program, published elsewhere in this issue of the Federal Register.

Absolute Priorities: For FY 2006 these priorities are absolute priorities. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) we consider only applications that meet these priorities.

These priorities are:

General Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Requirements and Improving Employment Outcomes for the Low Functioning Deaf (LFD) Population.

Program Authority: 29 U.S.C. 762(g) and 764(a).

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, and 97. (b) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 350. (c) The notice of final priorities for the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers program, published in the

Federal Register on April 28, 2006 (71 FR 25472). (d) The notice of final priorities for the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers program, published elsewhere in this issue of the Federal Register.

Note: The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to IHEs only.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Discretionary grant.

Estimated Available Funds: $450,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: $400,000 - $450,000.

Maximum Award: We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding $450,000 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.

Note: The maximum amount includes direct and indirect costs.

Estimated Number of Awards: 1.

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

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

III. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants: States; public or private agencies, including for-profit agencies; public or private organizations, including for-profit organizations; IHEs; and Indian tribes and tribal organizations.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching: Cost sharing is required and will be negotiated at the time of the grant award.

IV. Application and Submission Information

1. Address to Request Application Package: You may obtain an application package via Internet or from the Education Publications Center (ED Pubs). To obtain a copy via Internet use the following address: http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/grantapps/index.html

To obtain a copy from ED Pubs, write or call the following: Education Publications Center, P.O. Box 1398, Jessup, MD 20794-1398. Telephone (toll free): 1-877-433-7827. FAX: (301) 470-1244. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call (toll free): 1-877-576-7734.

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

If you request an application from ED Pubs, be sure to identify this competition as follows: CFDA Number 84.133A-8.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain a copy of the application package in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) by contacting the program contact person listed under For Further Information Contact in section VII 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. We recommend that you limit Part III to the equivalent of no more than 125 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. Single spacing may be used for titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.
- Use a font that is either 12 point or larger or no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch).

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

The application package will provide instructions for completing all components to be included in the application. Each application must include a cover sheet (either ED 424 or Standard Form 424); budget requirements (ED Form 524) and budget narrative justification; other

required forms; an abstract, Human Subjects narrative, Part III narrative; resumes of staff; and other related materials, if applicable.

3. Submission Dates and Times:

Applications Available: June 2, 2006.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: July 21, 2006.

Pre-Application Meeting: Interested parties are invited to participate in a pre-application meeting to discuss the priorities and to receive information and technical assistance through individual consultation. The pre-application meeting will be held on June 19, 2006. Interested parties may participate in this meeting either by conference call or in person at the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Potomac Center Plaza, room 6082, 550 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. After the meeting, NIDRR staff also will be available from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on that same day to provide information and technical assistance through individual consultation. For further information or to make arrangements to attend either in person or by conference call, or for an individual consultation, contact Lynn Medley, U.S. Department of Education, Potomac Center Plaza, room 6027, 550 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 245-7338 or by e-mail: lynn.medley@ed.gov

Assistance to Individuals With Disabilities at the Pre-Application Meeting

The meeting site is accessible to individuals with disabilities, and a sign language interpreter will be available. If you will need an auxiliary aid or service other than a sign language interpreter in order to participate in the meeting (e.g., other interpreting service such as oral, cued speech, or tactile interpreter; assistive listening device; or materials in alternate format), notify the contact person listed in this notice at least two weeks before the scheduled meeting date. Although we will attempt to meet a request we receive after this date, we may not be able to make available the requested auxiliary aid or service because of insufficient time to arrange it.

Applications for grants under this competition may be submitted electronically using the Grants.gov Apply site (Grants.gov), or in paper format by mail or hand delivery. For information (including dates and

times) about how to submit your application electronically, or by mail or hand delivery, please refer to section IV. 6. Other Submission Requirements in this notice.

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

4. Intergovernmental Review: This program is not subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79.

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.

We have been accepting applications electronically through the Department's e-Application system since FY 2000. In order to expand on those efforts and comply with the President's Management Agenda, we are continuing to participate as a partner in the new government wide Grants.gov Apply site in FY 2006. Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects-CFDA Number 84.133A–8 is one of the programs included in this project. We request your participation in Grants.gov.

If you choose to submit your application electronically, you must use the Grants.gov Apply site at: http://www.Grants.gov Through this site, you will be able to download a copy of the application package, complete it offline, and then upload and submit your application. You may not e-mail an electronic copy of a grant application to us.

You may access the electronic grant application for Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects at: http://www.grants.gov. You must search for the downloadable application package for this program by the CFDA number. Do not include the CFDA number's alpha suffix in your search.

Please note the following:

Your participation in Grants.gov is voluntary.

When you enter the Grants.gov site, you will find information about submitting an application electronically through the site, as well as the

hours of operation.

Applications received by Grants.gov are time and date stamped. Your application must be fully uploaded and submitted, and must be date/time stamped by the Grants.gov system no later than 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. Except as otherwise noted in this section, we will not consider your application if it is date/time stamped by the Grants.gov system later than 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. When we retrieve your application from Grants.gov, we will notify you if we are rejecting your application because it was date/time stamped by the Grants.gov system after 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date.

The amount of time it can take to upload an application will vary depending on a variety of factors including the size of the application and the speed of your Internet connection. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you do not wait until the application deadline date to begin the application process through Grants.gov.

You should review and follow the Education Submission Procedures for submitting an application through Grants.gov that are included in the application package for this competition to ensure that you submit your application in a timely manner to the Grants.gov system. You can also find the Education Submission Procedures pertaining to Grants.gov at http://e-Grants.ed.gov/help/GrantsgovSubmissionProcedures.pdf

To submit your application via Grants.gov, you must complete all of the steps in the Grants.gov registration process (see http://www.Grants.gov/GetStarted). These steps include (1) registering your organization, (2) registering yourself as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR), and (3) getting authorized as an AOR by your organization. Details on these steps are outlined in the Grants.gov 3-Step Registration Guide (see http://www.grants.gov/assets/GrantsgovCoBrandBrochure8X11.pdf). You also must provide on your application the same D-U-N-S Number used with this registration. Please note that the registration process may take five or more business days to complete, and you must have completed all registration steps to allow you to successfully submit an application via

Grants.gov.

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 may submit all documents electronically, including all information typically included on the Application for Federal Education Assistance (ED 424), Budget Information--Non-Construction Programs (ED 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications. If you choose to submit your application electronically, 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 above 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.

After you electronically submit your application, you will receive an automatic acknowledgment from Grants.gov that contains a Grants.gov tracking number. The Department will retrieve your application from Grants.gov and send you a second confirmation by e-mail that will include a PR/Award number (an ED-specified identifying number unique to your application).

We may request that you provide us original signatures on 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 of technical problems with the Grants.gov system, we will grant you an extension until 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, the following business day to enable you to transmit your application electronically, or by hand delivery. You also may mail your application by following the mailing instructions as described elsewhere in this notice. If you submit an application after 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the deadline date, please contact the person listed elsewhere in this notice under For Further Information Contact, and provide an explanation of the technical problem you experienced with Grants.gov, along with the Grants.gov Support Desk Case

Number (if available). We will accept your application if we can confirm that a technical problem occurred with the Grants.gov system and that that problem affected your ability to submit your application by 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. The Department will contact you after a determination is made on whether your application will be accepted.

Note: Extensions referred to in this section apply only to the unavailability of or technical problems with the Grants.gov system. We will not grant you an extension if you failed to fully register to submit your application to Grants.gov before the deadline date and time or if the technical problem you experienced is unrelated to the Grants.gov system.

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 applicable following address:

By mail through the U.S. Postal Service:

U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center
Attention: (CFDA Number 84.133A-8)
400 Maryland Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC 20202-4260

or

By mail through a commercial carrier:

U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center – Stop 4260
Attention: (CFDA Number 84.133A-8)
7100 Old Landover Road
Landover, MD 20785-1506

Regardless of which address you use, 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, or

(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, or

(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 84.133A-8)
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 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 4 of the ED 424 the CFDA number — and suffix letter, if any — of the competition under which you are submitting your application.

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

V. Application Review Information

Selection Criteria: The selection criteria for this competition are from 34 CFR 75.210 of EDGAR and 34 CFR 350.54 and are listed in the application package.

The Secretary is interested in hypothesis-driven research and development projects. To address this interest it is expected that applicants will articulate goals, objectives, and expected outcomes for the proposed research and development activities. It is critical that proposals describe expected public benefits, especially benefits for individuals with disabilities, and propose projects that are optimally designed to demonstrate outcomes that are consistent with the proposed goals. Applicants are encouraged to include information describing how they will measure outcomes, including the indicators that will represent the end-result, the mechanisms that will be used to evaluate outcomes associated with specific problems or issues, and how the proposed activities will support new intervention approaches and strategies, including a discussion of measures of effectiveness. Submission of this information is voluntary except where required by the selection criteria listed in the application package.

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 also notify you informally.

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 specified by the Secretary in 34 CFR 75.118.

Note: NIDRR will provide information by letter to grantees on how and when to submit the report.

4. Performance Measures: To evaluate the overall success of its research program, NIDRR assesses the quality of its funded projects through review of grantee performance and products. Each year, NIDRR examines, through expert review, a portion of its grantees to determine:

- The percentage of newly awarded NIDRR projects that are multi-site, collaborative controlled studies of interventions and programs.
- The number of accomplishments (e.g., new or improved tools, methods, discoveries, standards, interventions, programs, or devices) developed or tested with NIDRR funding that have been judged by expert panels to be of high quality and to advance the field.
- The percentage of grantee research and development that has appropriate study design, meets rigorous standards of scientific and/or engineering methods, and builds on and contributes to knowledge in the field.
- The average number of publications per award based on NIDRR-funded research and development activities in refereed journals.
- The percentage of new grants that include studies funded by NIDRR that assess the effectiveness of interventions, programs, and devices using rigorous and appropriate methods.

NIDRR uses information submitted by grantees as part of their Annual Performance Reports (APRs) for these reviews. NIDRR also determines, using information submitted as part of the APR, the number of publications in refereed journals that are based on NIDRR-funded research and development activities.

Department of Education program performance reports, which include information on NIDRR programs, are available on the Department’s Web site:

http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/opepd/sas/index.html

Updates on the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA) indicators, revisions and methods appear on the NIDRR Program Review Web site:

http://www.neweditions.net/pr/commonfiles/pmconcepts.htm

Grantees should consult these sites, on a regular basis, to obtain details and explanations on how NIDRR programs contribute to the advancement of the Department's long-term and annual performance goals.

VII. Agency Contact

For Further Information Contact: Donna Nangle, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 6030, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 245-7462 or by e-mail: donna.nangle@ed.gov

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the TDD number at (202) 245-7317 or the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the program contact person listed in this section.

VIII. Other Information

Electronic Access to This Document: You may 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

Dated: June 2, 2006

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John H. Hager,

Assistant Secretary for
Special Education and
Rehabilitative Services.

SECTION
C

FEDERAL REGISTER
FINAL PRIORITY NOTICE

Including the priority for the Assistive Technology (AT) Outcomes Research Project

4000-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research--Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program; Funding Priorities

AGENCY: Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of final priorities.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services announces certain final priorities for the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program administered by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). Specifically, this notice announces six priorities for Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRPs); one priority for a Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC); and three priorities for Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs). The Assistant Secretary may use these priorities for competitions in fiscal year (FY) 2006 and later years. We take this action to focus research attention on areas of national need. We intend these priorities to improve rehabilitation services and outcomes for individuals with disabilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: These priorities are effective July 3, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Donna Nangle, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 6030, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-2700. Telephone: (202) 245-7462 or via Internet: donna.nangle@ed.gov

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

We published a notice of proposed priorities (NPP) for NIDRR's Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program in the Federal Register on February 7, 2006 (71 FR 6318). The NPP included

a background statement that described our rationale for each priority proposed in that notice.

This notice of final priorities (NFP) addresses 10 of the 15 priorities proposed in the NPP. The priorities addressed in this NFP are as follows:

- Rehabilitation of Children with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) (a DRRP, designated as Priority 4 in the NPP).
- Reducing Obesity and Obesity-Related Secondary Conditions in Adolescents and Adults with Disabilities (a DRRP, designated as Priority 5 in the NPP).
- Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC) (a DRRP, designated as Priority 6 in the NPP).
- Assistive Technology (AT) Outcomes Research Project (a DRRP, designated as Priority 7 in the NPP).
- Mobility Aids and Wayfinding Technologies for Individuals With Blindness and Low Vision (a DRRP, designated as Priority 8 in the NPP).
- Improving Employment Outcomes for the Low Functioning Deaf (LFD) Population (a DRRP, designated as Priority 9 in the NPP).
- RRTC on Effective Independent and Community Living Solutions and Measures (designated as Priority 12 in the NPP).
- RERC for Technologies for Successful Aging (designated as Priority 13 in the NPP).
- RERC for Wheelchair Transportation Safety (designated as Priority 14 in the NPP).
- RERC for Wireless Technologies (designated as Priority 15 in the NPP).

We published the following three priorities in a separate notice of final priorities in the Federal Register on April 28, 2006 (71 FR 25472):

- General DRRP Requirements (designated as Priority 1 in the NPP).
- National Data and Statistical Center for the Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Model Systems (a DRRP, designated as Priority 2 in the NPP).
- National Data and Statistical Center for the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Model Systems (a DRRP, designated as Priority 3 in the NPP).

Because of the volume of comments received in response to the NPP, NIDRR intends to publish a separate notice of final priorities for the remaining two priorities proposed in the NPP (i.e., the Disability Business Technical Assistance Centers priorities designated as Priorities 10 and 11 in the NPP). More information on these other priorities and the projects and programs that NIDRR intends to fund in FY 2006 can be found on the Internet at:
http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/nidrr/priority-matrix.html

This NFP contains several changes from the NPP. Specifically, we have made changes to the DRRP priorities for Rehabilitation of Children with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Reducing Obesity and Obesity-Related Secondary Conditions in Adolescents and Adults with Disabilities, and Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC); and the three RERC priorities (i.e., the RERC for Technologies for Successful Aging, the RERC for Wheelchair Transportation Safety, and the RERC for Wireless Technologies). We fully explain these changes in the Analysis of Comments and Changes section that follows.

Analysis of Comments and Changes

In response to our invitation in the NPP, 51 parties submitted comments on the proposed priorities addressed in this NFP.

An analysis of the comments and the changes in the priorities since publication of the NPP follows. We discuss major issues according to general topic questions and priorities.

Generally, we do not address technical and other minor changes--and suggested changes the law does not authorize us to make under the applicable statutory authority.

Scope of Work

General

Comment: Several commenters asked whether NIDRR intends to support an RRTC that is designed to address the rehabilitation needs of persons who are deaf or hard of hearing or who are blind or vision impaired.

Discussion: At this time, NIDRR does not have plans to propose priorities for FY 2006 for any RRTCs other than the RRTC on Effective Independent and Community Living Solutions.

Changes: None.

Comment: Several commenters asked whether NIDRR plans to use the DRRP mechanism as a substitute for the RRTC program mechanism to support certain projects that have been supported under the RRTC program in the past (e.g., rehabilitation research and training on deafness and hard of hearing).

Discussion: Both the DRRP and RRTC program mechanisms have unique, valued features. In general, the DRRP program is more flexible than the RRTC program because DRRPs may include research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities that help maximize the full inclusion and integration of individuals with disabilities into society and improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. In contrast, RRTCs must carry out advanced programs of research, conduct training activities, and conduct technical assistance. NIDRR believes that, because of the added flexibility that the DRRP mechanism offers, in some instances it is appropriate to use it to support research, training, and related activities that previously have been supported through the RRTC program mechanism.

Changes: None.

Comment: Several commenters expressed concern that NIDRR did not include information in the proposed priorities about the resources available for the projects to be funded, such as level of funding and project duration.

Discussion: These details are not subject to public comment and, therefore, are not included in the NPP. We will include information about available resources in any notice inviting applications that NIDRR publishes for projects that it intends to fund using these priorities.

Changes: None.

Rehabilitation of Children with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) (a DRRP, designated as Priority 4 in the NPP)

Two parties submitted comments on the proposed DRRP priority on Rehabilitation of Children with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). One party provided substantive comments that require discussion in this NFP, while the other provided general positive feedback on the priority.

Comment: One commenter suggested that this priority should foster the development and validation of discipline specific outcome measures across

the pediatric age spectrum so that the functional consequences of tested interventions can be accurately assessed.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that well-validated outcome measures capable of assessing change across the pediatric age spectrum are critical. Without these measures, documentation of the functional consequences of rehabilitation interventions and transition strategies would be limited. With this priority, NIDRR is encouraging applicants to develop or test innovative approaches to treating children with TBI. This focus on treatment supports an emphasis on interventions research; however, in recognition of the important role of assessment in the measurement of treatment effectiveness, the priority has been changed to include development of outcome measures that may be used to assess the effectiveness of supported interventions and transition strategies.

Changes: Paragraphs (a) and (b) of the priority have been changed to provide for the development or testing of outcome measures necessary to assess the effectiveness of rehabilitation interventions and transition strategies for children with TBI.

Comment: One commenter suggested that the priority should require the development of mechanisms that would facilitate collaboration between multiple institutions as they work to understand and demonstrate the effects of specific interventions on children with TBI. The commenters suggested the following as examples of mechanisms that would facilitate this type of collaboration: data infrastructures with multi-institutional access, and universal flexible tools that can be used to develop multi-site collaborations.

Discussion: NIDRR recognizes the value of multi-site interventions research, particularly in light of the need for sample sizes that are large enough to allow for adequate assessment of outcomes. Nothing in the priority precludes an applicant from proposing multi-site interventions research or the development of the mechanisms necessary for this type of research. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of each proposal.

Changes: None.

Reducing Obesity and Obesity-Related Secondary Conditions in Adolescents and Adults with Disabilities (a DRRP, designated as Priority 5 in the NPP)

Four parties submitted comments on the proposed DRRP priority for Reducing Obesity and Obesity-Related Secondary Conditions in Adolescents and Adults with Disabilities. Two parties provided substantive comments that require discussion in this NFP, while the other two commenters provided general positive feedback on the priority.

Comment: One commenter suggested that requiring projects to focus their research on obesity in either the adolescent population or the adult population, rather than on both, may improve the likelihood that a research project will achieve its stated outcomes under the priority.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that an applicant may limit its research project to focus only on obesity in the adolescent population or only on obesity in the adult population. We have revised the priority to clarify that an applicant may focus its research on one or both populations. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of each proposal.

Changes: We have revised this priority to clarify that applicants can focus their research and proposed activities on obesity either in the adolescent population or the adult population, or on obesity in both the adolescent and adult populations.

Comment: One commenter strongly recommended that the Department fund projects with proposals that reflect consumer interests.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees with this comment. Under its General DRRP Requirements priority (designated as Priority 1 in the NPP and published in the notice of final priorities in the Federal Register on April 28, 2006 (71 FR 25472)), each applicant must involve individuals with disabilities in planning and implementing the DRRP's research, training, and dissemination activities, and evaluating its work. As stated in the NPP, NIDRR intends to pair the General DRRP Requirements priority with each of the DRRP priorities proposed in the NPP. Accordingly, applicants for funding under this priority will be required to meet the requirements in the General DRRP Requirements priority as well. The requirement regarding the involvement of individuals with disabilities in the

planning and implementation activities of a DRRP's work is intended to ensure that all DRRP priorities consider consumer perspectives.

Changes: None.

Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC) (a DRRP, designated as Priority 6 in the NPP)

One party submitted several comments on the proposed DRRP priority for the Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC). Some of these comments focused on the Background statement for this priority and do not require discussion in this NFP. We have responded to one comment regarding the Background statement, however, in an effort to clarify NIDRR's intent for this priority.

Comment: The commenter expressed concern that the Background statement included in the NPP for the MSKTC priority implied that the MSKTC will be responsible for disseminating materials produced from non-Model Systems Program research on SCI, TBI, and burn injury rehabilitation.

Discussion: The MSKTC will only be responsible for improving knowledge translation (KT) of research conducted within the three specified Model Systems Programs. Accordingly, the MSKTC will only be responsible for disseminating materials produced by the three Model Systems Programs specified in the priority.

Changes: None.

Comment: None.

Discussion: NIDRR has recently funded several projects that promote the KT objectives described in NIDRR's Long Range Plan. NIDRR expects that the MSKTC will collaborate with these and future NIDRR-funded projects to address KT issues of mutual interest. This collaboration may include the MSKTC's participation in the KT task forces of NIDRR's National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research or other NIDRR-funded KT projects so that the centers can share information about the current progress being made in the development of standards, research syntheses, and evidence in disability and rehabilitation research. The MSKTC also likely will be involved in sharing KT techniques for capacity building among researchers in Model Systems projects and for informing stakeholder organizations and individuals with disabilities about quality research.

The MSKTC may be funded as a cooperative agreement in order to facilitate these and similar roles.

Changes: Paragraph (b) of this priority has been changed to clarify that the MSKTC must develop partnerships and collaborate with other NIDRR-funded projects in order to achieve the outcome of enhanced knowledge of advances in SCI, TBI and Burn Injury research.

Comment: The commenter asked whether NIDRR intends for the MSKTC to conduct syntheses of research in the fields of TBI, SCI, and Burn Injury research. The commenter pointed out that conducting these types of syntheses would require assessments of material produced outside the Model Systems Programs, and would likely be beyond the scope of the MSKTC.

Discussion: To meet this priority, applicants must contribute to an enhanced understanding of the quality and relevance of the Model Systems Programs' research on SCI, TBI and Burn Injury by identifying and applying appropriate standards and methods for conducting research synthesis. Applicants, therefore, may choose to identify standards or methods that assess research produced outside the Model Systems Programs if an assessment of this research helps evaluate the quality and relevance of the Model Systems Programs' research on SCI, TBI, and Burn Injury. NIDRR expects the MSKTC to provide guidance to Model Systems researchers on standards and methods for conducting research and reporting findings to enhance the likelihood that Model Systems research is useful to numerous stakeholders, including practitioners and individuals with TBI, SCI, and Burn Injury. NIDRR is particularly interested in ensuring that any information to be disseminated by the Model Systems centers meets the highest possible standards of quality, and is based on scientifically rigorous research. NIDRR also intends to ensure that, to the extent possible, any information needed to assess the quality of research findings and the relevance of findings to the various stakeholders, including consumers, practitioners, and researchers is available to users. It is up to applicants to propose ways in which standards related to these objectives might be identified, developed, or applied. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of the proposals.

Changes: None.

Comment: The commenter requested clarification on how NIDRR intends for the MSKTC to bridge gaps between research and evidence-based practice. Specifically, the commenter expressed concern about whether it is useful for the MSKTC to provide standards and methods for research syntheses to the Model Systems Programs since the Model Systems Programs conduct research, not research syntheses. The commenter added that requiring the MSKTC to provide information on evidence grading would be beneficial in improving research design, implementing research, and reporting findings.

Discussion: NIDRR applauds the commenter for providing an excellent summary of the purposes of the MSKTC. We would add that making research findings relevant to the various target populations is another goal of the MSKTC. While providing information on grading evidence may be an integral part of making research relevant, other strategies, including providing information on research syntheses, also may be relevant. NIDRR does not believe that it is appropriate to require all applicants to agree to provide information on evidence grading methodologies to the Model Systems Programs. That said, nothing in the priority prohibits an applicant from proposing to provide Model Systems Programs with this information. The peer review process will determine the merits of each proposal.

Changes: None.

Assistive Technology (AT) Outcomes Research Project (a DRRP, designated as Priority 7 in the NPP)

Nine parties submitted comments on the proposed DRRP priority for the Assistive Technology (AT) Outcomes Research Project. Three parties provided substantive comments that require discussion in this NFP, while the remainder of the commenters provided general positive feedback on the priority.

Comment: One commenter suggested that projects that develop a program to certify AT assessment providers should be eligible for funding under this priority.

Discussion: A project that proposes to develop a certification program for AT assessment providers may be eligible for funding under this priority if it supports the outcomes that NIDRR delineated in the

priority. While NIDRR does not believe that it is appropriate to require all applicants to propose this type of program, nothing in the priority precludes an applicant from doing so. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of each proposal.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested that this priority should include an additional outcome that focuses on the need for a unified framework for describing the impact of AT across populations and environments.

Discussion: While NIDRR agrees that a unified framework for describing the impact of AT across populations and environments should be a goal for the AT field, the development of this type of framework is beyond the scope of this priority. That said, nothing in the priority precludes an applicant from proposing to work toward the development of this type of a framework. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of each proposal.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested that this priority should highlight the importance of outcomes associated with AT to support cognitive function.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that AT to support cognitive function might be an excellent subject for further development for projects funded under this priority. However, NIDRR does not believe that all applicants should be required to focus their proposed research on this specific type of AT. Nothing in the priority, however, precludes an applicant from proposing to focus its research on AT to support cognitive function. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of each proposal.

Changes: None.

Mobility Aids and Wayfinding Technologies for Individuals With Blindness and Low Vision (a DRRP, designated as Priority 8 in the NPP)

Four parties submitted comments on the proposed DRRP priority on Mobility Aids and Wayfinding Technologies for Individuals With Blindness and Low Vision.

Comment: Two commenters expressed concern that the Background statement for this priority reflects a lack of understanding about the relationship between “wayfinding technologies” and “conventional approaches” to dealing with navigation and travel-related challenges facing individuals

with blindness and low vision. Additionally, the commenters suggested that, in the implementation of the priority, NIDRR should require grantees to recognize that mobility skills, whether practiced through proper cane technique or use of a guide dog, are essential to safe travel and that new technology may complement but not replace mobility skills training.

Discussion: In developing this priority, NIDRR considered existing literature and reports related to wayfinding technologies, intervention strategies, and related issues; as well as the current state of the science in the areas of wayfinding technologies, intervention strategies, and orientation and mobility techniques for navigation and travel problems facing individuals with blindness and low vision. Following our review of these materials and research findings, we identified a range of critical issues surrounding wayfinding technologies and intervention strategies, including lack of consensus about terminology and effectiveness of specific intervention strategies. The priority was developed with these issues in mind. Specifically, the priority was developed because of the need for further research regarding the effectiveness of wayfinding technologies and orientation and mobility techniques for independent travel of blind and visually impaired consumers. There are many questions and positions regarding essential mobility skills for safe travel. However, there is no basis for requiring that all applicants adopt a specific theory, philosophy, orientation or principle regarding independent travel skills, techniques, or intervention strategies. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of the proposals.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter requested that this priority be expanded to address the mobility and wayfinding technology needs of deaf-blind individuals.

Discussion: NIDRR intends for this priority to specifically address the development of wayfinding technologies for the blind and visually impaired population. In order to be eligible for funding under this priority, applicants must propose activities focused on the areas of research specified in the priority. However, NIDRR believes that within

the broad areas of research outlined in the priority, an applicant could propose to conduct research that addresses the needs of the deaf-blind population, particularly as a subpopulation of the blind and visually impaired population. NIDRR believes that it also would be appropriate for applicants to propose research that demonstrates how advances in wayfinding technologies may ultimately result in the development of solutions that will address the unique mobility challenges facing the deaf-blind population.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter encouraged the Department to support a project that examines the wide range of technologies addressing navigation and travel-related needs of individuals with blindness and low vision that are currently being implemented and developed in other countries. The commenter also suggested that, under this priority, wayfinding technologies should be examined in a variety of different pedestrian environments.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that studies examining the wide range of technologies that are currently being implemented and developed worldwide, including examination of wayfinding technologies in a variety of different pedestrian environments, may be beneficial. The priority does not preclude an applicant from proposing an international focus, or an examination of wayfinding technologies in different pedestrian environments. However, NIDRR does not believe that it is appropriate to require all applicants to focus their research on one or both of these areas. The peer reviewers will assess the merits of research proposals submitted.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter stressed the importance of including individuals with visual impairments and their representatives in the planning and research activities of the projects funded under this priority.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees with this comment. Under its General DRRP Requirements priority (designated as Priority 1 in the NPP and published in the notice of final priorities in the Federal Register on April 28, 2006 (71 FR 25472)), each applicant must involve individuals with disabilities in planning and implementing the DRRP's research, training,

and dissemination activities, and evaluating its work. As stated in the NPP, NIDRR intends to pair the General DRRP Requirements priority with each of the DRRP priorities proposed in the NPP. Accordingly, applicants for funding under this priority will be required to meet the requirements in the General DRRP Requirements priority as well.

Changes: None.

Improving Employment Outcomes for the Low Functioning Deaf (LFD) Population (a DRRP, designated as Priority 9 in the NPP)

Nine parties submitted comments on the proposed DRRP priority on Improving Employment Outcomes for the Low Functioning Deaf (LFD) Population.

Comment: Several commenters requested information on whether NIDRR intends to develop a separate priority that will focus on the needs of the 29 million persons identified as deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened, and language deprived.

Discussion: NIDRR and the Department's Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) have supported research activities that target the broader population of persons with hearing loss for more than 40 years. Although NIDRR is sensitive to the continuing rehabilitation needs of members of this broader population, we have determined that there is a need for research that focuses on the special needs of the sub-population of low functioning deaf. At this time, NIDRR does not intend to develop a separate priority that focuses on the broader population of persons with hearing loss for FY 2006.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter would like to see additional research focusing on employment opportunities for working age persons with deaf-blindness and also, additional research related to employment issues and deafness.

Discussion: While NIDRR recognizes the importance of studies examining employment issues and deafness, and the needs of working age persons with deaf-blindness, the population of individuals who are LFD is the target population for this priority. Research literature addressing the LFD population is limited. Moreover, NIDRR's own research portfolio currently does not include research that focuses on the LFD population. In contrast, NIDRR currently supports research on the employment of

individuals with blindness and deafness, as well as a major study of blindness, deafness, and aging. Therefore, we believe that research targeting the LFD population will address a gap in current research, including NIDRR's own research portfolio; enhance our understanding about individuals who are deaf; and assist to improve outcomes for the LFD population.

Changes: None.

RRTC on Effective Independent and Community Living Solutions and Measures (designated as Priority 12 in the NPP)

Three parties submitted comments on the proposed priority for an RRTC on Effective Independent and Community Living Solutions and Measures.

Comment: One commenter suggested that this priority may not be supportable under the statutory language authorizing research grants for RRTCs. The commenter suggested that the priority's focus on participation by individuals at home, in the community, or in educational or workplace activities was at odds with a requirement that RRTCs focus exclusively on the ability of individuals with disabilities to prepare for, secure, retain, regain, or advance in employment.

Discussion: NIDRR does not agree that RRTCs are required to focus exclusively on the ability of individuals with disabilities to prepare for, secure, retain, regain, or advance in employment or that the priority is inconsistent with the RRTC regulatory or statutory authority. Nothing in section 204 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, requires RRTC research grants to focus exclusively on the ability of individuals with disabilities to prepare for, secure, retain, regain, or advance in employment. Moreover, the purpose of RRTCs, as stated in the Department's regulations, is to (a) develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology, that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, and independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities; and (b) improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (see 34 CFR 350.2 and 350.20). RRTCs conduct coordinated and integrated advanced programs of research

targeted toward the production of new knowledge to improve rehabilitation methodology and service delivery systems, alleviate or stabilize disability conditions, or promote maximum social and economic independence for persons with disabilities (see 34 CFR 350.22(a)). The emphasis of this priority is to enhance community living and participation in accordance with NIDRR's mission and its Long Range Plan. As reflected in NIDRR's overall portfolio of grants, we recognize the central role of employment for many individuals with disabilities. Nothing in this priority prohibits applicants from proposing research activities that address employment issues. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of each proposal.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested that NIDRR should require the grantee under this priority to cooperate with NIDRR's RRTC on Employment Policy for Persons with Disabilities and its RRTC on Disability Statistics and Demographics. The commenter noted that problems faced by persons with disabilities are multi-faceted and that the process of knowledge translation and capacity building could be supported by cooperative ventures.

Discussion: We agree that outcomes for individuals with disabilities can be enhanced through coordination among NIDRR grantees. All NIDRR RRTCs must carry out coordinated advanced programs of rehabilitation research. As with other NIDRR grants, the NIDRR project officer for the grantee supported under this priority will work with the grantee to facilitate appropriate coordination with other NIDRR-supported RRTCs.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested that this priority should require grantees to develop concise and sensitive measures of accessibility for different types of impairment-related needs. In addition, the commenter identified a need for the development of sampling frames and statistical criteria for determining sample size. The commenter also suggested that grantees should be required to develop and assess sources of indicators for environmental barriers to full participation.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that it is important to develop measures of accessibility for different types of impairment-related needs, along with

sample frames and statistical criteria for determining sample size. Through our research portfolio, we already support work in this area. That said, nothing in this RRTC priority prohibits applicants from proposing the specific research activities suggested by the commenter. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of each proposal.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter requested clarification on whether paragraph (b) of this priority requires research projects to focus solely on the implementation of the Olmstead v. L.C. (527 U.S. 581) decision, or if the priority allows for the evaluation of other aspects of the Olmstead decision as well. The commenter identified a number of potential research areas that go beyond the implementation of Olmstead, such as examination of the principles and philosophy of the decision as it applies to individuals with disabilities in different contexts, or examination of how the principles and philosophy of the decision have affected other cross disability populations in different contexts.

Discussion: In accordance with Executive Order 13217, NIDRR's mission, and its Long Range Plan, we are committed to support research that will maximize the availability of high quality community-based practices, programs, and services for individuals with disabilities. Successful implementation of the Olmstead decision requires that we understand and alleviate barriers to community living and that we maximize resources that facilitate community living. NIDRR believes that a broad array of research questions relating to the implementation of the Olmstead decision, including those areas proposed by the commenter, may be proposed under this priority. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of each proposal.

Changes: None.

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs) (designated as Priorities 13, 14 and 15 in the NPP)

Nine parties submitted comments on the three proposed priorities for RERCs.

General

Comment: One commenter suggested that rather than requiring RERC grantees to develop plans to involve individuals with disabilities in

their projects after they receive an award (i.e., within the first three months of the project period), it makes more sense to require all applicants to include these plans in their proposals. In this way, the plans would be peer reviewed as part of the application review process.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that all RERC applicants should be required to include their plans to involve individuals with disabilities in their proposals.

Changes: The RERC requirement pertaining to plans for involving individuals with disabilities or their representatives in all phases of the RERC's activities that applicants under each priority must address has been revised to require applicants to include their plans to involve people with disabilities in their proposals.

Comment: One commenter suggested that all RERC applicants should be required to include plans to disseminate their research results in their proposal, as opposed to being required to develop these plans after receiving an award.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that all RERC applicants should include plans to disseminate their research results in their proposals. These dissemination plans will be evaluated by the peer review panel using the Department's Design of dissemination activities selection criteria in 34 CFR 350.54(g).

Changes: The RERC requirement pertaining to dissemination plans that applicants under each priority must address has been revised to require applicants to include their plans to disseminate research results in their proposals.

Comment: One commenter suggested that all RERC applicants should be required to include their plans to transfer developed technologies to the marketplace in their proposals, as opposed to being required to develop these plans after receiving an award.

Discussion: The RERC priorities contain a requirement that each RERC must have the capability to assist in the transfer of successful solutions to relevant production and service delivery settings. The applicant's response to this requirement in its application will be considered as part of the peer reviewers' review of the applicant's proposed development activities. NIDRR believes that, with this

information, the peer reviewers will be able to evaluate whether the applicant has the capability to transfer developed technologies to the marketplace.

Changes: None.

RERC for Technologies for Successful Aging (designated as Priority 13 in the NPP)

Comment: One commenter urged NIDRR to incorporate the principles of universal design in the priority for the RERC for Technologies for Successful Aging.

Discussion: NIDRR has long supported and advocated the principles of universal design and agrees that this priority should address the importance of universal design in product research and development.

Changes: We have revised this priority to require grantees to emphasize the principles of universal design in their product research and development.

Comment: One commenter suggested that this priority should include a focus on assistive technologies for cognition.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that an RERC funded under this priority may research, develop, and evaluate assistive technologies for cognition. An applicant could propose activities that focus on assistive technologies for cognition and the peer review process will evaluate the merits of the applicant's proposal.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter stated that this priority should require applicants to address human-technology interfaces or operating controls for persons with vision impairment.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that human-technology interfaces are critical for device utility. An applicant could propose activities that include the research, development, or evaluation of human-technology interfaces or operating controls for persons with vision impairment and the peer review process will evaluate the merits of the applicant's proposal.

Changes: None.

RERC for Wheelchair Transportation Safety (designated as Priority 14 in the NPP)

Comment: Four commenters stated that the priority for the RERC for Wheelchair Transportation Safety needed an additional statement to clarify the intent of the priority.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that the addition of a qualifying statement will help clarify the intent of this priority. The intent of this priority is to improve the safety and independence of wheelchair users who remain seated in their wheelchairs while using public and private transportation services.

Changes: The priority has been revised to emphasize that the focus of the RERC's activities on wheeled mobility devices and wheelchair seating systems must relate to their use in the transportation environment.

Comment: One commenter stated that this priority should require applicants to improve the state of the science, design guidelines and performance standards, and usability of wheelchair securement and occupant restraint systems.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that improvement in the state of the science, design guidelines and performance standards, and usability of wheelchair securement and occupant restraint systems would be beneficial to persons using wheelchairs. Nothing in this priority prohibits an applicant from proposing activities that improve the state of the science, design guidelines and performance standards, and usability of wheelchair securement and occupant restraint systems. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of each applicant's proposal.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter stated that this priority should address the safe use of scooters and large wheelchairs in transportation environments.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that the increased use of scooters and large wheelchairs in the transportation environment deserves attention. An applicant could propose activities that include research and evaluation of scooter and large wheelchair use in transportation environments; the peer review process will evaluate the merits of each applicant's proposal.

Changes: None.

RERC for Wireless Technologies (designated as Priority 15 in the NPP)

Comment: One commenter urged NIDRR to incorporate the principles of universal design in the priority for the RERC for Wireless Technologies.
Discussion: NIDRR has long supported and advocated the principles of universal design and agrees that this priority should address the importance of universal design in product research and development.
Changes: We have revised this priority to require grantees to emphasize the principles of universal design in their product research and development.

Note: This notice does not solicit applications. In any year in which we choose to use one or more of these priorities, we invite applications through a notice in the Federal Register. When inviting applications we designate each priority as absolute, competitive preference, or invitational. The effect of each type of priority follows:

Absolute priority: Under an absolute priority, we consider only applications that meet the priority (34 CFR 75.105(c)(3)).

Competitive preference priority: Under a competitive preference priority, we give competitive preference to an application by either (1) awarding additional points, depending on how well or the extent to which the application meets the competitive preference priority (34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i)); or (2) selecting an application that meets the competitive preference priority over an application of comparable merit that does not meet the priority (34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(ii)).

Invitational priority: Under an invitational priority, we are particularly interested in applications that meet the invitational priority. However, we do not give an application that meets the invitational priority a competitive or absolute preference over other applications (34 CFR 75.105(c)(1)).

Note: This NFP is in concert with President George W. Bush's New Freedom Initiative (NFI) and NIDRR's Final Long-Range Plan for FY 2005-2009 (Plan). The NFI can be accessed on the Internet at the following site:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/newfreedom

The Plan, which was published in the Federal Register on February 15, 2006 (71 FR 8165), can be accessed on the Internet at the following site: http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/nidrr/policy.html.

Through the implementation of the NFI and the Plan, NIDRR seeks to-- (1) Improve the quality and utility of disability and rehabilitation research; (2) Foster an exchange of expertise, information, and training to facilitate the advancement of knowledge and understanding of the unique needs of traditionally underserved populations; (3) Determine best strategies and programs to improve rehabilitation outcomes for underserved populations; (4) Identify research gaps; (5) Identify mechanisms of integrating research and practice; and (6) Disseminate findings.

PRIORITIES:

Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Program

The purpose of the DRRP program is to plan and conduct research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities, and to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. DRRPs carry out one or more of the following types of activities, as specified and defined in 34 CFR 350.13 through 350.19: research, development, demonstration, training, dissemination, utilization, and technical assistance.

An applicant for assistance under this program must demonstrate in its application how it will address, in whole or in part, the needs of individuals with disabilities from minority backgrounds (34 CFR 350.40(a)). The approaches an applicant may take to meet this requirement are found in 34 CFR 350.40(b). In addition, NIDRR intends to require all DRRP applicants to meet the requirements of the General DRRP Requirements priority that it published in a notice of final priorities in the Federal Register on April 28, 2006 (71 FR 25472).

Additional information on the DRRP program can be found at: http://www.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/res-program.html#DRRP

Rehabilitation of Children with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

Priority:

The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services establishes a priority for the funding of a Disability Rehabilitation Research Project (DRRP) on the Rehabilitation of Children with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Under this priority, the DRRP must be designed to contribute to the following outcomes:

(a) Improved physical, cognitive, social/behavioral, family, educational, or employment outcomes for children with TBI by developing or testing rehabilitation interventions, the measures needed to assess the effectiveness of rehabilitation interventions, or both.

(b) Improved transition of children from health care facilities to school and community by developing or testing effective transition strategies, the measures needed to assess the effectiveness of transition strategies, or both.

(c) Improved TBI screening and special education services for children by developing or testing methods and procedures for use in school settings.

Reducing Obesity and Obesity-Related Secondary Conditions in Adolescents and Adults with Disabilities

Priority:

The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services establishes a priority for the funding of a Disability Rehabilitation Research Project (DRRP) on Disability and Obesity: Reducing Obesity and Obesity-Related Secondary Conditions in Adolescents and Adults with Disabilities. Under this priority, the DRRP must be designed to contribute to the following outcomes:

(a) Enhanced understanding of the antecedents and consequences of obesity as a secondary condition among adolescents, adults, or both adolescents and adults with different types of pre-existing physical, sensory, cognitive, and behavioral-health impairments.

(b) Improved obesity screening and diagnosis among adolescents, adults or both adolescents and adults with different types of disabilities by developing or testing effective screening and diagnostic methods and procedures.

(c) Improved outcomes for adolescents, adults, or both adolescents and adults with disabilities with obesity by development or testing of prevention strategies and treatments.

Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC) Priority:

The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services establishes a priority for the funding of a Disability Rehabilitation Research Project to serve as the Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC). Under this priority, the MSKTC must be designed to contribute to the following outcomes:

(a) Enhanced understanding of the quality and relevance of NIDRR's Spinal Cord Injury (SCI), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and Burn Injury (Burn) Model Systems Programs' findings. The MSKTC must contribute to this outcome by identifying and applying appropriate standards and methods for conducting research syntheses. This will allow the Model Systems Programs to bridge gaps in evidence-based practice and research.

(b) Enhanced knowledge of advances in SCI, TBI, and Burn research among consumers, clinicians, and other end users of such information. The MSKTC must contribute to this outcome by (1) identifying effective strategies for, and guiding targeted dissemination of, SCI, TBI, and Burn Model Systems Programs' findings about available services and interventions for individuals with SCI, TBI, and Burn; and (2) developing partnerships and collaborating with key constituencies, other NIDRR-funded projects (e.g., the National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research and the National Rehabilitation Information Center), and groups conducting similar work.

(c) Centralization of SCI, TBI, and Burn Model Systems resources for effective and uniform dissemination and technical assistance. The MSKTC must contribute to this outcome by serving as a centralized resource for the SCI, TBI, and Burn Model Systems Centers.

Assistive Technology (AT) Outcomes Research Project Priority:

The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services establishes a priority for the funding of a Disability Rehabilitation Research Project (DRRP) for an Assistive Technology (AT)

Outcomes Research Project. Under this priority, the DRRP must be designed to contribute to the following outcomes:

(a) Improvement of the AT field's ability to measure the impact of AT on the lives of people with disabilities by continuing to develop AT outcomes measures and measurement systems.

(b) Improvement of the AT field's ability to measure the impact of AT on the lives of people with disabilities by developing validated methods for measuring and classifying AT interventions, including key characteristics of both the AT device and AT provision (e.g., setting, assessment, fit/customization, user-training, and device maintenance).

(c) Enhanced understanding of the impact of AT on the lives of people with disabilities by conducting at least one research project that systematically applies state-of-the-science measures of AT interventions, outcomes, and data collections mechanisms.

(d) Collaboration with the relevant NIDRR-sponsored projects, such as the Rehabilitation Research Training Center on Measuring Rehabilitation Outcomes and relevant projects within the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center program, as identified through consultation with the NIDRR project officer.

Mobility Aids and Wayfinding Technologies for Individuals With Blindness and Low Vision

Priority:

The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services establishes a priority for the funding of a Disability Rehabilitation Research Project (DRRP) on Mobility Aids and Wayfinding Technologies for Individuals With Blindness and Low Vision. To meet this priority, the DRRP must be designed to contribute to the following outcomes:

(a) Effective technology solutions and intervention approaches that can enable blind and low vision individuals to safely and independently navigate their surroundings. The DRRP must contribute to this outcome by identifying or developing and testing methods, models, and measures that will inform the technology solutions and intervention approaches.

(b) Improved understanding about the effectiveness of wayfinding technology and orientation and mobility (O&M) techniques for navigation and travel problems. The DRRP must be designed to contribute to this outcome by, at a minimum, conducting comparative analysis of outcomes for specific subpopulations of individuals with blindness and low vision who use O&M techniques and wayfinding technology.

(c) Increased technical and scientific knowledge about the applications of navigation and travel technologies for individuals with blindness and low vision, leading to more effective use of technologies and intervention strategies, through the development of knowledge translation and utilization activities.

(d) Coordination of research activities. The DRRP must contribute to this outcome by collaborating and consulting with relevant Federal agencies responsible for the administration of public laws that address access to and usability of transportation and transit-related systems and environmental structures for individuals with disabilities, such as the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and relevant NIDRR-funded research projects as identified through consultation with the NIDRR project officer.

Improving Employment Outcomes for the Low Functioning Deaf (LFD) Population

Priority:

The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services establishes a priority for the funding of a Disability Rehabilitation Research Project (DRRP) on Improving Employment Outcomes for the Low Functioning Deaf (LFD) Population. Under this priority, the DRRP must be designed to contribute to the following outcomes:

(a) Enhanced knowledge about the unique functional and communication characteristics of the LFD population and the extent to which these characteristics affect disability and rehabilitation outcomes, including labor force participation and employment preparation. The DRRP must contribute to this outcome by developing and testing protocols that accurately measure population characteristics; and

psychometrically sound instruments that measure predictors of disability, rehabilitation, and employment outcomes.

(b) Improved employment outcomes and reduction of barriers to labor force participation for individuals who are LFD. The DRRP must contribute to this outcome by developing theory-based intervention strategies and methods that help to enhance functional skills, social interaction, communication and literacy competencies, and scientifically-sound approaches for identifying barriers to labor force participation.

(c) Collaboration with NIDRR-sponsored projects, including the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) on Measuring Rehabilitation Outcomes and other relevant projects within NIDRR's RRTC and Field Initiated programs.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)

RRTCs conduct coordinated and integrated advanced programs of research targeted toward the production of new knowledge to improve rehabilitation methodology and service delivery systems, alleviate or stabilize disability conditions, or promote maximum social and economic independence for persons with disabilities. Additional information on the RRTC program can be found at:

http://www.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/res-program.html#RRTC

General Requirements of RRTCs

RRTCs must--

- Carry out coordinated advanced programs of rehabilitation research;
- Provide training, including graduate, pre-service, and in-service training, to help rehabilitation personnel more effectively provide rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities;
- Provide technical assistance to individuals with disabilities, their representatives, providers, and other interested parties;
- Demonstrate in their applications how they will address, in whole or in part, the needs of individuals with disabilities from minority backgrounds;
- Disseminate informational materials to individuals with disabilities, their representatives, providers, and other interested parties; and

- Serve as centers of national excellence in rehabilitation research for individuals with disabilities, their representatives, providers, and other interested parties.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) on Effective Independent and Community Living Solutions and Measures Priority:

The Assistant Secretary establishes a priority for the funding of a Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) on Effective Independent and Community Living Solutions and Measures. To meet this priority, the RRTC's research must be designed to contribute to the following outcomes:

(a) Enhanced participation by individuals with disabilities at home, in the community, or in educational or workplace activities through development of effective theory-based intervention methods and outcome measures.

(b) Improved intervention approaches and guidelines that help to remove or reduce barriers to full community integration and participation for individuals with disabilities. The RRTC must contribute to this outcome by conducting rigorous research examining the implementation of the Olmstead v. L.C. (527 U.S. 581) decision and practices that serve as facilitators or barriers to independent and community living.

(c) Improved understanding about the economic utility of existing or proposed policies and practices to maximize independence and participation for individuals with disabilities through development of scientifically sound, valid and reliable methods and measures to assess these policies and practices.

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers Program

General Requirements of Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs)

RERCs carry out research or demonstration activities in support of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, by--

- Developing and disseminating innovative methods of applying advanced technology, scientific achievement, and psychological and social knowledge to (a) solve rehabilitation problems and remove environmental

barriers and (b) study and evaluate new or emerging technologies, products, or environments and their effectiveness and benefits; or

- Demonstrating and disseminating (a) innovative models for the delivery of cost-effective rehabilitation technology services to rural and urban areas and (b) other scientific research to assist in meeting the employment and independent living needs of individuals with severe disabilities; or

- Facilitating service delivery systems change through (a) the development, evaluation, and dissemination of consumer-responsive and individual and family-centered innovative models for the delivery to both rural and urban areas of innovative cost-effective rehabilitation technology services and (b) other scientific research to assist in meeting the employment and independence needs of individuals with severe disabilities.

Each RERC must provide training opportunities, in conjunction with institutions of higher education and nonprofit organizations, to assist individuals, including individuals with disabilities, to become rehabilitation technology researchers and practitioners.

Additional information on the RERC program can be found at: http://www.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/index.html

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs) for Technologies for Successful Aging, Wheelchair Transportation Safety, and Wireless Technologies

Priorities:

The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services establishes the following three priorities for the funding of (a) an RERC for Technologies for Successful Aging, (b) an RERC for Wheelchair Transportation Safety, and (c) an RERC for Wireless Technologies. Within its designated priority research area, each RERC will focus on innovative technological solutions, new knowledge, and concepts that will improve the lives of persons with disabilities.

(a) RERC for Technologies for Successful Aging. Under this priority, the RERC must research, develop and evaluate innovative technologies and approaches that will improve the quality of life of older persons with disabilities and promote health, safety, independence,

and active engagement. The RERC must emphasize the principles of universal design in its product research and development.

(b) RERC for Wheelchair Transportation Safety. Under this priority, the RERC must research, develop, and evaluate innovative technologies and strategies that will improve the safety and independence of wheelchair users who remain seated in their wheelchairs while using public and private transportation services. The RERC must research and develop innovative technologies and strategies that will improve the current state of the science, design guidelines and performance standards, and usability of wheeled mobility devices and wheelchair seating systems for use in the transportation environment.

(c) RERC for Wireless Technologies. Under this priority, the RERC must research, develop, and evaluate innovative technologies that facilitate equitable access to, and use of, future generations of wireless technologies for individuals with disabilities of all ages. The RERC must emphasize the principles of universal design in its product research and development.

Under each priority, the RERC must be designed to contribute to the following programmatic outcomes:

(1) Increased technical and scientific knowledge-base relevant to its designated priority research area.

(2) Innovative technologies, products, environments, performance guidelines, and monitoring and assessment tools as applicable to its designated priority research area. The RERC must contribute to this outcome by developing and testing of these innovations.

(3) Improved research capacity in its designated priority research area. The RERC must contribute to this outcome by collaborating with the relevant industry, professional associations, and institutions of higher education.

(4) Improved focus on cutting edge developments in technologies within its designated priority research area. The RERC must contribute to this outcome by identifying and communicating with NIDRR and the field regarding trends and evolving product concepts related to its designated priority research area.

(5) Increased impact of research in the designated priority research area. The RERC must contribute to this outcome by providing technical assistance to public and private organizations, persons with disabilities, and employers on policies, guidelines, and standards related to its designated priority research area.

In addition, under each priority, the RERC must--

- Have the capability to design, build, and test prototype devices and assist in the transfer of successful solutions to relevant production and service delivery settings;
- Evaluate the efficacy and safety of its new products, instrumentation, or assistive devices;
- Provide as part of its proposal and then implement a plan that describes how it will include, as appropriate, individuals with disabilities or their representatives in all phases of its activities, including research, development, training, dissemination, and evaluation;
- Provide as part of its proposal and then implement, in consultation with the NIDRR-funded National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research, a plan to disseminate its research results to persons with disabilities, their representatives, disability organizations, service providers, professional journals, manufacturers, and other interested parties;
- Develop and implement in the first year of the project period, in consultation with the NIDRR-funded RERC on Technology Transfer, a plan for ensuring that all new and improved technologies developed by the RERC are successfully transferred to the marketplace;
- Conduct a state-of-the-science conference on its designated priority research area in the third year of the project period and publish a comprehensive report on the final outcomes of the conference in the fourth year of the project period; and
- Coordinate research projects of mutual interest with relevant NIDRR-funded projects, as identified through consultation with the NIDRR project officer.

Executive Order 12866

This NFP has been reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 12866. Under the terms of the order, we have assessed the potential costs and benefits of this regulatory action.

The potential costs associated with this NFP are those resulting from statutory requirements and those we have determined as necessary for administering this program effectively and efficiently.

In assessing the potential costs and benefits -- both quantitative and qualitative -- of this NFP, we have determined that the benefits of the final priorities justify the costs.

Summary of potential costs and benefits:

The potential costs associated with these final priorities are minimal while the benefits are significant. Grantees may incur some costs associated with completing the application process in terms of staff time, copying, and mailing or delivery. The use of e-Application technology reduces mailing and copying costs significantly.

The benefits of the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Programs have been well established over the years in that similar projects have been completed successfully. These final priorities will generate new knowledge and technologies through research, development, dissemination, utilization, and technical assistance projects.

Another benefit of these final priorities is that the establishment of new DRRPs, a new RRTC, and new RERCs will support the President's NFI and will improve the lives of persons with disabilities. The new DRRPs, RRTC, and RERCs will generate, disseminate, and promote the use of new information that will improve the options for individuals with disabilities.

Applicable Program Regulations: 34 CFR part 350.

Electronic Access to This Document

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www.ed.gov/news/fedregister

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www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers 84.133A Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects, 84.133B Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers Program, and 84.133E Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers Program)

PROGRAM AUTHORITY: 29 U.S.C. 762(g), 764(a), 764(b)(2), and 764(b)(3).

Dated: June 2, 2006

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John H. Hager,
Assistant Secretary for
Special Education and
Rehabilitative Services.

SECTION
D

PRIORITY 1
General Requirements For Each DRRP

Priority 1--General Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Requirements

Background:

NIDRR proposes the following General DRRP Requirements priority because it believes that the effectiveness of any DRRP (including any DBTAC) depends on, among other things, how well the DRRP coordinates its research efforts with the research of other NIDRR-funded projects, involves individuals with disabilities in its activities, and identifies specific anticipated outcomes that are linked to its objectives in applying for DRRP funding. Accordingly, NIDRR intends to use proposed Priority 1--General DRRP Requirements in conjunction with each of the other DRRP priorities proposed in this notice (i.e., priorities 2 through 11).

Priority:

To meet this priority, the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) must—

(a) Coordinate on research projects of mutual interest with relevant NIDRR-funded projects, as identified through consultation with the NIDRR project officer;

(b) Involve individuals with disabilities in planning and implementing the DRRP’s research, training, and dissemination activities, and in evaluating its work; and

(c) Identify anticipated outcomes (i.e., advances in knowledge or changes and improvements in policy, practice, behavior, and system capacity) that are linked to the applicant’s stated grant objectives.

SECTION
E

BACKGROUND STATEMENT

Priority 7--Assistive Technology (AT) Outcomes Research Project

Background

The Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended (29 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), defines an assistive technology (AT) device as "any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities" (29 U.S.C. 3001(3)(4)). AT serves a broad and diverse range of functional needs among people with an expansive range of potentially disabling conditions. AT devices and AT services are provided in many contexts, including rehabilitation programs, schools, employment programs, and residential and independent living programs.

Current NIDRR-sponsored AT Outcomes Research Projects are creating and classifying new outcomes measures to help determine and describe the impact that various AT devices and services have on the lives of people with disabilities (Jutai, Fuhrer, Demers, Scherer, & DeRuyter, 2005). While the ability to measure potential outcomes of AT use is maturing through this NIDRR-sponsored research, the ability to measure key characteristics of AT interventions is still in its infancy.

To advance AT outcomes research beyond a collection of ad hoc evaluations of specific products, it is necessary to develop a commonly shared means of classifying all aspects of AT interventions. Standardization of intervention measurement would promote the replicability of AT interventions that are shown by rigorous research to be associated with positive outcomes. A valid classification of AT interventions would capture key characteristics of the device or device-type being provided, as well as information about key characteristics of AT provision,

including setting, assessment, fit/customization, user training, and device maintenance (Fuhrer, 2001; Edyburn, 2003).

In addition to the creation and classification of new outcomes measures, current AT Outcomes Research Project grantees have developed conceptual frameworks to guide future AT outcomes research (Fuhrer, Jutai, Scherer, & DeRuyter, 2003). These grantees have designed sophisticated data-collection interfaces to bring new efficiencies to the collection of data on AT interventions, key contextual factors, and outcomes. To facilitate the development of rigorous evidence-based knowledge in the AT field, these conceptual frameworks and data collection technologies must be applied more broadly and systematically. More systematic application of these tools would allow the AT field to move beyond a series of limited ad hoc evaluations of single AT products, towards a scientific body of knowledge regarding expected outcomes associated with the delivery of a wide variety of AT interventions.

References:

Edyburn, D. (2003). Measuring Assistive Technology Outcomes: Key Concepts. Journal of Special Education Technology. 18(1): 53-55.

Fuhrer, M., Jutai, J., Scherer, M., & DeRuyter, F. (2003). “A Framework for the Conceptual Modeling of Assistive Technology Device Outcomes.” Disability and Rehabilitation. 25: 1243-1251.

Fuhrer, M. (2001). Assistive Technology Outcomes Research: Challenges Met and Yet Unmet. American Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. 80(7): 528-535;

Jutai, J., Fuhrer, M., Demers, L., Scherer, M., & DeRuyter, F. (2005). Toward a Taxonomy of Assistive Technology Device Outcomes. American Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. 84(4): 294-302.

SECTION
F

SECTION CRITERIA

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Secretary uses the following criteria to evaluate an application for Priority 7: Assistive Technology Outcomes

(a) **Importance of the problem. (5 points total)**.

(1) The Secretary considers the importance of the problem.

(2) In determining the importance of the problem, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the applicant clearly describes the need and target population **(3 points)**.

(ii) The extent to which the proposed activities address a significant need of one or more disabled populations **(2 points)**.

(b) **Responsiveness to an absolute or competitive priority (8 points total)**.

(1) The Secretary considers the responsiveness of the application to an absolute or competitive priority published in the Federal Register.

(2) In determining the application's responsiveness to the absolute or competitive priority, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the applicant addresses all requirements of the absolute or competitive priority (**4 points**).

(ii) The extent to which the applicant's proposed activities are likely to achieve the purposes of the absolute or competitive priority (**4 points**).

(c) **Design of research activities (40 points total)**.

(1) The Secretary considers the extent to which the design of research activities is likely to be effective in accomplishing the objectives of the project.

(2) In determining the extent to which the design is likely to be effective in accomplishing the objectives of the project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the research activities constitute a coherent, sustained approach to research in the field, including a substantial addition to the state-of-the-art (**6 points**).

(ii) The extent to which the methodology of each proposed research activity is meritorious, including consideration of the extent to which--

(A) The proposed design includes a comprehensive and informed review of the current literature, demonstrating knowledge of the state-of-the-art (**5 points**).

(B) Each research hypothesis is theoretically sound and based on current knowledge (**5 points**).

(C) Each sample population is appropriate and of sufficient size (**8 points**).

(D) The data collection and measurement techniques are appropriate and likely to be effective (**8 points**); and

(E) The data analysis methods are appropriate (**8 points**).

(d) **Design of dissemination activities (8 points total)**.

(1) The Secretary considers the extent to which the design of dissemination activities is likely to be effective in accomplishing the objectives of the project.

(2) In determining the extent to which the design is likely to be effective in accomplishing the objectives of the project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the methods for dissemination are of sufficient quality, intensity, and duration (**5 points**).

(ii) The extent to which the information to be disseminated will be accessible to individuals with disabilities (**3 points**).

(e) **Plan of operation (7 points total).**

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the plan of operation.

(2) In determining the quality of the plan of operation, the Secretary considers the following factor:

(i) The adequacy of the plan of operation to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, and timelines for accomplishing project tasks (**7 points**).

(f) **Collaboration (4 points total)**.

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of collaboration.

(2) In determining the quality of collaboration, the Secretary considers the extent to which the applicant's proposed collaboration with one or more agencies, organizations, or institutions is likely to be effective in achieving the relevant proposed activities of the project (**4 points**).

(g) **Adequacy and reasonableness of the budget (4 points total)**.

(1) The Secretary considers the adequacy and the reasonableness of the proposed budget.

(2) In determining the adequacy and the reasonableness of the proposed budget, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the costs are reasonable in relation to the proposed project activities (**2 points**).

(ii) The extent to which the budget for the project, including any subcontracts, is adequately justified to support the proposed project activities (**2 points**).

(h) **Plan of evaluation (10 points total)**.

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the plan of evaluation.

(2) In determining the quality of the plan of evaluation, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the plan of evaluation provides for periodic assessment of progress toward--

(A) Implementing the plan of operation (**5 points**); and

(B) Achieving the project's intended outcomes and expected impacts (**5 points**).

(i) **Project staff (10 points total)**.

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the project staff.

(2) In determining the quality of the project staff, 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 (**4 points**).

(3) In addition, the Secretary considers the following:

(i) The extent to which the key personnel and other key staff have appropriate training and experience in disciplines required to conduct all proposed activities (**3 points**).

(ii) The extent to which the commitment of staff time is adequate to accomplish all the proposed activities of the project (**3 points**).

(j) **Adequacy and accessibility of resources (4 points)**.

(1) The Secretary considers the adequacy and accessibility of the applicant's resources to implement the proposed project.

(2) In determining the adequacy and accessibility of resources, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the applicant is committed to provide adequate facilities, equipment, other resources, including administrative support, and laboratories, if appropriate (**2 points**).

(ii) The extent to which the facilities, equipment, and other resources are appropriately accessible to individuals with disabilities who may use the facilities, equipment, and other resources of the project (**2 points**).

SECTION
G

PROTECTION OF HUMAN SUBJECTS

Protection of Human Subjects

Research activities involving human subjects supported by awards under these programs are subject to Department of Education Regulations for the Protection of Human Subjects.

If you are applying on Grants.gov there is a separate place to include exempt and non-exempt narratives.

Applicants answering "Yes" to item 3 on form ED Supplemental to the SF 424 on Grants.gov or item 13 on form ED 424 whose research activities are nonexempt must complete the seven-point narrative on protection of human subjects. Additionally, seven point narratives are required for each participating partner if research is being conducted at other sites.

Copies of the Department of Education regulations for the Protection of Human Subjects are available from the Grants Policy and Oversight Staff (GPOS), Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Washington, D.C., telephone: (202) 245-6154 and on the Protection of Human Subjects in research Web Site at:

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

SECTION
H

APPLICATION FORMAT

APPLICATION FORMAT

Applications for an award must be postmarked or hand delivered by the closing date of **Friday, July 21, 2006.**

It is recommended that your electronic (Grants.gov) or paper application be organized in the following manner and include the following:

Note: In Grants.gov the forms will appear in the order that they are built in the template- so they won't be the exact order below and the applicant won't be able to change the order.

1. **Application for Federal Education Assistance (Form ED 424-paper submission or SF 424 -electronic submission)**
   - This application cover sheet requires basic identifying information about the applicant and the application.
   - Applicants should clearly indicate, in block #4 (ED 424) of this form, the CFDA number of the program (84.133A-8). If this information is not provided, your application may be assigned and reviewed under a different program. Grants.gov will pre-populate block 11 of the SF 424.

2. **Table of Contents**
   - The Table of Contents shows where and how the important sections of your proposal are organized.
   - While the application will be submitted electronically, the reviewers will use printed copies during the review process. The Table of Contents will assist them in more efficiently and effectively evaluating your application.
   - If applying through Grants.gov use the Project Narrative Attachments form to attach your Table of Contents.

3. **Project Abstract**
   - The ONE-PAGE abstract should be a comprehensive description of what the whole (all years) project is, not a description of the competency of the institution or project director. It is not an executive summary. It can be single or double-spaced.
   - If applying through Grants.gov use the ED Abstract form to attach your abstract.

4. **Budget Form and Information (ED 524)**
   - Remember that you must provide complete budget information for each year of the proposed project.
   - Please report on any Federal and Non-Federal funds that will be used.
   - Specific instructions for completing the budget forms are provided within this application package.

     Name: Enter the Name of the applicant organization(s) or institution(s) in the space provided.

     Personnel (Line 1): Enter project personnel salaries and wages only. Include fees and expenses for consultants on line 6.

Fringe Benefits (Line 2): The institution's normal fringe benefits contribution may be charged to the program. Leave this line blank if fringe benefits applicable to direct salaries and wages are treated as part of the indirect cost.

Travel (Line 3): Indicate the travel costs of employees and participants only. Include travel of persons such as consultants and trainees on line 6.

Equipment (Line 4): Indicate the cost of tangible, non-expendable personal property that has a usefulness greater than one year and acquisition costs that are the lesser of the capitalization level established by the applicant entity for financial statement purposes or $5,000 per article. Lower limits may be established to maintain consistency with the applicant's policy.

Supplies (line 5): Show all tangible personal property except that on line 4.

Contractual (line 6): The contractual category should include all costs specifically incurred with actions that the applicant takes in conjunction with an established internal procurement system. Include consultant fees, expenses, and travel costs in this category if the consultant's services are obtained through a written binding agreement or contract.

Construction (line 7): Not applicable.

Other (line 8): Indicate all direct costs not covered on lines 1-6. For example, include costs such as space rental, required fees, honoraria and travel (where a contract in not in place for services), stipends, training, and communication and printing costs.

Total Direct Costs (line 9): The sum of lines 1-8.

Indirect Costs (line 10): There is no restricted indirect cost rate for this program. You should use your federal negotiated indirect cost rate.

Training Stipends (line 11): There are three types of projects that might included budget requests for stipends, tuition allowance, or other types of similar charges to support the objectives of the project:

- Fellowship or Scholarship Programs
- Educational Training Projects
- Projects where students receive tuition remission or other forms of compensation, as, or in lieu of wages.

Total Cost (line 12): This should equal to sum of lines 9-11 (total direct costs + indirect + stipends). The sum for column one, labeled *Project Year 1* (a), should also be equal to item 13a on the application cover sheet (ED Form 424).

5. Budget Narrative

- This part requires an itemized budget breakdown for the project year and the basis for estimating the costs of personnel salaries, benefits, project staff travel, materials

and supplies, consultants and subcontracts, indirect costs and any other projected expenditures.

- Descriptions of purchases may be included but are not required.
- If applying through Grants.gov use the Budget Narrative Attachment form to attach your detailed budget narrative/justification.

6. Application Narrative

- The application narrative responds to the selection criteria found in Section F of this application package. The reviewers will use this section to evaluate your application.
- If applying through Grants.gov use the Project Narrative Attachment form to attach your narrative.

Each applicant is encouraged to limit the application narrative to the equivalent of no more than 125 pages and adhere to the following guidelines:

- 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. Single space may be used for Titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.
- Use a font that is either 12-point or larger or no smaller than 10-pitch (characters per inch).

The recommended page limit does not apply to the cover sheet; the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; the assurances and certifications; or the one page abstract, the resumes, the bibliography, or the letters of support.

7. Vitae/Bibliography/Letters of Support

- Vitae of staff or consultants should include the individual's title and role in the proposed project, and other information that is specifically pertinent to this proposed project. The budgets for all years should be included.
- If applying through Grants.gov use the Other Narrative Attachment form to attach your vitaes.
- If collaboration with another organization is involved in the proposed activity, the application should include assurances of participation by the other parties, including written agreements or assurances of cooperation.

8 Assurances, Certifications, Disclosures

- Assurances - Non-Construction Programs; Certifications Regarding Lobbying; or Grants.gov Lobbying form

SECTION
I

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

POINTS TO REMEMBER IN APPLICATION PREPARATION

DUNS NUMBER INSTRUCTIONS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. CAN I GET AN EXTENSION OF THE DUE DATE?

On rare occasions the Department of Education may extend a closing date for all applicants. If that occurs, a notice of the revised due date is published in the Federal Register. However, there are no extensions or exceptions to the due date made for individual applicants. Additionally, there are provisions for extension for e-applications, per the guidance included in this application package.

2. WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE APPLICATION?

The application should include a project narrative, vitae of key personnel, and a budget, as well as the Assurances forms in this package. Vitae of staff or consultants should include the individual's title and role in the proposed project, and other information that is specifically pertinent to this proposed project. The budgets for all years should be included. If collaboration with another organization is involved in the proposed activity, the application should include assurances of participation by the other parties, including written agreements or assurances of cooperation. It is not useful to include general letters of support or endorsement in the application. If the applicant proposes to use unique tests or other measurement instruments that are not widely known in the field, it would be helpful to include the instrument in the application. Many applications contain voluminous appendices that are not helpful and in many cases cannot even be mailed to the reviewers. It is generally not helpful to include such things as brochures, general capability statements of collaborating organizations, maps, copies of publications, or descriptions of other projects completed by the applicant.

3. WHAT FORMAT SHOULD BE USED FOR THE APPLICATION?

NIDRR generally advises applicants that they may organize the application to follow the selection criteria that will be used. The project narrative should address the specific selection criteria for research or development projects. The specific review criteria vary according to the specific program, and are contained in this application package. Additionally, applicants should provide clearly stated hypotheses, goals, objectives, expected outcomes, and public benefit of the research or development project. The application should be organized to provide a thorough description of the methods and target population(s) and supported by evidence of need for the research or development project, as identified in the research literature; citations are useful and may strengthen the proposal. The specific review criteria vary according to the specific program, and are contained in this application package.

4. MAY I SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO MORE THAN ONE NIDRR PROGRAM COMPETITION OR MORE THAN ONE APPLICATION TO A PROGRAM?

Yes, you may submit applications to any program for which they are responsive to the program requirements. You may submit the same application to as many competitions as you believe appropriate. You may also submit more than one application in any given competition.

5. WHAT IS THE ALLOWABLE INDIRECT COST RATE?

The limits on indirect costs vary according to the program and the type of application. The 84.133A project program should limit indirect charges to the organization's approved rate. If the organization does not have an approved rate, the application should include an estimated actual rate. The maximum amount includes both the direct and indirect costs.

6. CAN PROFITMAKING BUSINESSES APPLY FOR GRANTS?

Yes, however, for-profit organizations will not be able to collect a fee or profit on the grant. It varies by program.

7. CAN INDIVIDUALS APPLY FOR GRANTS?

No. Only organizations are eligible to apply for grants under NIDRR programs with one exception. Only individuals are eligible to apply for fellowships (84.133F).

8. CAN NIDRR STAFF ADVISE ME WHETHER MY PROJECT IS OF INTEREST TO NIDRR OR LIKELY TO BE FUNDED?

No. NIDRR staff can advise you of the requirements of the program in which you propose to submit your application. However, staff cannot advise you of whether your subject area or proposed approach is likely to receive approval.

9. HOW DO I ASSURE THAT MY APPLICATION WILL BE REFERRED TO THE MOST APPROPRIATE PANEL FOR REVIEW?

Applicants should be sure that their applications are referred to the correct competition by clearly including the competition title and CFDA number, including alphabetical code, on the Standard Form 424, and include a project title that describes the project.

10. HOW SOON AFTER SUBMITTING MY APPLICATION CAN I FIND OUT IF IT WILL BE FUNDED?

The time from closing date to grant award date varies from program to program. Generally speaking, NIDRR endeavors to have awards made within five to six months of the closing date. Unsuccessful applicants generally will be notified within that time frame as well. For the purpose of estimating a project start date, the applicant should estimate approximately six months from the closing date, but no later than the following September 30.

11. CAN I CALL NIDRR TO FIND OUT IF MY APPLICATION IS BEING FUNDED?

No. When NIDRR is able to release information on the status of grant applications, it will notify applicants by letter. The results of the peer review cannot be released except through this formal notification.

12. IF MY APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL, CAN I ASSUME I WILL GET THE REQUESTED BUDGET AMOUNT IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS?

No. Funding in subsequent years is subject to availability of funds and project performance.

13. WILL ALL APPROVED APPLICATIONS BE FUNDED?

No. It often happens that the peer review panels result in more applications being determined to be worthy of consideration for funding than NIDRR can fund within available resources. Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to consider submitting applications in future competitions.

POINTS TO REMEMBER IN APPLICATION PREPARATION

RELEVANT TO PROGRAM

1. CFDA Number: In the title block on the 424 form, please note the appropriate CFDA 84.133A. For electronic submissions, you must download the correct application package from Grants.gov, Funding Opportunity number **ED-GRANTS- 060206-001 (AT Outcomes).**

2. Indirect Cost: There is no restricted indirect cost rate for this program. You should use your federal negotiated indirect cost rate. Indirect cost office: http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/fipao/icgindex.html

3. Application Narrative - Organize your narrative in accordance with the selection criteria in Section F of this package. Address all criteria. Include a table of contents in your application in order to highlight where the application narrative can be found in the application. If applying through Grants.gov use the Project Narrative form to attach your narrative. We recommend that you limit the application narrative to the equivalent of no more than 125 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. Single space may be used for Titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs. Use a font that is either 12-point or larger or no smaller than 10-pitch (characters per inch).

Closing Date/Transmittal of Application

4. Applications must be postmarked by the closing date of **Friday, July 21, 2006, if submitting in paper**. Follow the transmittal instructions for submitting in paper or electronically found in Section J. Please include an electronic copy (disk) with your application.

5. Electronic copies must be uploaded on Grants.gov by 4:30 pm, Washington DC time on the closing date and then processed by Grants.gov successfully. Please allow several hours or a full day for this process, if there is a submission error time will be needed to correct the error and resubmit to meet the deadline. For additional information on electronic submission procedures, see the section J. A copy of your application should not be emailed directly to the Department. Must submit it electronically via Grants.gov

Forms

ED 424 **(If applying by paper)**

6. CFDA Number: In the title block of #4 on the 424 form, please note the appropriate CFDA.

7. DUNS number: It is important to verify with your fiscal office the DUNS number, which goes in Block #2 on the ED 424 form. If you do not have one, call 1-800-333-0505 to set one up. This number is required.

8. Novice applicant. Please leave Block #6 blank. Does not apply to NIDRR programs.

9. EO 12372: Mark Block #11, the EO 12372 as no and not covered. This program is not covered.

10. Human Subjects: Remember to include a seven-point narrative on the protection of Human Subjects as it pertains to your grant if you check "yes" on ED 424 block number 13. You must include a separate narrative for each site where the research is being conducted. If you check "no" please include a paragraph of why it is not required.

11. Block # 15a : The total amount requested includes both direct and indirect costs for the first year only. The totals on the ED 524 form must include direct and indirect costs and no year can be over the maximum amount.

SF 424 and ED Supplemental **(If applying through Grants.gov)**

12. DUNS #: You must enter the DUNS number for your organization used when it registered with the Central Contractor Registry.

13. Legal Name: Block #8a is for the name of institution or entity. **Please note** the CFDA. 84.133, will automatically populate on Block #11 of the SF 424.

14. Project Director: Project director information is on the ED supplemental form in Block #1. You are the person to contact, the project director and the authorized representative.

15. Novice applicant. Block #2 on the ED Supplemental - Please leave this one blank. Does not apply to NIDRR programs.

16. Block #15a: The total amount requested includes both direct and indirect costs for the first year only. The totals on the ED 524 form must include direct and indirect costs and no year can be over the maximum amount.

17. EO 12372: Mark Block #19, the EO 12372 as b. no and not covered.

18. Human Subjects: Block #3 on the ED Supplemental. You must include a separate narrative for each site where the research is being conducted. If you check "no", please include a paragraph of why it is not required.

SF or ED 424 and ED 524

19. Budget Information: **BE SURE TO CHECK THE MATH** - the application will not be reviewed if the request for funds on block 15a of either the ED 424 or SF 424 form, the ED 524 form or the budget justifications goes over the maximum amount for any year (direct and indirect costs). A detailed budget narrative is needed for the total grant period years requested. By requesting detailed budget information in the initial application for the total project period, the need for formal non-competing continuation applications in the remaining years will be eliminated. A performance report that will be required annually will be used in place of the continuation application to determine progress.

20.Only the primary institution fills out the required forms. Any partner or collaborating groups will be a subcontractor to the primary. The only paperwork subcontractor needs to fill out is what is required by the primary institution. You should include a letter of intent in the application from any collaborating group saying that if awarded what they will be doing for your project and for what amount.

Abstract/Narrative/Appendices

21. Abstract: The ONE-PAGE abstract should be a comprehensive description of what the whole (all years) project is, not a description of the competency of the institution or project director. It is not an executive summary. It can be single or double-spaced. If applying through Grants.gov use the ED Abstract form to attach your abstract.

22. Number all pages to make it easier for the reader to refer to a page number if comments are given (including the appendices).

23. Vitae: Remember to include pertinent information in your narrative of the qualifications of the key personnel. A more extensive 2-4 page vitae can be included in the appendices. If applying through Grants.gov use the Other Narrative form to attach your vitaes.

24. Advisory Board: We suggest that you limit your list of advisory board members in the application. You can give a description of the type/qualification of the person. Remember that an extensive listing of proposed names effects our peer reviewer selection. If applying through Grants.gov use the Other Narrative form to attach your letters of commitment and vitaes.

25 Letters of Commitment/Support: If you have identified a partner, sub-contractor or consultant you should include a letter of commitment from them stating what they'll be doing on your project. We suggest that you only include key letters of support. Remember that letters of support diminish our peer reviewer pool. If applying through Grants.gov use the Other Narrative form to attach your letters.

26. 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 personal loading chart is a tabular representation of major evaluation activities by number of days spent by each key person involved in each activity.

GRANTS.GOV

27. **We strongly suggest**: (1) Read the instructions carefully; (2) Don't wait until close to the due date to set up your account - It can take five or more days to register; (3) Review the application before sending final version to ensure that all information has been uploaded correctly and completely; and (4) Submit early.

28. Electronic applications must be uploaded on Grants.gov by 4:30 pm, Washington, D.C. time on the closing date and processed by Grants.gov successfully. Please allow several hours or a full day for this process, if there is a submission error time will be needed to correct the error and resubmit to meet the deadline. For additional information on electronic submission procedures, see the transmittal section of the Notice Inviting Applications.

29. The application information will be uploaded in four areas: ED Abstract Form; Budget Narrative Attachment Form; Program Narrative Attachment Form; and Other Narrative Attachment Form. The ED Abstract Form is for the abstract. The Budget Narrative Attachment Form is for the budget justification. The Program Narrative Attachment Form is for the application narrative based on the selection criteria along with a table of contents - this section has the recommended 125-page limit recommendation. The Other Narrative Attachment Form will include vitas; letters, and any other appendices. 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 these three file types, such as Excel, or submit a password protected file, we will not review that material.

30. UNSUBMIT: Please note that Grants.gov does not allow you to unsubmit your application if you find an error before the due date and time. You will have to submit another "new" application and notify NIDRR that you have submitted two applications and which one is the "correct" one to review.

Miscellaneous Information and Reminders

31. Rehabilitation Act: To find information on the Rehab Act of 1973, as amended, as well as other NIDRR policy & legislation, go to:
http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/nidrr/policy.html

32. Help in 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.

33. 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 partner, 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).

34. 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.

35. 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. 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.

36. To see what NIDRR has funded or are currently funding on AT Outcomes, we have an on-line program directory at www.naric.com

Once there - click on NIDRR. Under grantee resources click on search for other research projects. This will connect you to the program directory. Click on search all fields then type in Assistive Technology. By clicking on a grant number you can see information on who has the grant, how to contact them and a brief description of their project. Instead of search all field you can select searching by project type – Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects.

DUNS NUMBER INSTRUCTIONS

NOTE: Check with your fiscal office to see if your institution has an assigned DUNS before contacting Dun & Bradstreet

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/duns_update/index.html

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.

Note: Electronic submission via Grants.gov must use DUNS number your organization used when it registered in the Central Contractor Registry.

SECTION

J

GRANTS.GOV SUBMISSION PROCEDURES AND TIPS FOR APPLICANTS

APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ FIRST

U.S. Department of Education
Grants.gov Submission Procedures and Tips for Applicants

Please note that the Grants.gov site works differently than the U.S. Department of Education's (Department) e-Application system. To facilitate your use of Grants.gov, this document includes important 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.

1) **REGISTER EARLY –** Grants.gov registration is a one-time process that may take five or more days to complete. You may begin working on your application while completing the registration process, but you cannot submit an application until all of the Get Started steps are complete. For detailed information on the Get Started Steps, please go to: http://www.grants.gov/GetStarted.

2) **SUBMIT EARLY – We strongly recommend that you do not wait until the last day to submit your application. Grants.gov will put a date/time stamp on your application and then process it after it is fully uploaded.** The time it takes to upload an application will vary depending on a number of factors including the size of the application and the speed of your Internet connection, and the time it takes Grants.gov to process the application will vary as well. If Grants.gov rejects your application (see step three below), you will need to resubmit successfully before 4:30 pm on the deadline date.

   Note: To submit successfully, you must provide the DUNS number on your application that was used when your organization registered with the CCR (Central Contractor Registry).

3) **VERIFY SUBMISSION IS OK –** You will want to verify that Grants.gov and the Department receive your Grants.gov submission timely and that it was validated successfully. To see the date/time your application was received, login to Grants.gov and click on the Check Application Status link. For a successful submission, the date/time received should be earlier than 4:30 p.m. on the deadline date, AND the application status should be: Validated, Received by Agency, or Agency Tracking Number Assigned.

   If the date/time received is later than 4:30 p.m. Washington, D.C. time, on the closing date, your application is late. If your application has a status of "Received" it is still awaiting validation by Grants.gov. Once validation is complete, the status will either change to "Validated" or "Rejected with Errors." If the status is "Rejected with Errors," your application has not been received successfully. Some of the reasons Grants.gov may reject an application can be found on the Grants.gov site: http://www.grants.gov/assets/ApplicationErrorTips.doc. If you discover your application is late or has been rejected, please see the instructions below. Note: You will receive a

series of confirmations both online and via e-mail about the status of your application. Please do not rely solely on e-mail to confirm whether your application has been received timely and validated successfully.

Submission Problems – What should you do?

If you have problems submitting to Grants.gov before the closing date, please contact Grants.gov Customer Support at 1-800-518-4726 or use the customer support available on the Web site: http://www.grants.gov/CustomerSupport.

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

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

Helpful Hints When Working with Grants.gov

Please note, once you download an application from Grants.gov, you will be working offline and saving data on your computer. Please be sure to note where you are saving the Grants.gov file on your computer. You will need to logon to Grants.gov to upload and submit the application. (This is different from e-Application, where you are working online and saving data to the Department's database.) **You must provide on your application the DUNS number that was used when your organization registered with the CCR.**

Please go to http://www.grants.gov/ForApplicants for help with Grants.gov and click on the links in the lower right corner of the screen under Applicant Tips and Tools. For additional tips related to submitting grant applications, please refer to the Grants.gov Submit Application Tips found on the Grants.gov homepage http://www.grants.gov.

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.)**

MAC Users

If you do not have a Windows operating System, you will need to use a Windows Emulation program to submit an application using Grants.gov. For additional information, review the PureEdge Support for Macintosh white paper published by Pure Edge: http://www.grants.gov/GrantsGov_UST_Grantee/!SSL!/WebHelp/MacSupportforPureEdge.pdf, and/or contact Grants.gov Customer Support (http://www.grants.gov/CustomerSupport) for more information. **If you do not have a Windows emulation program and electronic submission is required, please follow 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.)

APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAIL OR HAND DELIVERY

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 applicable following address:

By mail through the U.S. Postal Service:

U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center
Attention: (CFDA Number 84.133A-8)
400 Maryland Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC 20202-4260

or

By mail through a commercial carrier:

U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center–Stop 4260
Attention: (CFDA Number 84.133A-8)
7100 Old Landover Road
Landover, MD 20785-1506

Regardless of which address you use, 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, or
(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, or
(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.

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 84.133A-8)
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 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 4 of the Application for Federal Education Assistance (ED 424) the CFDA number — and suffix letter, if any — of the competition under which you are submitting your application.

(2) The Application Control Center will mail a grant application receipt acknowledgment to you. If you do not receive the grant application receipt acknowledgment 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.

SECTION
K

REQUIRED FORMS
and
FORM INSTRUCTIONS

APPLICATION FORMS

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

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

Part I - Federal Assistance Application Face Page

Part II - Budget Information

Part III - Application Narrative

Part IV - Assurances, Certifications and Disclosures

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

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1820-0027. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 40 hours per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

Under terms of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, as amended, and the regulations implementing that Act, the Department of Education invites comment on the public reporting burden in this collection of information. You may send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Education, Information Management and Compliance Division, Washington, D.C. 20202-4651; and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project 1820-0027, Washington, D.C. 20503.

REQUIRED FORMS:

http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html

Federal Assistance Face Page (ED 424)
Application for Federal Assistance SF-424 (grants.gov)
Instruction for the SF-424 (grants.gov)
Budget Information (ED 524)
Assurances - Non-Construction Programs (SF 424b)
Certifications Regarding Lobbying; or Grants.gov Lobbying form
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF LLL)
Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunity for Applicants

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SF-424

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 60 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 (including the continuation sheet) required for use as a cover sheet for submission of preapplications and applications and related information under discretionary programs. Some of the items are required and some are optional at the discretion of the applicant or the Federal agency (agency). Required items are identified with an asterisk on the form and are specified in the instructions below. In addition to the instructions provided below, applicants must consult agency instructions to determine specific requirements.

Item	Entry:	Item	Entry:
1.	**Type of Submission:** (Required): Select one type of submission in accordance with agency instructions. Preapplication Application Changed/Corrected Application – If requested by the agency, check if this submission is to change or correct a previously submitted application. Unless requested by the agency, applicants may not use this to submit changes after the closing date.	10.	**Name Of Federal Agency**: (Required) Enter the name of the Federal agency from which assistance is being requested with this application.
		11.	**Catalog Of Federal Domestic Assistance Number/Title:** Enter the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number and title of the program under which assistance is requested, as found in the program announcement, if applicable.
2.	**Type of Application**: (Required) Select one type of application in accordance with agency instructions. New – An application that is being submitted to an agency for the first time. Continuation - An extension for an additional funding/budget period for a project with a projected completion date. This can include renewals. Revision - Any change in the Federal Government's financial obligation or contingent liability from an existing obligation. If a revision, enter the appropriate letter(s). More than one may be selected. If "Other" is selected, please specify in text box provided. A. Increase Award B. Decrease Award C. Increase Duration D. Decrease Duration E. Other (specify)	12.	**Funding Opportunity Number/Title:** (Required) Enter the Funding Opportunity Number and title of the opportunity under which assistance is requested, as found in the program announcement.
		13.	**Competition Identification Number/Title:** Enter the Competition Identification Number and title of the competition under which assistance is requested, if applicable.
		14.	**Areas Affected By Project:** List the areas or entities using the categories (e.g., cities, counties, states, etc.) specified in agency instructions. Use the continuation sheet to enter additional areas, if needed.
3.	**Date Received:** Leave this field blank. This date will be assigned by the Federal agency.	15.	**Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:** (Required) Enter a brief descriptive title of the project. If appropriate, attach a map showing project location (e.g., construction or real property projects). For preapplications, attach a summary description of the project.
4.	**Applicant Identifier**: Enter the entity identifier assigned by the Federal agency, if any, or applicant's control number, if applicable.		
5a	**Federal Entity Identifier**: Enter the number assigned to your organization by the Federal Agency, if any.	16.	**Congressional Districts Of**: (Required) 16a. Enter the applicant's Congressional District, and 16b. Enter all

5b.	**Federal Award Identifier**: For new applications leave blank. For a continuation or revision to an existing award, enter the previously assigned Federal award identifier number. If a changed/corrected application, enter the Federal Identifier in accordance with agency instructions.		District(s) affected by the program or project. Enter in the format: 2 characters State Abbreviation – 2-3 characters District Number, e.g., CA-12 for California 12th district, NC-103 for North Carolina's 103rd district. If all congressional districts in a state are affected, enter "all" for the district number, e.g., MD-all for all congressional districts in Maryland. If nationwide, i.e. all districts within all states are affected, enter US-all. If the program/project is outside the US, enter 00-000.
6.	**Date Received by State:** Leave this field blank. This date will be assigned by the State, if applicable.		
7.	**State Application Identifier:** Leave this field blank. This identifier will be assigned by the State, if applicable.		
8.	**Applicant Information**: Enter the following in accordance with agency instructions: **a. Legal Name**: (Required): Enter the legal name of applicant that will undertake the assistance activity. This is the name that the organization has registered with the Central Contractor Registry. Information on registering with CCR may be obtained by visiting the Grants.gov website.	17.	**Proposed Project Start and End Dates**: (Required) Enter the proposed start date and end date of the project.
	b. Employer/Taxpayer Number (EIN/TIN): (Required): Enter the Employer or Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN or TIN) as assigned by the Internal Revenue Service. If your organization is not in the US, enter 44-4444444.	18.	**Estimated Funding:** (Required) Enter the 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.
	c. Organizational DUNS: (Required) Enter the organization's DUNS or DUNS+4 number received from Dun and Bradstreet. Information on obtaining a DUNS number may be obtained by visiting the Grants.gov website.		
	d. Address: Enter the complete address as follows: Street address (Line 1 required), City (Required), County, State (Required, if country is US), Province, Country (Required), Zip/Postal Code (Required, if country is US).	19.	**Is Application Subject to Review by State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?** 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. Select the appropriate box. If "a." is selected, enter the date the application was submitted to the State
	e. Organizational Unit: Enter the name of the primary organizational unit (and department or division, if applicable**)** that will undertake the assistance activity, if applicable.		
	f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application: Enter the name (First and last name required), organizational affiliation (if affiliated with an organization other than the applicant organization), telephone number (Required), fax number, and email address (Required) of the person to contact on matters related to this application.	20.	**Is the Applicant Delinquent on any Federal Debt?** (Required) Select the appropriate box. 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. If yes, include an explanation on the continuation sheet.
9.	Type of Applicant: (Required) Select up to three applicant type(s) in accordance with agency instructions **.** State Government County Government City or Township Government Special District Government Regional Organization U.S. Territory or Possession Independent Nonprofit with 501C3 IRS Status (Other than Institution of Higher Education) Nonprofit without 501C3 IRS Status (Other than Institution of Higher Education) Private Institution of Higher Education Individual For-Profit Organization (Other than Small Business) Small Business Hispanic-serving Institution Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)	21.	**Authorized Representative**: (Required) To be signed and dated by the authorized representative of the applicant organization. Enter the name (First and last name required) title (Required), telephone number (Required), fax number, and email address (Required) of the person authorized to sign for the applicant. A copy of the governing body's authorization for you to sign this application as the 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.)

	School District Public/State Controlled Institution of Higher Education Indian/Native American Tribal Government (Federally Recognized) Indian/Native American Tribal Government (Other than Federally Recognized) Indian/Native American Tribally Designated Organization Public/Indian Housing Authority	Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs) Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions Non-domestic (non-US) Entity Other (specify)		

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, D.C. 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, S.W. Room 7076, Washington, D.C. 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, D.C. 20202-4250, telephone: (202) 245-6120, and on the U.S. Department of Education's Protection of Human Subjects in Research Web Site: 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).

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, D.C. 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, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202.

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

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

1. Identify the type of covered Federal action for which lobbying activity is and/or has been secured to influence the outcome of a covered Federal action.
2. Identify the status of the covered Federal action.
3. Identify the appropriate classification of this report. If this is a follow-up report caused by a material change to the information previously reported, enter the year and quarter in which the change occurred. Enter the date of the last previously submitted report by this reporting entity for this covered Federal action.
4. Enter the full name, address, city, State and zip code of the reporting entity. Include Congressional District, if known. Check the appropriate classification of the reporting entity that designates if it is, or expects to be, a prime or sub-award recipient. Identify the tier of the sub-awardee, e.g., the first sub-awardee of the prime is the 1st tier. Sub-awards include but are not limited to subcontracts, subgrants and contract awards under grants.
5. If the organization filing the report in item 4 checks "Sub-awardee," 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

SECTION
L

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Does your application include each of the following?

[ ] Cover page (ED 424) marked appropriately with **84.133A-8**, if applying by paper? Or did you download the correct package for **84.133A-8** if applying electronically?

[ ] Is the Priority Topic in the Descriptive Title block#14 in the ED 424 or Block 11 in the SF 424?

[ ] Budget form (ED form 524) dollar amounts not exceeding the maximum in any year

[ ] Budget narrative for each year (MATH CHECKED)

[ ] Program narrative, including abstract and responses to the selection criteria

[ ] Assurances and Certifications [list]

[ ] If submitting on Grants.gov, did you upload the correct file?

Did You --

[ ] Mail or submit application on or before **Friday, July 21, 2006**?

[ ] If submitting by paper, provide one (1) original plus 2 copies of the application (One original and 10 copies are requested)?

[ ] If submitting by paper, include all required forms with original signatures and dates?

[ ] Include narrative on the Protection of Human Subjects?

[ ] If submitting on Grants.gov was your upload **fully completed before the 4:30 pm, Washington, D.C. time on the closing date and processed and validated successfully by Grants.gov**?

[ ] Used correct mailing address from Section B or J?

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 **http://www.ed.gov/** **(WWW address)**