

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No.: 84.133C]

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services; National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research; Notice Inviting Applications Under the Innovation Grants Program for Fiscal Year (FY) 1995

Purpose of Program: The Innovation Grants Program is designed to provide financial support to projects that test new concepts and innovative ideas, demonstrate research results of high potential benefits, purchase and evaluate prototype aids and devices, develop unique rehabilitation training curricula, and respond to special initiatives of the Secretary, including projects to conduct feasibility, planning, and evaluation studies, conferences, and other activities to disseminate specific research findings.

Invitational Priorities: Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1) the Secretary is particularly interested in applications that address the following invitational priority. However, an application that meets an invitational priority does not receive competitive or absolute preference over other applications.

NIDRR has observed that disability research is hampered by the lack of researchers with training to assess the comprehensive phenomenon of disability and its complex interaction with all aspects of society, particularly from the perspective of individuals with disabilities. Therefore, the Secretary is interested in supporting innovative projects that study the feasibility of and develop model approaches to teaching disability studies at the postsecondary level. Research projects in this area might address one or more of the following issues: The current availability of disability studies in institutions of higher education and the feasibility of instituting disability studies curricula; model curricula at the undergraduate or graduate levels; and the relative advantages of creating

disability studies as a specialty area in core disciplines or as an interdisciplinary program.

A body of NIDRR research and other writings has suggested that the goals of the Rehabilitation Act of full integration into society, empowerment, and personal independence would be facilitated by an increased awareness of the history, nature, consequences, and culture of disability among individuals with disabilities and others within society as a whole. Therefore, the Secretary is also interested in supporting projects that study the feasibility of and develop models for teaching disability studies to adults in community settings. Projects addressing disability studies in community settings (e.g., adult education programs, independent living centers, or other accessible community facilities) would be most useful if they explore ways of accommodating various cognitive, sensory, and other disabilities and various ethnic and language populations in the learning experiences.

This notice supports the National Education Goal that calls for all Americans to possess the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global economy and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Eligible Applicants: Parties eligible to apply for grants under this program are public and private nonprofit and for-profit agencies and organizations, including institutions of higher education and Indian tribes and tribal organizations.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: June 19, 1995.

Applications Available: May 4, 1995.

Available Funds: \$150,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$50,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 3.

Maximum Award: The Secretary does not consider an application that proposes a budget exceeding \$50,000 for each 12-month budget period.

The Secretary may change the maximum amount award through a note accompanying the application package.

Note: The estimates of funding levels and awards in this notice do not bind the Department of Education to a specific level of funding or number of grants.

Project Period: Up to 12 months.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), 34 CFR Parts 74, 75, 77, 78, 80, 81, 82, 85, 86; and (b) the regulations for this program in 34 CFR parts 350 and 358.

In order to obtain information about the invitational priorities contact Betty Jo Berland, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.W., Switzer Building, Room 3422, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 205-8801. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the TDD number at (202) 205-8133.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: In order to obtain an application package, contact William H. Whalen, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue SW., Switzer Building, Room 3411, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 205-9141. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the TDD number at (202) 205-8887.

Information about the Department's funding opportunities, including copies of application notices for discretionary grant competitions, can be viewed on the Department's electronic bulletin board (ED Board), telephone (202) 260-9950; or on the Internet Gopher Server at GOPHER.ED.GOV (under Announcements, Bulletins, and Press Releases). However, the official application notice for a discretionary grant competition is the notice published in the **Federal Register**.

Program Authority: 29 U.S.C. 761a and 762.

Dated: April 27, 1995.

Howard R. Moses,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

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