DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Training Personnel for the Education of Individuals With Disabilities

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of waiver.

SUMMARY: The Secretary waives the requirements in EDGAR at 34 CFR 75.261(a) that generally prohibit project extensions that involve the additional obligation of Federal funds. The Secretary waives this EDGAR requirement for the National Center for Minority Special Education Research and Outreach, and the Outreach Alliance 2000 Project. The Secretary will issue continuation awards to both Centers in order to ensure the most efficient use of Federal funds.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This waiver takes effect on August 7, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Linda Glidewell, telephone: (202) 205–9099, or Victoria Ware, telephone: (202) 205–8687, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202–2641. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 19, 1991, the Department issued a Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards under the Training Personnel for the Education of Individuals With Disabilities for Fiscal Year 1991. In this notice, the Department announced that it would make two awards for up to 48 months pursuant to section 6l0(j)(2)(C) of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which directed the Secretary to develop and implement a plan for providing outreach services to minority entities and underrepresented populations to assist them in participating more fully in the discretionary grant programs authorized in Parts C through G of IDEA.

Specifically, the Secretary advised that the Department would fund two Centers, one to provide technical assistance to the agencies, institutions, organizations, and populations identified by Congress seeking grant support for personnel preparation (Part D of the Act). The other Center was designed to provide technical assistance to the targeted entities and populations seeking support for research and the other activities authorized in Parts C, E, F, and G of the Act. The EDGAR selection criteria were used in making the selection.

The grant periods have ended for the two Centers, which are currently expending the balance of their fiscal year 1994 funds to carry out approved project activities. In order to conduct the section 610(j)(2)(C) plan activities with fiscal year 1995 support, it is necessary to either recompete the projects for one year or to issue continuation awards to the existing grantees.

Based upon the following factors, the Department believes it makes the most programmatic sense and is the most efficient use of Federal funds to issue continuation awards. However, to do so, the Department must waive the requirements in EDGAR at 34 CFR 75.261(a) that generally prohibit project extensions that involve the additional obligation of Federal funds.

Reasons

If the Department had to recompete these multi-year outreach Centers this year, the Department would wastefully expend resources for a program that might not be reauthorized. If the program is reauthorized, it may contain substantially different programmatic requirements. Such changes would require the Department to recompete the projects one year later based on the new statute.

Public Comment

On April 14, 1995, the Secretary published a notice of proposed waiver for the two centers in the **Federal Register** (60 FR 19152). In the notice of proposed waiver the Secretary invited public comments. The Secretary did not receive any comments.

Waiver

Based on the response to the notice of proposed waiver, the Secretary waives the application of 34 CFR 75.261(a) to the Part D Center authorized under Parts C, E, F, and G of the IDEA. Thus, the Department will issue one-year continuation awards to the current grantees that meet the standards for continuation in 34 CFR 75.253 and, if reauthorization is delayed past the date needed to conduct a competition for FY 1996 funds, the Department will extend the projects for a second-year continuation award, if the current grantees meet the standards for continuation awards in 34 CFR 75.253.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980

This waiver has been examined under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 and has been found to contain no information collection requirements.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 84.029, Training Personnel for the Education of Individuals With Disabilities.)

Dated: June 29, 1995.

Judith E. Heumann,

Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

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