

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**34 CFR Part 345**

RIN 1820-AB28

State Grants Program for Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals With Disabilities

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Final regulations.

SUMMARY: The Secretary issues these final regulations for the State Grants Program for Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities. This program provides grants to States to support systems change and advocacy activities designed to assist States in developing and implementing consumer-responsive comprehensive Statewide programs of technology-related assistance. These regulations are needed to implement the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act Amendments of 1994. The final regulations incorporate statutory requirements and provide rules for applying for and spending Federal funds under this program.

EFFECTIVE DATES: These regulations take effect April 1, 1996. Compliance with §§ 345.30, 345.31, 345.42, 345.50, 345.53, and 345.55 is not required until the information collection requirements in those sections have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carol G. Cohen. Telephone: (202) 205-5666. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: These proposed regulations would implement Title I of the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1988 (the Act), as amended by the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act Amendments of 1994 (1994 Amendments) (Pub. L. 103-218, enacted March 9, 1994). Title I of the Act establishes the State Grants Program for Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities. This program provides grants to States to support systems change and advocacy activities designed to assist States in developing and implementing consumer-responsive comprehensive Statewide programs of technology-related assistance.

On August 9, 1995, the Secretary published a notice of proposed rulemaking for this program in the Federal Register (60 FR 40688). The preamble to the notice of proposed rulemaking (60 FR 40688 - 40690) included a summary and discussion of the 1994 Amendments and other major issues that were addressed in the proposed regulations.

Analysis of Comments and Changes

In response to the Secretary's invitation in the notice of proposed rulemaking, 5 parties submitted comments on the proposed regulations, including one letter that represented the comments of 28 parties. An analysis of the comments and of the changes in the regulations since publication of the notice of proposed rulemaking follows.

Major issues are grouped according to subject, with appropriate sections of the regulations referenced in parentheses. Technical and other minor changes are not addressed.

Purposes of the Program (§ 345.2)

Comments: Commenters stated that the proposed § 345.2 omitted two purposes pertaining to Federal policy as contained in sections 2(b) (2) and (3) of the Act. The commenters recommended that the Secretary include all purposes of the Act.

Discussion: The Secretary listed in the proposed regulations only those purposes in section 2(b)(1) of the Act because section 102(e)(7) of the Act specifically requires States to make an assurance that it will carry out activities to meet the purposes in section 2(b)(1). The Secretary did not intend to imply that sections 2(b) (2) and (3) were not important purposes of the Act. The Secretary believes that the purposes in sections 2(b) (2) and (3) authorize, but do not require, grantees to carry out activities to accomplish these purposes. Therefore, the Secretary believes that a reference to these purposes in the regulatory provision that lists allowable program activities is necessary.

Changes: The Secretary adds the purposes in sections 2(b)(2) and (3) of the Act to § 345.2. In addition, the Secretary adds paragraph (4) to § 345.20(b) to reflect that States may carry out activities that accomplish the purposes in sections 2(b)(2) and (3). All cross-references have been amended to reflect these changes.

Increases in Extension Grants (§ 345.3)

Comments: One commenter urged the Secretary to add the statutory language "with a wide geographic spread" in § 345.3 to clarify which States are sparsely populated.

Discussion: The language "sparsely populated, with a wide geographic spread" comes directly from the Act in section 103(c)(1)(D)(ii). The Secretary believes that adding the additional statutory language "with a wide geographic spread" will help to clarify "sparsely populated".

Changes: The Secretary has added the statutory language "with a wide geographic spread" as stated in section 103(c)(1)(D)(ii) of the Act.

Public Agencies and Lead Agencies (§ 345.4, 345.5)

Comments: One letter requested a clarification of what constitutes a public agency. The commenter also asked whether a State must designate both a responsible public agency and a lead agency.

Discussion: The regulations already refer to the definition of "public" in 34 CFR 77.1. The Secretary believes this definition is sufficient guidance regarding what constitutes a public agency. The Act does not require the lead agency also to be a public agency, but does require that money received from this program must flow through a public agency. Although a structure that uses two agencies could result in additional administrative complexity, the Act permits this type of arrangement which the Secretary is not authorized to change.

Changes: None.

University-Affiliated Program (§ 345.6)

Comments: Commenters thought it would be helpful if the Secretary included in the regulations a notation that a university-affiliated program is generally also a public agency.

Discussion: The Secretary does not believe it is necessary to add the language that the commenters suggested. The Secretary believes it could be confusing to add the word "generally" rather than giving a specific rule. Also, the regulations already refer to the definition of public in 34 CFR 77.1, which the Secretary believes is sufficient guidance about whether a university-affiliated program constitutes a public agency. Furthermore, the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (Developmental Disabilities Assistance Act) specifies that university-affiliated programs are public agencies if they are associated with a public entity.

Changes: None.

Allowable Expenses (§ 345.20(d))

Comments: One commenter stated that the term "in financial need" used in § 345.20(d) needs clarification. The commenter stated that many definitions

would include only individuals receiving some State or Federal assistance and would exclude many individuals who might otherwise be unable to participate in the program activities. The commenter also stated that the term "eligible" needed clarification.

Commenters also urged the Secretary to add to the list of examples of allowable expenses items such as child care, respite care, drivers, and other supportive services.

Discussion: In implementing this program, the Secretary has attempted to give States and subrecipients the most flexibility and autonomy possible while adhering to the purposes of the statute. The Secretary believes that the State should make determinations regarding financial need and which individuals to support. The Secretary believes this matter is best determined on a case-by-case basis and that a single regulatory rule would not meet all States' concerns. Also, "eligible" was used only in the preamble to the notice of proposed rulemaking and not in the proposed regulations. As used in the preamble to the notice of proposed rulemaking, "eligible" referred to those participants that the State determined could participate in the program.

Moreover, the regulations allow a State to include the suggested additional examples as allowable expenses. The Secretary believes that each State should have the flexibility to make its own determination about what expenses may be necessary to ensure access to the comprehensive statewide program.

Changes: None.

Development Grant Application Content (§ 345.30(b)(12)(i))

Comments: Commenters expressed their belief that the conjunction between the Developmental Disabilities Assistance Act, the Protection and Advocacy for Mentally Ill Individuals Act, and section 509 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 should be an "or" rather than an "and". The commenters stated that the "and" implies that a State must contract with an entity that provides all three of these programs and that in some States multiple entities provide these three programs.

Discussion: The conjunction connecting these three programs is correct because it reflects the language of the Act. Awards under each of these programs are made to the protection and advocacy system designated for each State. Under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance Act, there is only one designated protection and advocacy system for each State.

Changes: None.

Contracting To Provide Protection and Advocacy Services (§ 345.30(b)(12)(ii))

Comments: Commenters advised the Secretary that they believed the regulations omitted a section of the Act that allows States to continue to contract with an entity that is capable of performing the functions that would otherwise be performed by the protection and advocacy services providers.

Discussion: The Secretary provides for that statutory option in § 345.55(a)(i). The Secretary recognizes that the proposed regulations did not refer to that statutory option in the regulatory provisions regarding the content of an application for a development grant. The Secretary believes it would be useful and helpful to users of the regulations to refer to this option in discussing application content.

Changes: In § 345.30(b)(12)(i), the Secretary has added a reference to the provision regarding the statutory option.

Indirect Costs (§ 345.30(b)(14))

Comments: Commenters stated that the Secretary should provide more guidance regarding the implementation of the 10 percent cap on indirect costs. The commenters requested more guidance on whether the 10 percent cap on indirect costs applies to the lead agency, the lead agency's subcontractors, or a combination of both. Another commenter, who is a subcontractor under this program, stated that it had negotiated an agreement, in the capacity as a lead agency, with another U.S. agency to allocate 12.6 percent of its grants to indirect costs. Therefore, the commenter suggested that the final regulations should allow indirect costs for subcontractors to be limited to an approved indirect cost rate, rather than left up to the lead agency to determine.

Discussion: As clearly explained in the preamble to the notice of proposed rulemaking, the amount of indirect costs may not exceed 10 percent of the total amount of the grant as stated in section 102(e)(22) of the Act. Also in the preamble, on page 40689, the Secretary states that the indirect cost rate must be negotiated by the State and the subcontractor or subgrantee. The clarifying language used in the preamble is confusing because there is no authority requiring a State to negotiate an indirect cost rate with a subcontractor or subgrantee; rather, the Secretary strongly encourages States to negotiate indirect cost rates. The Secretary declines to regulate on this issue because the Act leaves how to

apportion the indirect cost rate to the discretion of States and the Secretary supports giving States the flexibility to negotiate these rates.

Changes: None.

Compliance With Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (§ 345.31(d))

Comments: Commenters expressed the belief that, because the Secretary's interpretation of section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (section 508) was broad, the interpretation needed to be clarified in the regulations. These commenters also pointed out that the language in the preamble summarizing this section was overly inclusive because it stated that section 508 would apply to "all offices, agencies, and entities in a State." Furthermore, commenters stated that the Secretary needs to clarify what entities are included as a part of "the State" for the purposes of the assurance that the State will comply with guidelines established under section 508.

Discussion: Based on the language in the Act and section 508, the Secretary believes that the requirements of section 508 apply broadly. In the proposed regulations, the Secretary intended to reflect that section 508 applies to the State (including any State offices, agencies, and entities) and all recipients and subrecipients of funds made available to the State under the Act. The Secretary believes it is unnecessary to regulate what entities are encompassed in the term "the State" because each State should determine which of its entities are considered part of the State. In addition, the Secretary believes that a State needs only to submit an assurance regarding compliance with section 508. The Secretary believes that a State should determine how it will ensure that its subrecipients comply with section 508.

Changes: Because the language in the preamble and § 345.31(d) was unclear, the Secretary has modified the language to include a reference to any subrecipients. This addition clarifies that all State offices, agencies, and entities are required to comply with section 508.

Reporting Requirement (§ 345.50(b))

Comments: Commenters expressed concern that requiring States to make reports readily available to the public at no extra cost could be burdensome if States may not charge for reasonable duplication and handling costs.

Discussion: This section of the regulations does not allow a State to charge for duplication or handling costs, however, the provision does not require a State to make copies and send them

out to individuals who request the report. The Secretary believes a State could make a report readily available to the public through a variety of means such as putting the report in a location to which the public has access, a library for example, or making the report available electronically. In making a report available to the public, a State should ensure the public's access to the report and realize that using only one method of making a report available may not be sufficient.

Changes: None.

Minimum Amount for Protection and Advocacy Services (§ 345.55)

Comments: Commenters questioned the reliance on the size of a State's grant in determining the minimum amount that a State must expend on protection and advocacy services.

Another commenter stated that the language regarding the minimum funding amounts to be received by the State protection and advocacy systems was confusing. The commenter suggested that the Secretary add the statement in the preamble that there is no statutory limit or ceiling on the amount a State may expend on protection and advocacy services.

Discussion: The Secretary does not rely solely on the size of the State's grant in determining the minimum amount a State must spend on protection and advocacy activities. As required by the Act, the Secretary also considers other factors in determining the minimum protection and advocacy amount. These factors include the needs of individuals with disabilities within the State, the population of the State, and the geographic size of the State. Because the Secretary takes the population into account in determining the State's grant, the Secretary believes it is appropriate to base the protection and advocacy minimum primarily on the size of the State's.

The Secretary agrees that the language regarding the minimum funding amounts to be received by the State protection and advocacy systems may be confusing. The Secretary has clarified the language to specify that a minimum amount is established for each State and the minimum amount may range from \$40,000 to \$100,000. However, the Secretary does not believe it is necessary to include in the regulations the explanatory language used in the preamble. The preamble and regulations clearly explain that each State may have a different minimum amount and that there is no maximum amount. Additional regulations on this issue are unnecessary.

Changes: In § 345.55(e)(2)(ii), the Secretary has clarified the language regarding the minimum amount.

State Redesignation of Protection and Advocacy Service Providers (§ 345.63)

Comments: One commenter suggested that the Secretary specify the hearing and posthearing procedures for cases that reach the Secretary or incorporate the procedures that address redesignation under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance Act. The commenter also suggested that the Secretary require the type of notice and specific timelines for giving individuals with disabilities and their representatives timely notice and an opportunity for public comment.

In addition, the commenter made some suggestions regarding how to give notification in an accessible format. The commenter suggested that individuals be able to offer verbal or written comments in addition to any public meetings.

Lastly, the commenter noted that the standard to meet the protection and advocacy service needs in § 345.63(a) is too high because of limited available resources. The commenter suggested that the Secretary require that an entity providing services may be changed only if the protection and advocacy entity does not set priorities, goals, and objectives in consultation with consumers and work toward achieving those priorities, goals, and objectives.

Discussion: The Secretary believes using "redesignate" in this context is confusing because of the particular meaning of "redesignate" in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance Act. The procedures outlined in § 345.63 apply only to situations in which the State determines that the entity providing protection and advocacy services under the Act has not met the protection and advocacy service needs of the individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives under the Act. This process is not to be confused with the redesignation of a protection and advocacy agency when the entire agency is in jeopardy. If a protection and advocacy agency is being redesignated, then the procedures in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance Act will govern.

The Secretary believes it is unnecessary to regulate the amount of time and the format for giving notice and opportunity for public comment. Section 345.30(b)(9) requires States to assure that they will make available to individuals with disabilities and their family members information concerning

technology-related assistance in a form that will allow individuals to effectively use the information. The Secretary believes that States are capable of making determinations regarding how to make information available and how to give notice and to accept comments. Therefore, the Secretary gives States flexibility to set their own procedures.

The Secretary disagrees with the commenter's belief that the standard in § 345.63(a) is too high given a limited amount of resources. Before a protection and advocacy services provider may be changed, the regulations require that there must be good cause to provide the protection and advocacy services for the State through a contract with a second entity. If the only reason a protection and advocacy entity cannot meet the needs is because of limited resources, other protection and advocacy entities will face the same difficulties. If the State chooses to change a protection and advocacy services provider under the Act, it may not change the provider simply because the protection and advocacy entity does not have enough resources to meet all the protection and advocacy services needs; the State must also find another provider that it believes can better meet the needs.

The Secretary believes that the State and the protection and advocacy services provider should work together to define an acceptable and reasonable scope of work based on the amount of resources available. Ideally the State and the protection and advocacy services provider would negotiate to agree on deliverable services and expected outcomes.

Changes: The Secretary changes the title of § 345.63 so that changing a protection and advocacy service provider under the Act is not confused with redesignating a protection and advocacy entity.

Technical Assistance

Comments: Commenters pointed out that, on page 40689 of the preamble, the Secretary made reference to providing information and technical assistance to participating States, as well as to individuals with disabilities, but that there was no mention of the provision of technical assistance in the regulations.

Discussion: The provision of technical assistance is an activity performed by the Secretary and, thus, is not required to be in regulations. As a general Department policy, regulations are for grantees' use and compliance and not for the purpose of regulating the Department.

Changes: None.

Performance Guidelines

Comments: Commenters noted that the language regarding performance guidelines on pages 40689–40690 of the preamble was not in the regulations and existed only in the preamble. The commenters suggested that the Secretary clarify the language. They also suggested that the guidelines should be distributed well in advance of progress report and application deadlines to allow States to collect needed information and to understand what is expected of them.

Discussion: The Department is currently developing the performance guidelines with input from the States. Once the performance guidelines are finalized the Secretary will make them available to the States. Under a new Department policy regarding non-competing continuation grants, the Department will not require submissions of project performance reports until seven months after the beginning of a project period at the earliest. Thus, the guidelines will be available well in advance of any reporting deadlines. The Secretary expects the performance guidelines to remain the same for the entire authorization of the program. Therefore, grantees may use the same guidelines every year and will know exactly what is expected of them.

Because these guidelines are not binding, the Secretary will not publish the guidelines in the regulations.

Changes: None.

Recycling Devices

Comments: Commenters suggested that in order for the Secretary to administer the recycling of assistive technology devices as discussed on page 40690 of the preamble, he would need to formally encourage individuals and provide information regarding who to call to facilitate recycling.

Discussion: The Secretary only recommends recycling and cannot mandate recycling because it is allowable, not mandatory, under the Act. The Secretary is gathering information about recycling devices and will provide that information once the Department completes the project.

Changes: None.

Access to Records

Comments: One commenter suggested that the Secretary add requirements similar to the Developmental Disabilities Assistance Act allowing access to client records.

Discussion: The Act does not authorize the Secretary to include provisions regarding access to client

records. To the extent the Developmental Disabilities Assistance Act governs a protection and advocacy system, those right of access provisions would apply.

Changes: None.

Executive Order 12866

These final regulations have been reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 12866. Under the terms of the order the Secretary has assessed the potential costs and benefits of this regulatory action.

The potential costs associated with the final regulations are those resulting from statutory requirements and those determined by the Secretary to be necessary for administering this program effectively and efficiently.

In assessing the potential costs and benefits—both quantitative and qualitative—of these regulations, the Secretary has determined that the benefits of the regulations justify the costs.

Summary of Potential Costs and Benefits

The potential costs and benefits of these final regulations are discussed elsewhere in this preamble under the following heading: *Analysis of Comments and Changes*.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

Sections 345.30, 345.31, 345.42, 345.50, 345.53, and 345.55 contain information collection requirements. As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507(d)), the Department of Education has submitted a copy of these sections to the OMB for its review.

Collection of Information: State Grants Program for Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities.

States are eligible to apply for grants under these regulations. The Department needs and uses the information to make grants and to evaluate a recipient's performance. Annual public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to be 30 hours per response for 56 respondents, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Thus, the total annual reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection is estimated to be 1,680 hours.

Intergovernmental Review

This program is subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12372

and the regulations in 34 Part 79. The objective of the Executive order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism by relying on processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

In accordance with the order, this document is intended to provide early notification of the Department's specific plans and actions for this program.

Assessment of Educational Impact

Based on the response to the proposed regulations and on its own review, the Department has determined that the regulations in this document do not require transmission of information that is being gathered by or is available from any other agency or authority of the United States.

List of Subjects in 34 CFR Part 345

Disabled, Education, Grant program—education, Handicapped, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Science and technology.

Dated: January 16, 1996.

Howard R. Moses,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 84.224—State Grants Program for Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities)

The Secretary amends Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations by revising Part 345 to read as follows:

PART 345—STATE GRANTS PROGRAM FOR TECHNOLOGY-RELATED ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Subpart A—General

Sec.

- 345.1 What is the State Grants Program for Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities?
- 345.2 What are the purposes of the State grants program for technology-related assistance for individuals with disabilities?
- 345.3 What are the types of awards under this program?
- 345.4 Who is eligible to receive a development grant?
- 345.5 What are the responsibilities of the lead agency or public agency in applying for and in administering a development grant?
- 345.6 How does a State designate the lead agency?
- 345.7 Who is eligible to receive an extension grant?
- 345.8 What are the responsibilities of the lead agency in applying for and in administering an extension grant?
- 345.9 What regulations apply to this program?

345.10 What definitions apply to this program?

Subpart B—What Kinds of Activities Does the Department Support?

345.20 What types of activities are authorized under this program?

Subpart C—How Does a State Apply for a Grant?

345.30 What is the content of an application for a development grant?

345.31 What is the content of an application for an extension grant?

Subpart D—How Does the Secretary Make a Grant?

345.40 How does the Secretary evaluate an application for a development grant under this program?

345.41 What other factors does the Secretary take into consideration in making development grant awards under this program?

345.42 What is the review process for an application for an extension grant?

345.43 What priorities does the Secretary establish?

Subpart E—What Conditions Must Be Met After an Award?

345.50 What are the reporting requirements for the recipients of development and extension grants?

345.51 When is a State making significant progress?

345.52 Who retains title to devices provided under this program?

345.53 What are the requirements for grantee participation in the Secretary's progress assessments?

345.54 How may grant funds be used under this program?

345.55 What are the responsibilities of a State in carrying out protection and advocacy services?

Subpart F—What Compliance Procedures May the Secretary Use?

345.60 Who is subject to a corrective action plan?

345.61 What penalties may the Secretary impose on a grantee that is subject to corrective action?

345.62 How does a State redesignate the lead agency when it is subject to corrective action?

345.63 How does a State change the entity responsible for providing protection and advocacy services?

Authority: 29 U.S.C. 2201–2217, unless otherwise noted.

PART 345—STATE GRANTS PROGRAM FOR TECHNOLOGY-RELATED ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Subpart A—General

§ 345.1 What is the State Grants Program for Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities?

This program provides grants to States to support systems change and advocacy activities designed to assist States in

developing and implementing consumer-responsive comprehensive Statewide programs of technology-related assistance that accomplish the purposes in § 345.2.

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 2211(a); Section 101(a) of the Act)

§ 345.2 What are the purposes of the State grants program for technology-related assistance for individuals with disabilities?

The purposes of this program are to provide financial assistance to States to support systems change and advocacy activities designed to assist each State in developing and implementing a consumer-responsive comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance, for individuals with disabilities of all ages, that is designed to—

(a)(1) Increase the availability of, funding for, access to, and provision of, assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

(2) Increase the active involvement of individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives, in the planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of the program;

(3) Increase the involvement of individuals with disabilities and, if appropriate, their family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives, in decisions related to the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

(4) Increase the provision of outreach to underrepresented populations and rural populations, to enable the two populations to enjoy the benefits of programs carried out to accomplish the purposes described in this section to the same extent as other populations;

(5) Increase and promote coordination among State agencies, and between State agencies and private entities, that are involved in carrying out activities under this part, particularly providing assistive technology devices and assistive technology services, that accomplish a purpose described in another paragraph of this section;

(6)(i) Increase the awareness of laws, regulations, policies, practices, procedures, and organizational structures, that facilitate the availability or provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services; and

(ii) Facilitate the change of laws, regulations, policies, practices, procedures, and organizational structures, that impede the availability or provision of assistive technology

devices and assistive technology services;

(7) Increase the probability that individuals with disabilities of all ages will, to the extent appropriate, be able to secure and maintain possession of assistive technology devices as these individuals make the transition between services offered by human service agencies or between settings of daily living;

(8) Enhance the skills and competencies of individuals involved in providing assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

(9) Increase awareness and knowledge of the efficacy of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services among—

(i) Individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives;

(ii) Individuals who work for public agencies, or for private entities (including insurers), that have contact with individuals with disabilities;

(iii) Educators and related services personnel;

(iv) Technology experts (including engineers);

(v) Employers; and

(vi) Other appropriate individuals;

(10) Increase the capacity of public agencies and private entities to provide and pay for assistive technology devices and assistive technology services on a statewide basis for individuals with disabilities of all ages; and

(11) Increase the awareness of the needs of individuals with disabilities for assistive technology devices and for assistive technology services.

(b)(1) Identify Federal policies that facilitate payment for assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.

(2) Identify Federal policies that impede this payment.

(3) Eliminate inappropriate barriers to this payment.

(c) Enhance the ability of the Federal Government to provide States with—

(1) Technical assistance, information, training, and public awareness programs relating to the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services; and

(2) Funding for demonstration projects.

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 2201(b); Section 2(b) of the Act)

§ 345.3 What are the types of awards under this program?

(a) Under this program, the Secretary—

(1) Awards three-year development grants to assist States in developing and

implementing consumer-responsive comprehensive statewide programs that accomplish the purposes in § 345.2;

(2) May award an initial two-year extension grant to any State that meets the standards in § 345.42(a); and

(3) May award a second extension grant, for a period of not more than 5 years, to any State that meets the standards in § 345.42(b).

(b) The Secretary calculates the amount of the development grants in paragraph (a)(1) of this section on the basis of—

(1) Amounts available for making grants under this part;

(2) The population of the State or territory concerned; and

(3) The types of activities proposed by the State relating to the development of a consumer-responsive comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance.

(c) The Secretary calculates the amount of the extension grants in paragraph (a)(2) of this section on the basis of—

(1) Amounts available for making grants;

(2) The population of the State;

(3) The types of assistance proposed by the State in its application; and

(4) A description in its application of the amount of resources committed by the State and available to the State from other sources to sustain the program after federal funding ends.

(d)(1) In providing any increases in initial extension grants in paragraph (a)(2) of this section above the amounts provided to States for Fiscal Year 1993, the Secretary may give priority to States (other than the territories) that—

(i) Have the largest populations, based on the most recent census data; and

(ii) Are sparsely populated, with a wide geographic spread.

(2) To be eligible for the priority in paragraph (d)(1) of this section, the circumstances in paragraphs (d)(1)(i) or (ii) must have impeded the development of a consumer-responsive, comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance in a State.

(e) During the fourth and fifth years of a State's second extension grant, the amount received by a State will be reduced to 75% and 50%, respectively, of the amount paid to the State for the third year of the grant.

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 2212(b), 2213(a), 2213(c)(1)(B) and (2), and 2213(c)(1)(D); Sections 102(b), 103(a), 103(c)(1)(B) and (2), 103(c)(1)(D) of the Act)

§ 345.4 Who is eligible to receive a development grant?

A State is eligible to receive a development grant under this program,

provided that the Governor has designated a lead agency to carry out the responsibilities contained in § 345.5.

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 2212(a)(1) and 2212(d)(1); Section 102(a) and 102(d)(1) of the Act)

§ 345.5 What are the responsibilities of the lead agency or public agency in applying for and in administering a development grant?

(a) The lead agency is responsible for the following:

(1) Submitting the application containing the information and assurances contained in § 345.30.

(2) Administering and supervising the use of amounts made available under the grant.

(3)(i) Coordinating efforts related to, and supervising the preparation of, the application;

(ii) Coordinating the planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of the consumer-responsive comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance among public agencies and between public agencies and private agencies, including coordinating efforts related to entering into interagency agreements; and

(iii) Coordinating efforts related to, and supervising, the active, timely, and meaningful participation by individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives, and other appropriate individuals, with respect to activities carried out under the grant.

(4) The delegation, in whole or in part, of any responsibilities described in paragraphs (a)(1) through (3) of this section to one or more appropriate offices, agencies, entities, or individuals.

(b) If the lead agency is not a public agency, a public agency shall have the responsibility of controlling and administering amounts received under the grant.

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 2212(d)(1) and 2212(e)(12)(A); Section 102(d)(1) and 102(e)(12)(A) of the Act)

§ 345.6 How does a State designate the lead agency?

(a) The Governor may designate—

(1) A commission appointed by the Governor;

(2) A public-private partnership or consortium;

(3) A university-affiliated program;

(4) A public agency;

(5) A council established under Federal or State law; or

(6) Another appropriate office, agency, entity, or individual.

(b) The State shall provide evidence that the lead agency has the ability—

(1) To respond to assistive technology needs across disabilities and ages;

(2) To promote the availability throughout the State of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

(3) To promote and implement systems change and advocacy activities;

(4) To promote and develop public-private partnerships;

(5) To exercise leadership in identifying and responding to the technology needs of individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives;

(6) To promote consumer confidence, responsiveness, and advocacy; and

(7) To exercise leadership in implementing effective strategies for capacity building, staff and consumer training, and enhancement of access to funding for assistive technology devices and assistive technology services across agencies.

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 2212(d)(2) and (3); Sections 102(d)(2) and (3) of the Act)

§ 345.7 Who is eligible to receive an extension grant?

A State is eligible to receive an extension grant under this program.

§ 345.8 What are the responsibilities of the lead agency in applying for and in administering an extension grant?

(a) To be eligible to receive an initial extension grant, the lead agency shall—

(1) Submit an application containing the information and assurances in § 345.31; and

(2) Hold a public hearing in the third year of a program carried out under a development grant, after providing appropriate and sufficient notice to allow interested groups and organizations and all segments of the public an opportunity to comment on the program.

(b) To be eligible to receive a second extension grant, the lead agency shall—

(1) Submit an application containing the information and assurances in § 345.31; and

(2) Hold a public hearing in the second year of a program carried out under an initial extension grant, after providing appropriate and sufficient notice to allow interested groups and organizations and all segments of the public an opportunity to comment on the program.

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 2213(d) and (e); Section 103(d) and (e) of the Act)

§ 345.9 What regulations apply to this program?

The following regulations apply to the State Grants Program for Technology-

Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities:

(a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) as follows:

- (1) 34 CFR Part 74 (Administration of Grants to Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Nonprofit Organizations);
- (2) 34 CFR Part 75 (Direct Grant Programs), except § 75.618;
- (3) 34 CFR Part 77 (Definitions That Apply to Department Regulations);
- (4) 34 CFR Part 79 (Intergovernmental Review of Department of Education Programs and Activities);
- (5) 34 CFR Part 80 (Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments), except §§ 80.32(a) and 80.33(a);
- (6) 34 CFR Part 81 (General Education Provisions Act—Enforcement);
- (7) 34 CFR Part 85 (Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants)); and
- (8) Part 86 (Drug-Free Schools and Campuses).

(b) The regulations in this part.

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 2201–2217; Sections 101–107 of the Act)

§ 345.10 What definitions apply to this program?

(a) *Definitions in EDGAR.* The following terms used in this part are defined in 34 CFR 77.1:

Applicant
Application
Award
Department
EDGAR
Fiscal year
Grant period
Nonprofit
Nonpublic
Private
Project
Project period
Public

(b) *Definitions in the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1988.*

(1) The following terms used in this part are defined in section 3 of the Act:

Advocacy services
Assistive technology device
Assistive technology service
Comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance
Consumer-responsive
Disability
Individual with a disability; individuals with disabilities
Institution of higher education
Protection and advocacy services

Secretary
State

Systems change and related activities
Technology-related assistance
Underrepresented population

(2) The following term used in this part is defined in section 102(b)(5) of the Act:

Territory

(d) *Other definitions.* The following definitions also apply to this part:

Initial extension grant means the two-year extension grant following a three-year development grant under this program.

Second extension grant means the extension grant following the initial extension grant under this program. The period of this grant is for a period of not more than 5 years.

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 2201–2217; Sections 101–107 of the Act)

Subpart B—What Kinds of Activities Does the Department Support

§ 345.20 What type of activities are authorized under this program?

Any State that receives a development or extension grant shall use the funds made available through the grant to accomplish the purposes described in § 345.2(a) and, in accomplishing such purposes, may carry out any of the following systems change and advocacy activities:

(a) Support activities to increase access to, and funding for, assistive technology, including—

(1) The development, and evaluation of the efficacy, of model delivery systems that provide assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities, that pay for devices and services, and that, if successful, could be replicated or generally applied, such as—

(i) The development of systems for the purchase, lease, other acquisition, or payment for the provision, of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services; or

(ii) The establishment of alternative State or privately financed systems of subsidies for the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services, such as—

- (A) A loan system for assistive technology devices;
- (B) An income-contingent loan fund;
- (C) A low interest loan fund;
- (D) A revolving loan fund;
- (E) A loan insurance program; or
- (F) A partnership with private entities for the purchase, lease, or other acquisition of assistive technology devices and the provision of assistive technology services;

(2) The demonstration of assistive technology devices, including—

(i) The provision of a location or locations within the State where the following individuals can see and touch assistive technology devices, and learn about the devices from personnel who are familiar with such devices and their applications:

(A) Individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives;

(B) Education, rehabilitation, health care, and other service providers;

(C) Individuals who work for Federal, State, or local government entities; and

(D) Employers.

(ii) The provision of counseling and assistance to individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives to determine individual needs for assistive technology devices and assistive technology services; and

(iii) The demonstration or short-term loan of assistive technology devices to individuals, employers, public agencies, or public accommodations seeking strategies to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794); and

(3) The establishment of information systems about, and recycling centers for, the redistribution of assistive technology devices and equipment that may include device and equipment loans, rentals, or gifts.

(b) Support activities to—

(1) Identify and coordinate Federal and State policies, resources, and services, relating to the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services, including entering into interagency agreements;

(2) Convene interagency work groups to enhance public funding options and coordinate access to funding for assistive technology devices and assistive technology services for individuals with disabilities of all ages, with special attention to the issues of transition (such as transition from school to work, and transition from participation in programs under part H of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.), to participation in programs under part B of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1411 et seq.)) home use, and individual involvement in the identification, planning, use, delivery, and evaluation of such devices and services; or

(3) Document and disseminate information about interagency activities that promote coordination with respect to assistive technology devices and

assistive technology services, including evidence of increased participation of State and local special education, vocational rehabilitation, and State medical assistance agencies and departments.

(c) Carry out activities to encourage the creation or maintenance of, support, or provide assistance to, statewide and community-based organizations, or systems, that provide assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities or that assist individuals with disabilities in using assistive technology devices or assistive technology services. The activities may include outreach to consumer organizations and groups in the State to coordinate the activities of the organizations and groups with efforts (including self-help, support groups, and peer mentoring) to assist individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives, to obtain funding for, and access to, assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.

(d) Pay for expenses, including travel expenses, and services, including services of qualified interpreters, readers, and personal assistants services that may be necessary to ensure access to the comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance by individuals with disabilities who are determined by the State to be in financial need. The expenses must be incurred by participants in activities associated with the state technology program.

(e) Conduct a statewide needs assessment that may be based on data in existence on the date on which the assessment is initiated and may include—

(1) Estimates of the numbers of individuals with disabilities within the State, categorized by residence, type and extent of disabilities, age, race, gender, and ethnicity;

(2) In the case of an assessment carried out under a development grant, a description of efforts, during the fiscal year preceding the first fiscal year for which the State received a grant, to provide assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities within the State, including—

(i) The number of individuals with disabilities who received appropriate assistive technology devices and assistive technology services; and

(ii) A description of the devices and services provided;

(3) Information on the number of individuals with disabilities who are in

need of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services, and a description of the devices and services needed;

(4) Information on the cost of providing assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to all individuals with disabilities within the State who need such devices and services;

(5) A description of State and local public resources and private resources (including insurance) that are available to establish a consumer-responsive comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance;

(6) Information identifying Federal and State laws, regulations, policies, practices, procedures, and organizational structures, that facilitate or interfere with the operation of a consumer responsive comprehensive statewide program of technology related assistance;

(7) A description of the procurement policies of the State and the extent to which such policies will ensure, to the extent practicable, that assistive technology devices purchased, leased, or otherwise acquired with assistance made available through a development or extension grant under this part are compatible with other technology devices, including technology devices designed primarily for use by—

(i) Individuals who are not individuals with disabilities;

(ii) Individuals who are elderly; or

(iii) Individuals with particular disabilities; and

(8) Information resulting from an inquiry about whether a State agency or task force (composed of individuals representing the State and individuals representing the private sector) should study the practices of private insurance companies holding licenses within the State that offer health or disability insurance policies under which an individual may obtain reimbursement for—

(i) The purchase, lease, or other acquisition of assistive technology devices; or

(ii) The use of assistive technology services.

(f) Support—

(1)(i) A public awareness program designed to provide information relating to the availability and efficacy of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services for—

(A) Individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives;

(B) Individuals who work for public agencies, or for private entities

(including insurers), that have contact with individuals with disabilities;

(C) Educators and related services personnel;

(D) Technology experts (including engineers);

(E) Employers; and

(F) Other appropriate individuals and entities; or

(ii) Establish and support the program if no such program exists.

(2) A public awareness program that may include the—

(i) Development and dissemination of information relating to the—

(A) Nature of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

(B) Appropriateness, cost, and availability of, and access to, assistive technology devices and assistive technology services; and

(C) Efficacy of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services with respect to enhancing the capacity of individuals with disabilities;

(ii) Development of procedures for providing direct communication among public providers of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services and between public providers and private providers of devices and services (including employers); and

(iii) Development and dissemination of information relating to the use of the program by individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives, professionals who work in a field related to an activity described in this section, and other appropriate individuals.

(g) Carry out directly, or may provide support to a public or private entity to carry out, training and technical assistance activities that—

(1)(i) Are provided for individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives, and other appropriate individuals; and

(ii) May include—

(A) Training in the use of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

(B) The development of written materials, training, and technical assistance describing the means by which agencies consider the needs of an individual with a disability for assistive technology devices and assistive technology services in developing, for the individual, any individualized education program described in section 614(a)(5) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1414(a)(5)), any individualized written rehabilitation program described in section 102 of the Rehabilitation Act of

1973 (29 U.S.C. 722), any individualized family service plan described in section 677 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1477), and any other individualized plans or programs;

(C) Training regarding the rights of the persons described in paragraph (f)(1)(i) of this section to assistive technology devices and assistive technology services under any law other than this Act, to promote fuller independence, productivity, and inclusion in and integration into society of such persons; and

(D) Training to increase consumer participation in the identification, planning, use, delivery, and evaluation of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services; and

(2)(i) Enhance the assistive technology skills and competencies of—

(A) Individuals who work for public agencies or for private entities (including insurers) that have contact with individuals with disabilities;

(B) Educators and related services personnel;

(C) Technology experts (including engineers);

(D) Employers; and

(E) Other appropriate personnel; and
(ii) Include taking actions to facilitate the development of standards, or, when appropriate, the application of standards, to ensure the availability of qualified personnel.

(h) Support the compilation and evaluation of appropriate data related to a program described in § 345.1.

(i)(1) Develop, operate, or expand a system for public access to information concerning an activity carried out under another paragraph of this section, including information about assistive technology devices and assistive technology services, funding sources and costs of assistance, and individuals, organizations, and agencies capable of carrying out such an activity for individuals with disabilities.

(2) Access to the system may be provided through community-based entities, including public libraries, centers for independent living (as defined in section 702(1) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796a(1)), and community rehabilitation programs, as defined in section 7(25) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 706(25)).

(3) In developing, operating, or expanding a system described in paragraph (i)(1) of this section, the State may—

(i) Develop, compile, and categorize print, large print, braille, audio, and video materials, computer disks, compact discs (including compact discs formatted with read-only memory), information that can be used in

telephone-based information systems, and other media as technological innovation may make appropriate;

(ii) Identify and classify existing funding sources, and the conditions of and criteria for access to such sources, including any funding mechanisms or strategies developed by the State;

(iii) Identify existing support groups and systems designed to help individuals with disabilities make effective use of an activity carried out under another paragraph of this section; and

(iv) Maintain a record of the extent to which citizens of the State use or make inquiries of the system established in paragraph (i)(1) of this section, and of the nature of inquiries.

(4) The information system may be organized on an interstate basis or as part of a regional consortium of States in order to facilitate the establishment of compatible, linked information systems.

(j)(1) The State may enter into cooperative agreements with other States to expand the capacity of the States involved to assist individuals with disabilities of all ages to learn about, acquire, use, maintain, adapt, and upgrade assistive technology devices and assistive technology services that individuals need at home, at school, at work, or in other environments that are part of daily living.

(2) The State may operate or participate in a computer system through which the State may electronically communicate with other States to gain technical assistance in a timely fashion and to avoid the duplication of efforts already undertaken in other States.

(k) Support the establishment or continuation of partnerships and cooperative initiatives between the public sector and the private sector to promote the greater participation by business and industry in the—

(1) Development, demonstration, and dissemination of assistive technology devices; and

(2) Ongoing provision of information about new products to assist individuals with disabilities.

(l) Provide advocacy services.

(m) Utilize amounts made available through development and extension grants for any systems change and advocacy activities, other than the activities described in another paragraph of this section, that are necessary for developing, implementing, or evaluating the consumer-responsive comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance.

(n)(1) Accomplish the purposes in § 345.2(b) and (c).

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 2201(b) and 2211(b); Sections 2(b)(2), 2(b)(3) and 101(b) of the Act)

Subpart C—How Does a State Apply for a Grant?

§ 345.30 What is the content of an application for a development grant?

(a) Applicants for development grants under this program shall include the following information in their applications:

(1) Information identifying the lead agency designated by the Governor under § 345.4 and the evidence described in § 345.6(b).

(2) A description of the nature and extent of involvement of various State agencies, including the State insurance department, in the preparation of the application and the continuing role of each agency in the development and implementation of the consumer-responsive comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance, including the identification of the available resources and financial responsibility of each agency for paying for assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.

(3)(i) A description of procedures that provide for—

(A)(1) The active involvement of individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives, and other appropriate individuals, in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the program; and

(2) To the maximum extent appropriate, the active involvement of individuals with disabilities who use assistive technology devices or assistive technology services, in decisions relating to such devices and services; and

(B) Mechanisms for determining consumer satisfaction and participation of individuals with disabilities who represent a variety of ages and types of disabilities, in the consumer-responsive comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance.

(ii) A description of the nature and extent of the—

(A) Involvement, in the designation of the lead agency under § 345.4, and in the development of the application, of—

(1) Individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives;

(2) Other appropriate individuals who are not employed by a State agency; and

(3) Organizations, providers, and interested parties, in the private sector; and

(B) Continuing role of the individuals and entities described in paragraph

(a)(3)(ii)(A) of this section in the program.

(4) A tentative assessment of the extent of the need of individuals with disabilities in the State, including individuals from underrepresented populations or rural populations for a statewide program of technology-related assistance and a description of previous efforts and efforts continuing on the date of the application to develop a consumer-responsive comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance.

(5) A description of State resources and other resources (to the extent this information is available) that are available to commit to the development of a consumer-responsive comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance.

(6) Information on the program with respect to the—

(i) Goals and objectives of the State for the program;

(ii) Systems change and advocacy activities that the State plans to carry out under the program; and

(iii) Expected outcomes of the State for the program, consistent with the purposes described in § 345.2(a).

(7)(i) A description of the data collection system used for compiling information on the program, consistent with requirements established by the Secretary for systems, and, when a national classification system is developed pursuant to section 201 of the Act, consistent with the classification system; and

(ii) Procedures that will be used to conduct evaluations of the program.

(8) A description of the policies and procedures governing contracts, grants, and other arrangements with public agencies, private nonprofit organizations, and other entities or individuals for the purpose of providing assistive technology devices and assistive technology services consistent with this part.

(b) Applicants for development grants shall include the following assurances in their applications:

(1)(i) An assurance that the State will use funds from a development or extension grant to accomplish the purposes described in § 345.2(a) and the goals, objectives, and outcomes described in paragraph (a)(6) of this section, and to carry out the systems change and advocacy activities described in paragraph (a)(6)(ii) of this section, in a manner that is consumer-responsive.

(ii) An assurance that the State, in carrying out systems change and advocacy activities, shall carry out the following activities, unless the State

demonstrates through the progress reports required under § 345.50 that significant progress has been made in the development and implementation of a consumer-responsive comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance, and that other systems change and advocacy activities will increase the likelihood that the program will accomplish the purposes described in § 345.2(a):

(A) The development, implementation, and monitoring of State, regional, and local laws, regulations, policies, practices, procedures, and organizational structures, that will improve access to, provision of, funding for, and timely acquisition and delivery of, assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

(B) The development and implementation of strategies to overcome barriers regarding access to, provision of, and funding for, such devices and services, with priority for identification of barriers to funding through State education (including special education) services, vocational rehabilitation services, and medical assistance services or, as appropriate, other health and human services, and with particular emphasis on overcoming barriers for underrepresented populations and rural populations;

(C) Coordination of activities among State agencies, in order to facilitate access to, provision of, and funding for, assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

(D) The development and implementation of strategies to empower individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives, to successfully advocate for increased access to, funding for, and provision of, assistive technology devices and assistive technology services, and to increase the participation, choice, and control of individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives in the selection and procurement of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

(E) The provision of outreach to underrepresented populations and rural populations, including identifying and assessing the needs of such populations, providing activities to increase the accessibility of services to such populations, training representatives of such populations to become service providers, and training staff of the consumer-responsive comprehensive statewide program of technology-related

assistance to work with such populations; and

(F) The development and implementation of strategies to ensure timely acquisition and delivery of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services, particularly for children.

(2) An assurance that the State will conduct an annual assessment of the consumer-responsive comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance, in order to determine—

(i) The extent to which the State's goals and objectives for systems change and advocacy activities, as identified in the State plan under paragraph (a)(6) of this section, have been achieved; and

(ii) The areas of need that require attention in the next year.

(3) An assurance that amounts received under the grant will be expended in accordance with the provisions of this part;

(4) An assurance that amounts received under the grant—

(i) Will be used to supplement amounts available from other sources that are expended for technology-related assistance, including the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services; and

(ii) Will not be used to pay a financial obligation for technology-related assistance (including the provision of assistive technology devices or assistive technology services) that would have been paid with amounts available from other sources if amounts under the grant had not been available, unless—

(A) The payment is made only to prevent a delay in the receipt of appropriate technology-related assistance (including the provision of assistive technology devices or assistive technology services) by an individual with a disability; and

(B) The entity or agency responsible subsequently reimburses the appropriate account with respect to programs and activities under the grant in an amount equal to the amount of the payment;

(5) An assurance that—

(i) A public agency shall control and administer amounts received under the grant; and

(ii) A public agency or an individual with a disability shall—

(A) Hold title to property purchased with such amounts; and

(B) Administer such property.

(6) An assurance that the State will—

(i) Prepare reports to the Secretary in the form and containing information required by the Secretary to carry out the Secretary's functions under this part; and

(ii) Keep records and allow access to records as the Secretary may require to

ensure the correctness and verification of information provided to the Secretary under this paragraph of this section.

(7) An assurance that amounts received under the grant will not be commingled with State or other funds;

(8) An assurance that the State will adopt fiscal control and accounting procedures as may be necessary to ensure proper disbursement of an accounting for amounts received under the grant;

(9) An assurance that the State will—

(i) Make available to individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives information concerning technology-related assistance in a form that will allow individuals to effectively use the information; and

(ii) In preparing information for dissemination, consider the media-related needs of individuals with disabilities who have sensory and cognitive limitations and consider the use of auditory materials, including audio cassettes, visual materials, including video cassettes and video discs, and braille materials.

(10) An assurance that, to the extent practicable, technology-related assistance made available with amounts received under the grant will be equitably distributed among all geographical areas of the State;

(11) An assurance that the lead agency will have the authority to use funds made available through a development or extension grant to comply with the requirements of this part, including the ability to hire qualified staff necessary to carry out activities under the program;

(12)(i) An assurance that the State will annually provide, from the funds made available to the State through a development or extension grant under this part, an amount calculated in accordance with section 102(f)(4) of the Act in order to make a grant to, or enter into a contract with—

(A) An entity to support protection and advocacy services through the systems established to provide protection and advocacy under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 6000 et seq.), the Protection and Advocacy for Mentally Ill Individuals Act (42 U.S.C. 10801 et seq.), and section 509 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794e); or

(B) An entity described in § 345.55(a)(1).

(ii) The State need not provide the assurance in paragraph (b)(12)(i) of this section, if the State requests in its annual progress report or first or second extension application, as applicable,

that the Secretary annually reserve, from the funds made available for a development or extension grant, an amount calculated in accordance with section 102(f)(4) of the Act, in order for the Secretary to make a grant to or enter into a contract with a system to support protection and advocacy services.

(13) An assurance that the State—

(i) Will develop and implement strategies for including personnel training regarding assistive technology within existing Federal- and State-funded training initiatives, in order to enhance assistive technology skills and competencies; and

(ii) Will document the training;

(14) An assurance that the percentage of the funds received under the grant that is used for indirect costs (as defined in OMB Circular A-87 incorporated by reference in 34 CFR 80.22(b)) shall not exceed 10 percent of the total amount of the grant; and

(15) An assurance that the lead agency will coordinate the activities funded through a development or extension grant under this part with the activities carried out by councils within the State, including—

(i) Any council or commission specified in the assurance provided by the State in accordance with section 101(a)(36) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 721(a)(36));

(ii) The Statewide Independent Living Council established under section 705 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796d);

(iii) The advisory panel established under section 613(a)(12) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1413(a)(12));

(iv) The State Interagency Coordinating Council established under section 682 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1482);

(v) The State Planning Council described in section 124 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (20 U.S.C. 6024);

(vi) The State mental health planning council established under section 1914 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x-3);

(vii) Any council established under section 204, 206(g)(2)(A), or 712(a)(3)(H) of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3015, 3017(g)(2)(A), or 3058g(a)(3)(H)).

(16) An assurance that there will be coordination between the activities funded through the grant and other related systems change and advocacy activities funded by either Federal or State sources.

(c) Applicants for development grants shall provide any other related

information and assurances that the Secretary may reasonably require.

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 2212(e); Section 102(e) of the Act)

345.31 What is the content of an application for an extension grant?

A State that seeks an extension grant shall include the following in an application:

(a) The information and assurances described in § 345.30, except the preliminary needs assessment described in § 345.30(a)(4).

(b) A description of the following:

(1) The needs relating to technology-related assistance of individuals with disabilities (including individuals from underrepresented populations or rural populations) and their family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives, and other appropriate individuals within the State.

(2) Any problems or gaps that remain with the development and implementation of a consumer-responsive comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance in the State.

(3) The strategies that the State will pursue during the grant period to remedy the problems or gaps with the development and implementation of a program.

(4) Outreach activities to be conducted by the State, including dissemination of information to eligible populations, with special attention to underrepresented populations and rural populations.

(5)(i) The specific systems change and advocacy activities described in § 345.20 (including the activities described in § 345.30(b)(1)) carried out under the development grant received by the State, or, in the case of an application for a second extension grant, under an initial extension grant received by the State under this section, including—

(A) A description of systems change and advocacy activities that were undertaken to produce change on a permanent basis for individuals with disabilities of all ages;

(B) A description of activities undertaken to improve the involvement of individuals with disabilities in the program, including training and technical assistance efforts to improve individual access to assistive technology devices and assistive technology services as mandated under other laws and regulations in effect on the date of the application, and including actions undertaken to improve the participation of underrepresented populations and rural populations, such as outreach efforts; and

(C) An evaluation of the impact and results of the activities described in paragraph (b)(5)(i)(A) and (B) of this section.

(ii) The relationship of systems change and advocacy activities to the development and implementation of a consumer-responsive comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance.

(iii) The progress made toward the development and implementation of a consumer-responsive comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance.

(6)(i) In the case of an application for an initial extension grant, a report on the hearing described in § 345.8(a)(2) or, in the case of an application for a second extension grant, a report on the hearing described in § 345.8(b)(2).

(ii) A description of State actions, other than a hearing, designed to determine the degree of satisfaction of individuals with disabilities, and their family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives, public service providers and private service providers, educators and related service providers, technology experts (including engineers), employers, and other appropriate individuals and entities with—

(A) The degree of their ongoing involvement in the development and implementation of the consumer-responsive comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance;

(B) The specific systems change and advocacy activities described in § 345.20 (including the activities described in § 345.30(b)(1)) carried out by the State under the development grant or the initial extension grant;

(C) Progress made toward the development and implementation of a consumer-responsive comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance; and

(D) The ability of the lead agency to carry out the activities described in § 345.6(b).

(c) A summary of any comments received concerning the issues described in paragraph (b)(6) of this section and response of the State to such comments, solicited through a public hearing or through other means, from individuals affected by the consumer-responsive comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance, including—

(1) Individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives;

(2) Public service providers and private service providers;

(3) Educators and related services personnel;

(4) Technology experts (including engineers);

(5) Employers; and

(6) Other appropriate individuals and entities.

(d) An assurance that the State, any recipient, and any subrecipient of funds made available to the State under the Act will comply with guidelines established under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d).

(e)(1) A copy of the protection and advocacy contract or grant agreement entered into by the State;

(2) Evidence of ongoing negotiations with an entity to provide protection and advocacy services, if the State has not yet entered into a grant or contract; or

(3) A request that the Secretary enter into a grant agreement with an entity to provide protection and advocacy services, pursuant to § 345.30(b)(12)(ii).

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 2213 (d) and (e); Section 103 (d) and (e) of the Act).

Subpart D—How Does the Secretary Make a Grant?

§ 345.40 How does the Secretary evaluate an application for a development grant under this program?

The Secretary evaluates each application using the selection criteria in 34 CFR 75.210.

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 2212(a); Section 102(a) of the Act)

§ 345.41 What other factors does the Secretary take into consideration in making development grant awards under this program?

In making development grants under this program, the Secretary takes into consideration, to the extent feasible—

(a) Achieving a balance among States that have differing levels of development of consumer-responsive comprehensive statewide programs of technology-related assistance; and

(b) Achieving a geographically equitable distribution of the grants.

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 2212(c); Section 102(c) of the Act)

§ 345.42 What is the review process for an application for an extension grant?

(a) The Secretary may award an initial extension grant to any State that—

(1) Provides the evidence described in § 345.6(b) and makes the demonstration described in paragraph (a)(2) of this section;

(2) Demonstrates that the State has made significant progress, and has carried out systems change and advocacy activities that have resulted in

significant progress, toward the development and implementation of a consumer-responsive comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance, consistent with this part; and

(3) Holds a public hearing in the third year of a program carried out under a development grant, after providing appropriate and sufficient notice to allow interested groups and organizations and all segments of the public an opportunity to comment on the program.

(b) The Secretary may award a second extension grant to any State that—(1) Provides the evidence described in § 345.6(b) and makes the demonstration described in paragraph (a)(2) of this section;

(2) Describes the steps the State has taken or will take to continue on a permanent basis the consumer-responsive comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance with the ability to maintain, at a minimum, the outcomes achieved by the systems change and advocacy activities;

(3) Identifies future funding options and commitments for the program from the public and private sector and the key individuals, agencies, and organizations to be involved in, and to direct future efforts of, the program; and

(4) Holds a public hearing in the second year of a program carried out under an initial extension grant, after providing appropriate and sufficient notice to allow interested groups and organizations and all segments of the public an opportunity to comment on the program.

(c) In making any award to a State for a second extension grant, the Secretary makes an award contingent on a determination, based on the on-site visit in § 345.53, that the State is making significant progress toward development and implementation of a consumer-responsive comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance, except where the Secretary determines that the on-site visit is unnecessary. If the Secretary determines that the State is not making significant progress, the Secretary may take an action described in § 345.61.

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 2213 (b) and (e) and 2215(a)(2); Section 103 (b) and (e) and 105(a)(2) of the Act)

§ 345.43 What priorities does the Secretary establish?

(a) The Secretary gives, in each of the 2 fiscal years succeeding the fiscal year in which amounts are first appropriated for carrying out development grants, priority for funding to States that received development grants under this

part during the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year concerned.

(b) For States that are applying for initial extension grants, the Secretary gives, in any fiscal year, priority to States that received initial extension grants during the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year concerned.

(c) The Secretary may establish other appropriate priorities under the Act.

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 2212(b)(4) and 2213(c); Section 102(b)(4) and 103(c) of the Act)

Subpart E—What Conditions Must Be Met After an Award?

§ 345.50 What are the reporting requirements for the recipients of development and extension grants?

(a) States receiving development and extension grants shall submit annually to the Secretary a report that documents significant progress in developing and implementing a consumer-responsive comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance documenting the following:

(1) The progress the State has made, as determined in the State's annual assessment (consistent with the guidelines established by the Secretary under § 345.51) in achieving the State's goals, objectives, and outcomes as identified in the State's application, and areas of need that require attention in the next year, including unanticipated problems with the achievement of the goals, objectives, and outcomes described in the application, and the activities the State has undertaken to rectify these problems.

(2) The systems change and advocacy activities carried out by the State including—

(i) An analysis of the laws, regulations, policies, practices, procedures, and organizational structure that the State has changed, has attempted to change, or will attempt to change during the next year, to facilitate and increase timely access to, provision of, or funding for, assistive technology devices and assistive technology services; and

(ii) A description of any written policies and procedures that the State has developed and implemented regarding access to, provision of, and funding for, assistive technology devices and assistive technology services, particularly policies and procedures regarding access to, provision of, and funding for, such devices and services under education (including special education), vocational rehabilitation, and medical assistance programs.

(3) The degree of involvement of various State agencies, including the State insurance department, in the

development, implementation, and evaluation of the program, including any interagency agreements that the State has developed and implemented regarding access to, provision of, and funding for, assistive technology devices and assistive technology services such as agreements that identify available resources for, assistive technology devices and assistive technology services and the responsibility of each agency for paying for such devices and services.

(4) The activities undertaken to collect and disseminate information about the documents or activities analyzed or described in paragraphs (a) (1) through (3) of this section, including outreach activities to underrepresented populations and rural populations and efforts to disseminate information by means of electronic communication.

(5) The involvement of individuals with disabilities who represent a variety of ages and types of disabilities in the planning, development, implementation, and assessment of the consumer-responsive comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance, including activities undertaken to improve such involvement, such as consumer training and outreach activities to underrepresented populations and rural populations.

(6) The degree of consumer satisfaction with the program, including satisfaction by underrepresented populations and rural populations.

(7) Efforts to train personnel as well as consumers.

(8) Efforts to reduce the service delivery time for receiving assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.

(9) Significant progress in the provision of protection and advocacy services, in each of the areas described in § 345.55(c)(1)(ii).

(b) The State shall make these reports readily available to the public at no extra cost.

(c) The State shall submit on an annual basis—

(1) A copy of the protection and advocacy contract or grant agreement entered into by the State;

(2) Evidence of ongoing negotiations with an entity to provide protection and advocacy services, if the State has not yet entered into a grant or contract; or

(3) A request that the Secretary enter into a grant agreement with an entity to provide protection and advocacy services, pursuant to § 345.30(b)(12)(ii).

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 2212(e)(16)(A) and 2214(b); Sections 102(e)(16)(A) and 104(b) of the Act)

§ 345.51 When is a State making significant progress?

A State is making significant progress when it carries out—

(a) The systems change and advocacy activities listed in § 345.30(b)(1)(ii)(A) through (F); or

(b) Other systems change and advocacy activities, if the State demonstrates through the progress reports developed by the Secretary and required to be submitted by a State in § 345.50 that it has accomplished the purposes of the program listed in § 345.2(a).

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 2212(e)(7) and 2214(a); Sections 102(e)(7) and 104(a) of the Act)

§ 345.52 Who retains title to devices provided under this program?

Title to devices purchased with grant funds under this part, either directly or through any contract or subgrant, must be held by a public agency or by an individual with a disability who is the beneficiary of the device. If the disabled individual does not have legal status to hold title, the title may be retained by a parent or legal guardian.

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 2212(e)(12)(B); Section 102(e)(12)(B) of the Act)

§ 345.53 What are the requirements for grantee participation in the Secretary's progress assessments?

Recipients of development grants shall participate in the Secretary's assessment of the extent to which States are making significant progress by—

(a) Participating in the on-site monitoring visits that will be made to each grantee during the final year of the development grant;

(b) Participating in an on-site monitoring visit, that is in addition to the visit in paragraph (a), if the State applies for a second extension grant and whose initial on-site visit occurred prior to the date of the enactment of the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act Amendments of 1994, unless the Secretary determines that the visit is not necessary.

(c) Providing written evaluations of the State's progress toward fulfilling its goals and the objectives of the project, and such other documents as the Secretary may reasonably require to complete the required assessment.

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 2215(a); Section 105(a) of the Act)

§ 345.54 How may grant funds be used under this program?

(a) States receiving funds under this part shall comply with the assurances provided under §§ 345.30 and 345.31.

(b) A State receiving a grant may make contracts or subgrants to the eligible entities in § 345.6, provided that—

(1) A designated public agency maintains fiscal responsibility and accountability; and

(2) All appropriate provisions related to data collection, recordkeeping, and cooperation with the Secretary's evaluation and program monitoring efforts are applied to all subcontractors and subgrantees as well as to the agency receiving the grant.

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 2212(e), 2213(d), and 2215(a)(5); Sections 102(e), 103(d), and 105(a)(5) of the Act; Section 437 of the General Education Provisions Act; 20 U.S.C. 1232f)

§ 345.55 What are the responsibilities of a State in carrying out protection and advocacy services?

(a)(1) A State is eligible to receive funding to provide protection and advocacy services if—

(i) The State, as of June 30, 1993, has provided for protection and advocacy services through an entity that is capable of performing the functions that would otherwise be performed under § 345.30(b)(12) by the system described in that section; and

(ii) The entity referred to in § 345.30(b)(12)(i) is not a system described in that section.

(b) A State that meets both of the descriptions in paragraph (a)(1) of this section also shall comply with the same requirements of this part as a system that receives funding under § 345.30(b)(12).

(c)(1) A system that receives funds under § 345.30(b)(12)(i) to carry out the protection and advocacy services described in § 345.30(b)(12)(i) in a State, or an entity described in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, shall prepare reports that contain the information required by the Secretary, including the following:

(i) A description of the activities carried out by the system or entity with the funds;

(ii) Documentation of significant progress, in providing protection and advocacy services, in each of the following areas:

(A) Conducting activities that are consumer-responsive, including activities that will lead to increased access to funding for assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.

(B) Executing legal, administrative, and other appropriate means of representation to implement systems change and advocacy activities.

(C) Developing and implementing strategies designed to enhance the long-

term abilities of individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives to successfully advocate for assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to which the individuals with disabilities are entitled under law other than this Act.

(D) Coordinating activities with protection and advocacy services funded through sources other than this Act, and coordinating activities with the systems change and advocacy activities carried out by the State lead agency.

(2) The system or entity shall submit the reports to the lead agency in the State not less often than every 6 months.

(3) The system or entity shall provide monthly updates to the lead agency concerning the activities and information described in paragraph (c) of this section.

(d) Before making a grant or entering into a contract under § 345.30(b)(12)(ii) to support the protection and advocacy services described in § 345.30(b)(12)(ii) in a State, the Secretary shall solicit and consider the opinions of the lead agency in the State with respect to the terms of the grant or contract.

(e)(1) In each fiscal year, the Secretary specifies for each State receiving a development or an extension grant the minimum amount that the State shall use to provide protection and advocacy services.

(2)(i) Except as provided for in paragraphs (e) (3) and (4), the Secretary calculates this minimum amount based on the size of the grant, the needs of individuals with disabilities within the State, the population of the State, and the geographic size of the State.

(ii) The Secretary establishes a minimum amount for each State that ranges from at least \$40,000 up to \$100,000.

(3) If a State receives a second extension grant, the Secretary specifies a minimum amount for the fourth year (if any) of the grant period that equals 75 percent of the minimum amount specified for the State for the third year of the second extension grant of the State.

(4) If a State receives a second extension grant, the Secretary specifies a minimum amount for the fifth year (if any) of the grant period that equals 50 percent of the minimum amount specified for the State for the third year of the second extension grant of the State.

(5) After the fifth year (if any) of the grant period, no Federal funds may be made available under this title by the State to a system described in § 345.30(b)(12) or an entity described in paragraph (a) of this section.

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 2212(f); Section 102(f) of the Act)

Subpart F—What Compliance Procedures May the Secretary Use?

§ 345.60 Who is subject to a corrective action plan?

(a) Any State that fails to comply with the requirements of this part is subject to a corrective action plan.

(b) A State may appeal a finding that it is subject to corrective action within 30 days of being notified in writing by the Secretary of the finding.

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 2215(b)(1); Section 105(b)(1) of the Act)

§ 345.61 What penalties may the Secretary impose on a grantee that is subject to corrective action?

A State that fails to comply with the requirements of this part may be subject to corrective actions such as—

(a) Partial or complete termination of funds;

(b) Ineligibility to participate in the grant program in the following year;

(c) Reduction in funding for the following year; or

(d) Required redesignation of the lead agency.

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 2215(b)(2); Section 105(b)(2) of the Act)

§ 345.62 How does a State redesignate the lead agency when it is subject to corrective action?

(a) Once a State becomes subject to a corrective action plan under § 345.60, the Governor of the State, subject to approval by the Secretary, shall appoint, within 30 days after the submission of the plan to the Secretary, a monitoring panel consisting of the following representatives:

(1) The head of the lead agency designated by the Governor;

(2) Two representatives from different public or private nonprofit organizations that represent the interests of individuals with disabilities;

(3) Two consumers who are users of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services and who are not—

(i) Members of the advisory council, if any, of the consumer-responsive comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance; or

(ii) Employees of the State lead agency; and

(4) Two service providers with knowledge and expertise in assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.

(b) The monitoring panel must be ethnically diverse. The panel shall select a chairperson from among the members of the panel.

(c) The panel shall receive periodic reports from the State regarding progress in implementing the corrective action plan and shall have the authority to request additional information necessary to determine compliance.

(d) The meetings of the panel to determine compliance shall be open to the public (subject to confidentiality concerns) and held at locations that are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

(e) The panel shall carry out the duties of the panel for the entire period of the corrective action plan, as determined by the Secretary.

(f) A failure by a Governor of a State to comply with the requirements of paragraphs (a) through (e) of this section results in the termination of funding for the State under this part.

(g) Based on its findings, a monitoring panel may determine that a lead agency designated by a Governor has not accomplished the purposes described in § 345.2(a) and that there is good cause for redesignation of the agency and the temporary loss of funds by the State under this part.

(h) For the purposes of this section, "good cause" includes the following:

(1) Lack of progress with employment of qualified staff;

(2) Lack of consumer-responsive activities;

(3) Lack of resource allocation to systems change and advocacy activities;

(4) Lack of progress with meeting the assurances in § 345.30(b); or

(5) Inadequate fiscal management.

(i) If a monitoring panel determines that the lead agency should be redesignated, the panel shall recommend to the Secretary that further remedial action be taken or that the Secretary order the Governor to redesignate the lead agency within 90 days or lose funds under this part. The

Secretary, based on the findings and recommendations of the monitoring panel, and after providing to the public notice and opportunity for comment, shall make a final determination regarding whether to order the Governor to redesignate the lead agency. The Governor shall make any redesignation in accordance with the requirements that apply to designations under § 345.6.

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 2215(c); Section 105(c) of the Act)

§ 345.63 How does a State change the entity responsible for providing protection and advocacy services?

(a) The Governor of a State, based on input from individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives, may determine that the entity providing protection and advocacy services has not met the protection and advocacy service needs of the individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives, for securing funding for and access to assistive technology devices and assistive technology services, and that there is good cause to provide the protection and advocacy services for the State through a contract with a second entity.

(b) On making the determination in paragraph (a) of this section, the Governor may not enter into a contract with a second entity to provide the protection and advocacy services unless good cause exists and unless—

(1) The Governor has given the first entity 30 days notice of the intention to enter into the contract, including specification of good cause, and an opportunity to respond to the assertion that good cause has been shown;

(2) Individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians,

advocates, or authorized representatives, have timely notice of the determination and opportunity for public comment; and

(3) The first entity has the opportunity to appeal the determination to the Secretary within 30 days of the determination on the basis that there is not good cause to enter into the contract.

(c)(1) When the Governor of a State determines that there is good cause to enter into a contract with a second entity to provide the protection and advocacy services, the Governor shall hold an open competition within the State and issue a request for proposals by entities desiring to provide the services.

(2) The Governor shall not issue a request for proposals by entities desiring to provide protection and advocacy services until the first entity has been given notice and an opportunity to respond. If the first entity appeals the determination to the Secretary, the Governor shall issue such request only if the Secretary decides not to overturn the determination of the Governor. The Governor shall issue such request within 30 days after the end of the period during which the first entity has the opportunity to respond, or after the decision of the Secretary, as appropriate.

(3) The competition shall be open to entities with the same expertise and ability to provide legal services as a system in § 345.30(b)(12). The competition shall ensure public involvement, including a public hearing and adequate opportunity for public comment.

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 2215(d); Section 105(d) of the Act)

[FR Doc. 96-4861 Filed 2-29-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P