

educational results for students with disabilities in secondary education settings (including urban, rural, and suburban community settings), and promote their successful transition to postsecondary settings.

The secondary research institute must design and conduct a strategic program of research to study—

(a) The range of effective support strategies, supplementary aids, and services (e.g., instructional practices, counseling, tutoring, assistive technology) aimed at improving educational results for students with disabilities in a wide range of typical secondary education experiences (e.g., academic, vocational, extracurricular) as well as their retention in school and their engagement in the educational process. This includes the study of strategies to assist students in accessing the general education curriculum;

(b) Effective strategies that secondary school personnel can use to restructure academic and vocational courses to accommodate students with disabilities with diverse learning needs and styles;

(c) The extent to which secondary schools are effectively implementing the transition services requirement of IDEA;

(d) The extent to which secondary academic and vocational curricula promote postsecondary education and employment; and

(e) Standards and models for developing instructional and transition plans for students who are entering or enrolled in secondary school programs.

The program of research must include, but need not be limited to, studying school based exemplars, or designing and implementing interventions using a rich array of research methods to reach the intended goals of this priority as articulated by the proposed research hypotheses. In addition, the research must be designed in a manner that is likely to lead to improved services and results for children and youth with disabilities, including those who are members of cultural, linguistic, or racial minority groups.

The institute must—

(a) Design and conduct a strategic program of research across multiple sites to represent organizational and demographic diversity;

(b) Collect, analyze, and communicate student results data and supporting context data; and multiple results data for teachers, parents, and administrators, as appropriate;

(c) Collaborate with other research institutes supported under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and experts and researchers in related subject matter and

methodological fields, to design and conduct the activities of the institute;

(d) Carry out the research within a conceptual framework, based on previous research or theory, that provides a basis for the issues that will be studied, the research methods and instrumentation that will be used, and the specific target populations and settings that will be studied;

(e) Collaborate with communication specialists and professional and advocacy organizations to ensure that findings are prepared in formats that are useable for specific audiences such as teachers, administrators, and other service providers;

(f) Develop linkages with U.S. Department of Education dissemination and technical assistance providers, in particular those supported under IDEA, to communicate research findings and distribute products;

(g) Provide training and research opportunities for a limited number of graduate students, including students who are from traditionally underrepresented groups;

(h) Coordinate research and dissemination activities with other relevant efforts sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and with the U.S. Department of Labor, including other research institutes, and information clearinghouses; and

(i) Meet with the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) project officer in the first four months of the project to review the program of research and communication approaches.

The Institute must budget for two trips annually to Washington, DC. for: (1) A two-day Research Project Directors' meeting; and (2) another meeting to collaborate with the OSEP project officer.

Under this priority, the Secretary anticipates making one award for a cooperative agreement with a project period of up to 60 months subject to the requirements of 34 CFR 75.253(a) for continuation awards. In determining whether to continue the Institute for the fourth and fifth years of the project period, the Secretary, in addition to the requirements of 34 CFR 75.253(a), will consider—

(a) The recommendation of a review team consisting of three experts selected by the Secretary. The services of the review team, including a two-day site visit to the project, are to be performed during the last half of the Institute's second year and may be included in that year's evaluation required under 34 CFR 75.590. Costs associated with the services to be performed by the review team must also be included in the

Institute's budget for year two. These costs are estimated to be approximately \$4,000;

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

(c) The degree to which the Institute's research designs, methodologies, and activities demonstrate the potential for advancing significant new knowledge.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1425.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers: Research in Education of Individuals with Disabilities Program, 84.023; Training Personnel for the Education of Individuals with Disabilities Program—Grants for Personnel Training and Parent Training and Information Centers, 84.029; Program for Children with Severe Disabilities, 84.086; and Secondary Education and Transitional Services for Youth with Disabilities Program, 84.158)

Dated: June 4, 1997.

Judith E. Heumann,

Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year 1997.

SUMMARY: This notice provides closing dates and other information regarding the transmittal of applications for fiscal year 1997 competitions under programs authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. This notice supports the National Education Goals by helping to improve results for children with disabilities.

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

Priorities: Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) the Secretary gives an absolute preference to applications that meet the following priorities. The Secretary will fund under these competitions only those applications that meet any one of these absolute priorities:

Absolute Priority 1—Center on Implementing Inclusive Education for Children With Disabilities in Urban Districts, Particularly Students With Severe Disabilities, as Part of Systemic Education Reform Efforts (84.086C)

The priority Center on Implementing Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities in Urban Districts,

Particularly Students with Severe Disabilities, as Part of Systemic Education Reform Efforts in the notice of final priorities under programs authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**, applies to this competition.

Eligible Applicants: State and local educational agencies; institutions of higher education; and other public agencies and nonprofit private organizations.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, and 86; and (b) the regulations for this program in 34 CFR Part 315.

Note: The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to institutions of higher education only.

Applications Available: June 13, 1997.
Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: July 29, 1997.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: September 26, 1997.

Estimated Number of Awards: 1.

Project Period: Up to 60 months.

Maximum Award: The Secretary rejects and does not consider an application that proposes a budget exceeding \$1,000,000 for any single budget period of 12 months. However, because of budgetary considerations contingent upon congressional action, the Secretary may change the maximum amount through a notice published in the **Federal Register**.

Page Limits: Part III of the application, the Application Narrative, requires applicants to address the selection criteria that will be used by reviewers in evaluating individual proposals. The applicant must limit the Part III—Application Narrative to no more than 100 double-spaced 8½ x 11" pages (on one side only) with one inch margins (top, bottom, and sides). This page limitation applies to all material presented in the application narrative—including, for example, any charts, tables, figures, and graphs. The application narrative page limit does not apply to: Part I—the cover sheet; Part II—the budget section (including the narrative budget justification); and Part IV—the assurances and certifications. Also, the one-page abstract, resumes, bibliography, or letters of support, while considered part of the application, are not subject to the page limitation. Applicants should note that reviewers are not required to review any information provided in addition to the application information listed above. All sections of text in the application narrative must be double-spaced (no

more than 3 lines per vertical inch). If using a proportional computer font, use no smaller than a 12-point font, and an average character density no greater than 14 characters per inch. If using a nonproportional font or a typewriter, do not use more than 12 characters to the inch. Double-spacing and font requirements do not apply within charts, tables, figures, and graphs, but the information presented in those formats should be easily readable. The Secretary rejects and does not consider an application that does not adhere to these requirements.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1441 and 1424.

Absolute Priority 2—Center to Promote the Access To and Participation by Minority Institutions in Discretionary Programs Authorized Under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (84.920T)

The priority Center to Promote the Access To and Participation By Minority Institutions in Discretionary Programs Authorized Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in the notice of final priorities under programs authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**, applies to this competition.

Selection Criteria: In evaluating applications for grants under this program, the Secretary uses the EDGAR selection criteria in 34 CFR 75.210.

Eligible Applicants: Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, State agencies, and other appropriate nonprofit agencies.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, and 86.

Note: The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to institutions of higher education only.

Applications available: June 13, 1997.
Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: July 29, 1997.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: September 26, 1997.

Estimated Number of Awards: 1.

Project Period: Up to 60 months.
Maximum Award: The Secretary rejects and does not consider an application that proposes a budget exceeding \$1,500,000 for any single budget period of 12 months. However, because of budgetary considerations contingent upon congressional action, the Secretary may change the maximum amount through a notice published in the **Federal Register**.

Page Limits: Part III of the application, the Application Narrative, requires applicants to address the selection criteria that will be used by reviewers in evaluating individual proposals. The applicant must limit the Part III—Application Narrative to no more than 75 double-spaced 8½ x 11" pages (on one side only) with one inch margins (top, bottom, and sides). This page limitation applies to all material presented in the application narrative—including, for example, any charts, tables, figures, and graphs. The application narrative page limit does not apply to: Part I—the cover sheet; Part II—the budget section (including the narrative budget justification); and Part IV—the assurances and certifications. Also, the one-page abstract, resumes, bibliography, or letters of support, while considered part of the application, are not subject to the page limitation. Applicants should note that reviewers are not required to review any information provided in addition to the application information listed above. All sections of text in the application narrative must be double-spaced (no more than 3 lines per vertical inch). If using a proportional computer font, use no smaller than a 12-point font, and an average character density no greater than 14 characters per inch. If using a nonproportional font or a typewriter, do not use more than 12 characters to the inch. Double-spacing and font requirements do not apply within charts, tables, figures, and graphs, but the information presented in those formats should be easily readable. The Secretary rejects and does not consider an application that does not adhere to these requirements.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1409.

Absolute Priority 3—Technical Assistance to Parent Projects (84.029R)

The priority Technical Assistance to Parent Projects in the notice of final priorities under programs authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**, applies to this competition.

Eligible Applicants: Parent Organizations.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, and 86; and (b) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 316.

Note: The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to institutions of higher education only.

Applications Available: June 13, 1997.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: July 29, 1997.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: September 26, 1997.

Estimated Number of Awards: 1.

Project Period: Up to 60 months.

Maximum Award: The Secretary rejects and does not consider an application that proposes a budget exceeding \$1,200,000 for any single budget period of 12 months. However, because of budgetary considerations contingent upon congressional action, the Secretary may change the maximum amount through a notice published in the **Federal Register**.

Page Limits: Part III of the application, the Application Narrative, requires applicants to address the selection criteria that will be used by reviewers in evaluating individual proposals. The applicant must limit the Part III—Application Narrative to no more than 75 double-spaced 8 1/2 x 11" pages (on one side only) with one inch margins (top, bottom, and sides). This page limitation applies to all material presented in the application narrative—including, for example, any charts, tables, figures, and graphs. The application narrative page limit does not apply to: Part I—the cover sheet; Part II—the budget section (including the narrative budget justification); and Part IV—the assurances and certifications. Also, the one-page abstract, resumes, bibliography, or letters of support, while considered part of the application, are not subject to the page limitation. Applicants should note that reviewers are not required to review any information provided in addition to the application information listed above. All sections of text in the application narrative must be double-spaced (no more than 3 lines per vertical inch). If using a proportional computer font, use no smaller than a 12-point font, and an average character density no greater than 14 characters per inch. If using a nonproportional font or a typewriter, do not use more than 12 characters to the inch. Double-spacing and font requirements do not apply within charts, tables, figures, and graphs, but the information presented in those formats should be easily readable. The Secretary rejects and does not consider an application that does not adhere to these requirements.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1431(e).

Absolute Priority 4—Special Projects—National Initiatives (84.029K3)

The priority Special Projects—National Initiatives in the notice of final priorities under programs authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities

Education Act, published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**, applies to this competition.

Eligible Applicants: Institutions of higher education; State agencies; and other appropriate nonprofit agencies.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, and 86; and (b) the regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 318.

Note: The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to institutions of higher education only.

Applications Available: June 13, 1997.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: July 29, 1997.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: September 26, 1997.

Estimated Number of Awards: 1 award for Focus 1—An Academy: Linking Teacher Education to Advances in Research; and 1 award for Focus 2—Developing a National Plan for Training Personnel to Serve Children with Blindness and Low-Vision.

Project Period: For Focus 1, up to 36 months; for Focus 2, up to 24 months.

Maximum Award: For Focus 1—An Academy: Linking Teacher Education to Advances in Research, the Secretary rejects and does not consider an application that proposes a budget exceeding \$1,000,000 for any single budget period of 12 months.

For Focus 2—Developing a National Plan for Training Personnel to Serve Children with Blindness and Low-Vision, the Secretary rejects and does not consider an application that proposes a budget exceeding \$150,000 for any single budget period of 12 months.

However, because of budgetary considerations contingent upon congressional action, the Secretary may change the maximum amount through a notice published in the **Federal Register**.

Page Limits: Part III of the application, the Application Narrative, requires applicants to address the selection criteria that will be used by reviewers in evaluating individual proposals. The applicant must limit the Part III—Application Narrative to no more than 75 double-spaced 8 1/2 x 11" pages (on one side only) with one inch margins (top, bottom, and sides). This page limitation applies to all material presented in the application narrative—including, for example, any charts, tables, figures, and graphs. The application narrative page limit does not apply to: Part I—the cover sheet; Part II—the budget section (including the narrative budget justification); and Part

IV—the assurances and certifications. Also, the one-page abstract, resumes, bibliography, or letters of support, while considered part of the application, are not subject to the page limitation. Applicants should note that reviewers are not required to review any information provided in addition to the application information listed above. All sections of text in the application narrative must be double-spaced (no more than 3 lines per vertical inch). If using a proportional computer font, use no smaller than a 12-point font, and an average character density no greater than 14 characters per inch. If using a nonproportional font or a typewriter, do not use more than 12 characters to the inch. Double-spacing and font requirements do not apply within charts, tables, figures, and graphs, but the information presented in those formats should be easily readable. The Secretary rejects and does not consider an application that does not adhere to these requirements.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1431.

Absolute Priority 5—Research Institute on Secondary Education Services for Children and Youth With Disabilities (84.158J)

The priority Research Institute on Secondary Education Services for Children and Youth with Disabilities in the notice of final priorities under programs authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**, applies to this competition.

Eligible Applicants: Institutions of higher education, State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and other public and nonprofit private institutions or agencies (including the State job training coordinating councils and service delivery area administrative entities established under the Job Training Partnership Act).

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, and 86; and (b) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 326.

Note: The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to institutions of higher education only.

Applications Available: June 13, 1997.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: July 29, 1997.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: September 26, 1997.

Estimated Number of Awards: 1.

Project Period: Up to 60 months.

Maximum Award: The Secretary rejects and does not consider an

application that proposes a budget exceeding \$700,000 for any single budget period of 12 months. However, because of budgetary considerations contingent upon congressional action, the Secretary may change the maximum amount through a notice published in the **Federal Register**.

Page Limits: Part III of the application, the Application Narrative, requires applicants to address the selection criteria that will be used by reviewers in evaluating individual proposals. The applicant must limit the Part III—Application Narrative to no more than 75 double-spaced 8½ × 11" pages (on one side only) with one inch margins (top, bottom, and sides). This page limitation applies to all material presented in the application narrative—including, for example, any charts, tables, figures, and graphs. The application narrative page limit does not apply to: Part I—the cover sheet; Part II—the budget section (including the narrative budget justification); and Part IV—the assurances and certifications. Also, the one-page abstract, resumes, bibliography, or letters of support, while considered part of the application, are not subject to the page limitation. Applicants should note that reviewers are not required to review any information provided in addition to the

application information listed above. All sections of text in the application narrative must be double-spaced (no more than 3 lines per vertical inch). If using a proportional computer font, use no smaller than a 12-point font, and an average character density no greater than 14 characters per inch. If using a nonproportional font or a typewriter, do not use more than 12 characters to the inch. Double-spacing and font requirements do not apply within charts, tables, figures, and graphs, but the information presented in those formats should be easily readable. The Secretary rejects and does not consider an application that does not adhere to these requirements.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1425.

For Applications and General Information Contact: Requests for applications and general information should be addressed to the Grants and Contracts Services Team, 600 Independence Avenue, SW, room 3317, Switzer Building, Washington, DC 20202-2641. The preferred method for requesting information is to FAX your request to: (202) 205-8717. Telephone: (202) 260-9182.

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the TDD number: (202) 205-8953. Individuals with disabilities

may obtain a copy of this notice in an alternate format (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, or computer diskette) by contacting the Department as listed above.

Information about the Department's funding opportunities, including copies of application notices for discretionary grant competitions, can be viewed on the Department's electronic bulletin board (ED Board), telephone (202) 260-9950; on the Internet Gopher Server (at Gopher://gcs.ed.gov); or on the World Wide Web (at <http://gcs.ed.gov>). However, the official application notice for a discretionary grant competition is the notice published in the **Federal Register**.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers: Research in Education of Individuals with Disabilities Program, 84.023; Program for Children with Severe Disabilities, 84.086; Training Personnel for the Education of Individuals with Disabilities—Grants for Personnel Training and Parent Training and Information Centers, 84.029; and Secondary Education and Transitional Services for Youth with Disabilities Program, 84.158)

Dated: June 4, 1997.

Judith E. Heumann,

Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

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