

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION****National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Final Competitive Preference Points for Fiscal Year 2001 for the Field Initiated competition.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the addition of a competitive preference points for the Field Initiated competition under the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) for fiscal year 2001. We take this action to focus research attention on an area of national need. The additional points are intended to improve rehabilitation services and outcomes for individuals with disabilities.

**DATES:** This notice take effect on September 29, 2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Donna Nangle. Telephone: (202) 205-5880. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) you may call the TDD number at (202) 205-4475. Internet: donna\_nangle@ed.gov

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternate format (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed in the preceding paragraph.

**Note:** This notice of final competitive preference points does not solicit applications. A notice inviting applications is published in this issue of the **Federal Register**.

**Analysis of Comments and Changes**

On June 26, 2000 we published a notice of a proposed competitive preference points in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 39500). We received one letter commenting on the proposed additional competitive preference points by the deadline date. Except for minor editorial and technical revisions, there are no differences between the notice of proposed and these final competitive preference points.

*Comment:* One commenter said that there is a need to consider the professional qualifications of all proposed project research personnel in the application, including those with disabilities.

*Discussion:* In the notice inviting applications for the Field Initiated competition, NIDRR already includes in the project staff section of the selection criteria information for the peer reviewers to address the extent to which key personnel and other key staff have

appropriate training and experience in the disciplines required to conduct all proposed activities.

*Changes:* None.

*Additional Selection Criterion:* We will use the selection criteria in 34 CFR 350.54 to evaluate applications under this program. The maximum score for all the criteria is 100 points; however, we will use the following criterion so that up to an additional ten points may be earned by an applicant for a total possible score of 110 points:

Within this absolute priority, we will give the following competitive preference to applications that are otherwise eligible for funding under this priority:

Up to ten (10) points based on the extent to which an application includes effective strategies for employing and advancing in employment qualified individuals with disabilities in projects awarded under this absolute priority. In determining the effectiveness of those strategies, we may consider the applicant's success, as described in the application, in employing and advancing in employment qualified individuals with disabilities in the project.

For purposes of this competitive preference, applicants can be awarded up to a total of 10 points in addition to those awarded under the published selection criteria for this priority. That is, an applicant meeting this competitive preference could earn a maximum total of 110 points.

*Applicable Program Regulations:* 34 CFR Part 350.

**Electronic Access to This Document**

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<http://ocfo.ed.gov/fedreg.htm>  
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**Note:** The official version of document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at:

<http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html>  
(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 84.133G, Field Initiated Research)

**Program Authority:** 29 U.S.C. 764.

Dated: August 23, 2000.

**Judith E. Heumann,**

*Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

[CFDA No.: 84.133G]

**Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services; National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards Under Field Initiated Research Projects for Fiscal Year 2001**

**Purpose of the Program**

Field-Initiated (FI) projects must further one or both of the following purposes: (1) Develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology, that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities; and (2) improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. FI projects carry out either research activities or development activities. In carrying out a research activity, a grantee must identify one or more hypotheses, and based on the hypotheses identified, perform an intensive systematic study directed toward new or full scientific knowledge, or understanding of the subject or problem studied.

In carrying out a development activity, a grantee must use knowledge and understanding gained from research to create materials, devices, systems, or methods beneficial to the target population, including design and development of prototypes and processes. Target population means the group of individuals, organizations, or other entities expected to be affected by the project. More than one group may be involved since a project may affect those who receive services, provide services, or administer services.

**Goals 2000: Educate America Act**

The Goals 2000: Education America Act (Goals 2000) focuses the Nation's education reform efforts on the eight National Education Goals and provides a framework for meeting them. Goals 2000 promotes new partnerships to strengthen schools and expands the Department's capacities for helping