

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

You may view this document, as well as all other Department of Education documents published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at either of the following sites:

<http://ocfo.ed.gov/fedreg.htm>
<http://www.ed.gov/news.html>

To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at either of the preceding sites. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free, at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC., area at (202) 512-1530.

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

communities to exchange ideas and obtain information needed to achieve the goals.

This notice would address the National Education Goal that every adult Americans will be literate and will possess the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global economy and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

The notice of final competitive preference points for the Field Initiated competition is published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**.

Eligible Applicants: Public and private organizations, including institutions of higher education and Indian tribes and tribal organizations, are eligible to apply for awards under this program.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: October 27, 2000.

Application Available: August 29, 2000.

Maximum Award Amount (per year): \$150,000.

Note: Consistent with EDGAR 34 CFR 75.104(b), we will reject any application that proposes a project funding level for any year that exceeds the stated maximum award amount for that year.

Reasonable Accommodation Language: We will consider, and may fund, requests for additional funding as an addendum to an application to reflect the costs of reasonable accommodations necessary to allow individuals with disabilities to be employed on the project as personnel on project activities.

Estimated Number of Awards: 30.

Note: The estimated funding level in this notice does not bind the Department of Education to make awards, or to any specific number of awards or funding levels, unless otherwise specified in statute.

Project Period: 36 months.

Applicable Regulations: The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), 34 CFR Parts 74, 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, 85, 86, 97, 98 and 99; and the following program regulations: 34 CFR Part 350.1 (a)(2).

Note: Research activities involving human subjects supported by awards under these programs are subject to Department of Education Regulations for the Protection of Human Subjects (34 CFR part 97). Information can be found on the research Web Site at: <http://ocfo.ed.gov/humansub.htm>

Invitational Priorities: We are particularly interested in applications that address one of the following invitational priorities. However, under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1) an application that meets an invitational priority does not receive competitive or absolute

preference over other applications. The invitational priorities are: (1) Projects that identify and evaluate approaches for the use of information technology innovations and systems to promote the independence and quality of life of persons with disabilities; (2) projects that address the impact of managing medication therapies on work transition issues for persons with HIV-AIDS; (3) collaborative international assistive technology and rehabilitation engineering projects including, but not limited to, projects that could be carried out under Science and Technology Agreements between the U.S. and other countries; (4) projects that identify and evaluate health management, medical rehabilitation, or community integration needs of persons with newly recognized disabilities such as multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS), chronic fatigue immune deficiency syndrome (CFIDS), or other auto-immune related diseases; and (5) projects to identify and develop methodologies appropriate for use in community-based research on various aspects of disability, rehabilitation, and living independently in the community.

The invitational priorities are based on NIDRR's Long-Range Plan (the Plan). The Plan can be accessed on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/other/1999-12/68576.html>

We encourage applications from minority entities. The term minority entity means an entity that is a historically Black college or university, a Hispanic-serving institution of higher education, an American Indian Tribal College or university, or another institution of higher education whose minority student enrollment is at least 50 percent.

Selection Criteria: In evaluating an application for a new grant under this competition, we use selection criteria chosen from the selection criteria in 34 CFR 350.54, as well as the ten additional competitive preference points that have been announced in a notice published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**. The selection criteria to be used for this competition will be provided in the application package for this competition.

For Applications Contact: Education Publications Center (ED Pubs), P.O. Box 1398, Jessup, MD 20794-1398. Telephone (toll free): 1-877-433-7827. FAX: (301) 470-1244. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call (toll free): 1-877-576-7734. You may also contact ED Pubs via its Web site: <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html> or its E-mail address (edpubs@inet.ed.gov). If you request an application from ED

Pubs, be sure to identify this competition as follows: CFDA number 84.133G.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain a copy of the application package in an alternate format by contacting the Grants and Contracts Services Team, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 3317, Switzer Building, Washington, DC 20202-2550. Telephone: (202) 205-8351. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Services (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339. However, the Department is not able to reproduce in an alternate format the standard forms included in the application package.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Donna Nangle, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 3414, Switzer Building, Washington, DC 20202-2645. Telephone: (202) 205-5880. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the TDD number at (202) 205-4475. Internet: Donna_Nangle@ed.gov

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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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