

Comment: One commenter suggested that the priority focus on deaf, hard-of-hearing, and deaf-blind populations generally, and include diversity within that focus (rather than focusing exclusively on diversity).

Discussion: The focus of this priority is on persons from diverse racial, ethnic, and linguistic backgrounds. However, individual applicants may devise their own organizational framework, including target population. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of submitted proposals.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested educating clinicians on communication with deaf-blind individuals.

Discussion: An applicant could pursue this issue under question (3), covering model communication strategies with deaf, hard-of-hearing, or deaf-blind individuals who have minimal language skills, or under questions (4) or (5). The peer review process will evaluate the merits of the proposals.

Changes: None.

Priority 3—Developing Models To Promote the Use of NIDRR Research

Comment: One commenter suggested that the priority be broadened to include research projects that were not sponsored by NIDRR.

Discussion: NIDRR understands the value of research sponsored by other entities, and it may be necessary to look at this research to fully develop topic areas; however, an emphasis on NIDRR-sponsored research is preferred.

Changes: The priority has been changed to reflect that NIDRR-sponsored research is preferred.

Comment: One commenter felt that nondisability-focused research should be included, such as that pertaining to welfare-

to-work projects, in order to infuse disability research with what has been learned in that area and to promote the transfer of disability research to the non-disability field.

Discussion: This comment is broader than the proposed priority area to develop specific models that could be useful for the utilization of disability research. Just developing a model that includes other types of research will not achieve the kind of outcome this commenter seeks. This might lend itself to a broader priority in the future.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested that bullet number 3 be changed to add the words "alternate media" to ensure that training materials produced would be ready for use with audiences with disabilities.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that NIDRR supported programs should develop products that are accessible to all individuals, including alternative formats.

Changes: The priority has been changed to add the word alternative.

Comment: One commenter suggested that the second unnumbered bullet be amended to include the words "rehabilitation researchers and" individuals with disabilities.

Discussion: NIDRR wants to ensure that this priority is relevant to rehabilitation researchers and to individuals with disabilities. In the original priority, we required participation of individuals with disabilities.

Changes: The priority has been changed to reflect rehabilitation researchers, as well as family members.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No.: 84.133A]

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services; National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research—Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Program; Notice Inviting Applications for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

Purpose of the Program: The purpose of the DRRP Program is to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (the Act), as amended.

For FY 2003, the competition for new awards focuses on projects designed to meet the priorities we describe in the PRIORITIES section of this application notice. We intend these priorities to improve the rehabilitation services and outcomes for individuals with disabilities.

Eligible Applicants: Parties eligible to apply for grants under this program are States; public or private agencies, including for-profit agencies; public or private organizations, including for-profit organizations; institutions of higher education; and Indian tribes and tribal organizations.

APPLICATION NOTICE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003 DISABILITY REHABILITATION RESEARCH PROJECTS, CFDA NO. 84-133A

Funding priority	Application Available	Deadline for transmittal of applications	Estimated available funds	Estimated average size of awards	Maximum award amount (per year)*	Estimated number of awards	Project period (months)
84.133A-8: Health Services Research.	September 12, 2002	November 12, 2002	\$600,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	2	60
84.133A-11: Mental Health Service Delivery to Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind Individuals from Diverse Racial, Ethnic, and Linguistic Backgrounds.	September 12, 2002	November 12, 2002	600,000	300,000	300,000	2	60
84.133A-14: Developing Models to Promote the Use of NIDRR Research.	September 12, 2002	November 12, 2002	350,000	350,000	350,000	1	60

Note 1: We will reject without consideration any application that proposes a budget exceeding the stated maximum award amount in any year (See 34 CFR 75.104(b)).

Note 2: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, 85, 86 and 97, and (b) The program regulations 34 CFR part 350.

Priorities

This competition focuses on projects designed to meet the priorities in the notice of final priorities for these programs, published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**.

For FY 2003, these priorities are absolute priorities. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), we consider only applications that meet one or more of these priorities.

Selection Criteria: The selection criteria to be used for these

competitions will be provided in the application package for each 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 84.133A.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain a copy of the application package in an alternative 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) 205-8207. 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 alternative 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 3412, Switzer Building, Washington, DC 20202-2645. Telephone: (202) 205-5880 or via Internet: Donna.Nangle@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), may call the TDD number at (202) 205-4475.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (*e.g.*, Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Intergovernmental Review

This program is not subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79.

Electronic Access to This Document

You may review 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 the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister>.

To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. 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 this 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>.

Program Authority: 29 U.S.C. 762(g) and 764(b).

Dated: September 9, 2002.

Robert H. Pasternack,

Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

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