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Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1125.

Dated: August 21, 2003.

Sally L. Stroup,

Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No.: 84.129C, 84.129E, 84.129F, 84.129Q, 84.129R]

Rehabilitation Training: Rehabilitation Long-Term Training; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

Purpose of Program: The Rehabilitation Long-Term Training program provides financial assistance for—

(1) Projects that provide basic or advanced training leading to an academic degree in areas of personnel shortages in rehabilitation as identified by the Assistant Secretary;

(2) Projects that provide a specified series of courses or program of study leading to award of a certificate in areas of personnel shortages in rehabilitation as identified by the Assistant Secretary; and

(3) Projects that provide support for medical residents enrolled in residency training programs in the specialty of physical medicine and rehabilitation.

Eligible Applicants: State agencies and other public or nonprofit agencies and organizations, including Indian tribes and institutions of higher education, are eligible for assistance under the Rehabilitation Long-Term Training program.

Applications Available: August 27, 2003.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: October 27, 2003.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: December 26, 2003.

Estimated Available Funds: The Administration has requested \$42,629,000 for the Rehabilitation Training program for FY 2004, of which an estimated \$1,100,000 would be allocated for this competition. The actual level of funding, if any, depends on final congressional action. However, we are inviting applications to allow enough time to complete the grant process if Congress appropriates funds for this program.

Note: This competition is being conducted in FY 2003 for grants that will be awarded using FY 2004 funds.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$75,000 to \$100,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$100,000.

Estimated Total Number of Awards: 11.

Maximum Number of Awards, Maximum Awards, and Absolute Priorities: The maximum number of awards to be made are listed in parentheses following each priority area. We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding the amount listed under *Maximum Award* in any project year.

CFDA number	Priority area (maximum number of awards in parentheses)	Maximum award
84.129C	Rehabilitation Administration (4)	\$100,000
84.129E	Rehabilitation Technology (2)	\$100,000
84.129F	Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment (3)	\$100,000
84.129Q	Rehabilitation of Individuals Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (4)	\$100,000
84.129R	Job Development and Job Placement Services to Individuals With Disabilities (3)	\$100,000

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

Project Period: Up to 60 months.

Page Limit: Part III of the application, the application narrative, is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. You must limit part III to the equivalent of no more than 35 pages, using the following standards:

- A "page" is 8.5" x 11," on one side only, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides.

- Double space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.

- Use a font that is either 12-point or larger or no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch).

The page limit does not apply to part I, the cover sheet; part II, the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; part IV, the assurances and certifications; or the one-page abstract, the resumes, the bibliography, or the letters of support. However, you must include all of the application narrative in part III. You may include brief appendices, but be advised that peer reviewers are not required to review appendix material.

We will reject your application if—

- You apply these standards and exceed the page limit; or
- You apply other standards and exceed the equivalent of the page limit.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in

34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, 86, and 99. (b) The regulations in 34 CFR parts 385 and 386.

Note: The regulations in 34 CFR part 79 apply to all applicants except federally recognized Indian tribes.

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

Selection Criteria: In evaluating an application for a new grant under this competition, we use the selection criteria in 34 CFR 385.31 and 386.20. The selection criteria to be used for this competition will be provided in the application package for this competition.

Priorities: This competition focuses on projects designed to meet the priorities in the regulations for this program (34 CFR 386.1). The priority

areas of personnel shortages are listed in the chart published in this notice.

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) and 34 CFR 386.1, we consider only applications that propose to provide training in the areas of personnel shortages listed in the chart.

Performance Measures: The Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993 directs Federal departments and agencies to improve the effectiveness of their programs by engaging in strategic planning, setting outcome-related goals for programs, and measuring program results against those goals. Program officials must develop performance measures for all of their grant programs to assess their performance and effectiveness. The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) has established a set of indicators to assess the effectiveness of the Rehabilitation Training program and will use the following indicator for the Rehabilitation Long-Term Training program projects:

- The percentage of graduates fulfilling their payback requirement through acceptable employment.

Each grantee must report annually on this indicator using the electronic grantee reporting system administered by RSA for this purpose.

Application Procedures

Note: Some of the procedures in these instructions for transmitting applications differ from those in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) (34 CFR 75.102). Under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553) the Department generally offers interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed regulations. However, these amendments make procedural changes only and do not establish new substantive policy. Therefore, under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(A), the Secretary has determined that proposed rulemaking is not required.

Pilot Project for Electronic Submission of Applications

The Department is continuing to expand its pilot project for electronic submission of applications to include additional formula grant programs and additional discretionary grant competitions. The Rehabilitation Long-Term Training program (CFDA numbers 84.129C, 84.129E, 84.129F, 84.129Q, and 84.129R) is one of the programs included in the pilot project. If you are an applicant under the Rehabilitation Long-Term Training program, you may submit your application to us in either electronic or paper format.

The pilot project involves the use of the Electronic Grant Application System (e-Application). Users of e-Application

will be entering data on-line while completing their applications. You may not e-mail a soft copy of a grant application to us. If you participate in this voluntary pilot project by submitting an application electronically, the data you enter on-line will be saved into a database. We request your participation in e-Application. We shall continue to evaluate its success and solicit suggestions for its improvement.

If you participate in e-Application, please note the following:

- Your participation is voluntary.
- When you enter the e-Application system, you will find information about its hours of operation. We strongly recommend that you do not wait until the application deadline date to initiate an e-Application package.
 - You will not receive additional point value because you submit a grant application in electronic format, nor will we penalize you if you submit an application in paper format.
 - You may submit all documents electronically, including the Application for Federal Education Assistance (ED 424), Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs (ED 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications.
 - Your e-Application must comply with any page limit requirements described in this notice.
 - After you electronically submit your application, you will receive an automatic acknowledgement, which will include a PR/Award number (an identifying number unique to your application).
 - Within three working days after submitting your electronic application, fax a signed copy of the Application for Federal Education Assistance (ED 424) to the Application Control Center after following these steps:
 1. Print ED 424 from e-Application.
 2. The institution's Authorizing Representative must sign this form.
 3. Place the PR/Award number in the upper right hand corner of the hard copy signature page of the ED 424.
 4. Fax the signed ED 424 to the Application Control Center at (202) 260-1349.
 - We may request that you give us original signatures on other forms at a later date.
 - **Application Deadline Date Extension in Case of System Unavailability:** If you elect to participate in the e-Application pilot for the Rehabilitation Long-Term Training program and you are prevented from submitting your application on the application deadline date because the e-

Application system is unavailable, we will grant you an extension of one business day in order to transmit your application electronically, by mail, or by hand delivery. For us to grant this extension—

1. You must be a registered user of e-Application, and have initiated an e-Application for this competition; and

2. (a) The e-Application system must be unavailable for 60 minutes or more between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date; or

- (b) The e-Application system must be unavailable for any period of time during the last hour of operation (that is, for any period of time between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time) on the application deadline date.

The Department must acknowledge and confirm these periods of unavailability before granting you an extension. To request this extension or to confirm the Department's acknowledgement of any system unavailability, you may contact either (1) the person listed elsewhere in this notice under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT or (2) the e-GRANTS help desk at 1-888-336-8930.

You may access the electronic grant application for the Rehabilitation Long-Term Training program at: <http://e-grants.ed.gov>.

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 at its Web site: <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html>.

Or you may contact ED Pubs at 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 84.129C, E, F, Q, or R.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marilyn Fountain, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 3332, Switzer Building, Washington, DC 20202-2649. Telephone (202) 205-8294 or via Internet: Marilyn.Fountain@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the program contact person

listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.**

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 Service (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.

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Program Authority: 29 U.S.C. 772.

Dated: August 21, 2003.

Loretta Petty Chittum,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

[FR Doc. 03-21813 Filed 8-25-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Western Area Power Administration

Boulder Canyon Project—Base Charge and Rates

AGENCY: Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of base charge and rates.

SUMMARY: The Deputy Secretary of the Department of Energy (DOE) has approved Rate Schedule BCP-F6, FY 2004 Base Charge and Rates (Rates) for Boulder Canyon Project (BCP) electric service provided by the Western Area Power Administration (Western). The

Rates will provide sufficient revenue to pay all annual costs, including interest expense, and investment repayment within the allowable period.

DATES: The Rates will be effective the first day of the first full billing period beginning on or after October 1, 2003. These Rates will stay in effect through September 30, 2004, or until other Rates replace them.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Jack Murray, Rates Team Lead, Desert Southwest Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, PO Box 6457, Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457, telephone (602) 352-2442, e-mail jmurray@wapa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Deputy Secretary of DOE approved the existing Rate Schedule BCP-F6 for BCP electric service on September 18, 2000 (Rate Order No. WAPA-94, 65 FR 60933, October 13, 2000), on an interim basis. Rate Schedule BCP-F6, effective October 1, 2000, through September 30, 2005, allows for an annual recalculation of the rates. On July 31, 2001, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved Rate Order No. WAPA-94 on a final basis.

Under Rate Schedule BCP-F6, the existing composite rate, effective on October 1, 2002, was 11.16 mills per kilowatt-hour (mills/kWh), the base charge was \$50,761,729, the energy rate was 5.58 mills/kWh, and the capacity rate was \$1.08 per kilowatt-month (kWmonth). The newly calculated Rates for BCP electric service, to be effective October 1, 2003, will result in an overall composite rate of 12.91 mills/kWh. This is an increase of approximately 16 percent when compared with the existing BCP electric service composite rate. The increase is due to an increase in the annual base charge and a decrease in the projected energy sales. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 base charge is increasing to \$51,719,075. The increase is due mainly to a reduction in visitor service revenues resulting from fewer tours at the Hoover Dam. The FY 2004 energy rate of 6.46 mills/kWh is approximately a 16-percent increase from the existing energy rate of 5.58 mills/kWh. The increase in the energy rate is due to a decrease in the projected energy sales resulting from lake elevations continuing to drop due to poor hydrology in the lower Colorado River basin. The FY 2004 capacity rate of \$1.17/kWmonth is approximately an 8-percent increase from the existing \$1.08/kWmonth capacity rate. The capacity rate is increasing due to decreased generation ratings resulting from lower lake elevations. Another factor that contributes to the increase in

the energy and capacity rates is the increase in the annual base charge.

The following summarizes the steps taken by Western to ensure involvement of all interested parties in determining the Rates:

1. A **Federal Register** (FR) notice was published on February 27, 2003 (68 FR 9078), announcing the proposed rate adjustment process, initiating a public consultation and comment period, announcing public information and public comment forums, and presenting procedures for public participation.

2. On March 7, 2003, a letter was mailed from Western's Desert Southwest Customer Service Region to the BCP Contractors and other interested parties announcing an informal customer meeting, and public information and comment forums. The BCP Contractors consist of Municipalities in Arizona and Nevada, States Agencies from Arizona, Nevada, and Southern California and an Investor Owned Utility from Southern California.

3. Discussion of the proposed Rates was initiated at an informal BCP Contractor meeting held March 19, 2003, in Phoenix, Arizona. At this informal meeting, representatives from Western and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) explained the basis for estimates used to calculate the Rates. A question and answer session was held.

4. At the public information forum held on April 1, 2003, in Phoenix, Arizona, Western and Reclamation representatives explained the proposed Rates for FY 2004 in greater detail. A question and answer session was held.

5. A public comment forum was held on April 23, 2003, in Phoenix, Arizona, to give the public an opportunity to comment for the record. Four persons representing customers made oral comments.

6. One comment letter was received during the 90-day consultation and comment period. The consultation and comment period ended May 28, 2003. All comments were considered in developing the Rates for FY 2004. Written comments were received from: Irrigation & Electrical Districts Association of Arizona, AZ.

Comments and responses, paraphrased for brevity, are presented below.

Agency Accountability

Comment: The Contractors stressed the importance of accountability, for both Western and the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, under the implementation agreement processes, and indicated that there appears to be something wrong in the processes. Similarly, concern was expressed over the significant increases