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Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1126.

Dated: September 25, 2001.

Maureen A. McLaughlin,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Innovation, Office of Postsecondary Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services; Grant Applications Under Part D, Subpart 2 of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2002.

SUMMARY: This notice provides closing dates and other information regarding the transmittal of applications for FY 2002 competitions under three programs authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), as amended. The three programs are: (1) Special Education—Research and

Innovation to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities (five priorities); (2) Special Education—Technology and Media Services for Individuals with Disabilities (one priority); and (3) Special Education—Training and Information for Parents of Children with Disabilities (one priority).

National Education Goals

The eight National Education Goals focus the Nation's education reform efforts and provide a framework for improving teaching and learning.

These priorities address the National Education Goals by helping to improve results for children with disabilities.

Waiver of Rulemaking

It is generally our practice to offer interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed priorities. However, section 661(e)(2) of IDEA makes the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553) inapplicable to the priorities in this notice.

General Requirements

(a) The projects funded under this notice must make positive efforts to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities in project activities (see section 606 of IDEA).

(b) Applicants and grant recipients funded under this notice must involve individuals with disabilities or parents of individuals with disabilities in planning, implementing, and evaluating the projects (see section 661(f)(1)(A) of IDEA).

(c) The projects funded under these priorities must budget for a two-day Project Directors' meeting in Washington, DC during each year of the project.

(d) In a single application, an applicant must address only one absolute priority in this notice.

(e) Part III of each application submitted under a priority in this notice, the application narrative, is where an applicant addresses the selection criteria that are used by reviewers in evaluating the application. You must limit Part III to the equivalent of no more than the number of pages listed under each applicable priority and in the table at the end of this notice, using the following standards:

- A "page" is 8.5" x 11" (on one side only) with one-inch margins (top, bottom, and sides).

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

- If using a proportional computer font, use no smaller than a 12-point font, and an average character density no greater than 18 characters per inch. If using a nonproportional font or a typewriter, do not use more than 12 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 references, or the letters of support. However, you must include all of the application narrative in Part III.

We will reject without consideration or evaluation any application if—

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

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION TO IMPROVE SERVICES AND RESULTS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES [CFDA 84.324]

Purpose of Program: To produce, and advance the use of, knowledge to improve educational and early intervention results and outcomes for infants, toddlers, and children with disabilities.

Eligible Applicants: State and local educational agencies; institutions of higher education; other public agencies; private nonprofit organizations; outlying areas; freely associated States; and Indian tribes or tribal organizations.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, 85, 86, 97, 98, and 99; (b) The selection criteria for the priorities under this program that are drawn from the EDGAR general selection criteria menu. The specific selection criteria for each priority are included in the funding application packet for the applicable competition.

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

PRIORITY

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), we consider only applications that meet one of the following priorities:

Absolute Priority 1—Student-Initiated Research Projects (84.324B)

This priority provides support for short-term (up to 12 months) postsecondary student-initiated research projects focusing on special education and related services for children with disabilities and early intervention services for infants and toddlers with

disabilities, consistent with the purposes of the program, as described in section 672 of the Act.

Projects must—

- (a) Develop research skills in postsecondary students; and
- (b) Include a principal investigator who serves as a mentor to the student researcher while the project is carried out by the student.

Project Period: Up to 12 months.

Maximum Award: The maximum award amount is \$20,000. 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.

Page Limits: The maximum page limit for this priority is 25 double-spaced pages.

Note: Applications must meet the required page limit standards that are described in the "General Requirements" section of this notice.

Absolute Priority 2—Field-Initiated Research Projects (84.324C)

This priority provides support for a wide range of field-initiated research projects that support innovation, development, exchange, and use of advancements in knowledge and practice as described in section 672 of the Act including the improvement of early intervention, instruction, and learning for infants, toddlers, and children with disabilities.

Projects must—

- (a) Prepare their procedures, findings, and conclusions in a manner that will improve results and outcomes for children with disabilities by informing other interested researchers and advancing professional practice or improving programs and services to infants, toddlers, and children with disabilities and their families; and

(b) Disseminate project procedures, findings, and conclusions to appropriate research institutes and technical assistance providers.

Invitational Priorities

Within absolute priority 2 for FY 2002, we are particularly interested in applications that meet one or more of the following invitational priorities.

However, under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1) we do not give to an application that meets one or more of these invitational priorities a competitive or absolute preference over other applications.

(a) Projects to address the specific problems of over-identification and under-identification of children with disabilities. (See section 672(a)(3) of the Act).

(b) Projects to develop and implement effective strategies for addressing

inappropriate behavior of students with disabilities in schools, including strategies to prevent children with emotional and behavioral problems from developing emotional disturbances that require the provision of special education and related services. (See section 672(a)(4) of the Act).

(c) Projects studying and promoting improved alignment and compatibility of regular and special education reforms concerned with curriculum and instruction, evaluation and accountability, and administrative procedures in order to improve results and outcomes for children with disabilities. (See section 672(b)(2)(D) of the Act).

(d) Projects that advance knowledge about the coordination of education with health and social services in order to improve results and outcomes for children with disabilities and their families. (See section 672(b)(2)(G) of the Act).

Competitive Preference

Within this absolute priority, we will give the following competitive preference points under section 606 of IDEA and 34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i), to applications that are otherwise eligible for funding under this priority:

Up to ten (10) points based on the effectiveness of the applicant's strategies for employing and advancing in employment qualified individuals with disabilities in project activities as required under paragraph (a) of the "General Requirements" section of this notice. In determining the effectiveness of those strategies, we may consider the applicant's past success in pursuit of this goal.

Therefore, within 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.

Project Period: The majority of projects will be funded for up to 36 months. Only in exceptional circumstances—such as research questions that require repeated measurement within a longitudinal design—will projects be funded for more than 36 months, up to a maximum of 60 months.

Maximum Award: The maximum award amount is \$180,000. 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.

Page Limits: The maximum page limit for this priority is 50 double-spaced pages.

Note: Applications must meet the required page limit standards that are described in the "General Requirements" section of this notice.

Absolute Priority 3—Model Demonstration Projects for Children with Disabilities (84.324M)

This priority supports model demonstration projects that improve results and outcomes for children with disabilities. Projects must develop, implement, evaluate, and disseminate new or improved approaches for providing early intervention, special education, and related services to infants, toddlers, and children with disabilities and students with disabilities who are pursuing post-school employment, postsecondary education, or independent living goals. Projects supported under this priority are expected to be major contributors of models or components of models for service providers and for outreach projects funded under IDEA.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

A model demonstration project must—

(a) Develop and implement the model with specific components or strategies that are based on theory, research, or evaluation data documenting improved results and outcomes;

(b) Determine the effectiveness of the model and its components or strategies by using multiple measures of results; and

(c) Produce detailed procedures and materials that would enable others to replicate the model.

Federal financial participation for a project funded under this priority will not exceed 90 percent of the total annual costs of development, implementation, evaluation, and dissemination of the project (see section 661(f)(2)(A) of IDEA).

In addition to the annual two-day Project Directors' meeting in Washington, DC mentioned in the "General Requirements" section of this notice, projects must budget for another annual meeting in Washington, DC to collaborate with the Federal project officer and the other projects funded under this priority, to share information and discuss model development, implementation, evaluation, and dissemination issues.

Competitive Preferences

Within this absolute priority, we will give the following competitive

preference points under section 606 of IDEA and 34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i), to applications that are otherwise eligible for funding under this priority:

Up to ten (10) points based on the effectiveness of the applicant's strategies for employing and advancing in employment qualified individuals with disabilities in project activities as required under paragraph (a) of the "General Requirements" section of this notice. In determining the effectiveness of those strategies, we may consider the applicant's past success in pursuit of this goal.

Therefore, 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.

Project Period: Up to 48 months.

Maximum Award: The maximum award amount is \$175,000. 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.

Page Limit: The maximum page limit for this priority is 50 double-spaced pages.

Note: Applications must meet the required page limit standards that are described in the "General Requirements" section of this notice.

Absolute Priority 4—Initial Career Awards (84.324N)

Background

There is a need to enable individuals in the initial phases of their careers to initiate and develop promising lines of research that would improve results and outcomes for children with disabilities and their families through better early intervention services for infants and toddlers, and special education and related services for children with disabilities. Support for research activities among individuals in the initial phases of their careers is intended to develop the capacity of the early intervention and special education research community to more effectively meet the needs of children with disabilities and their families. This priority would address the additional need to provide support for a broad range of field-initiated research projects—focusing on the special education and related services for children with disabilities and early intervention for infants and toddlers—consistent with the purpose of the

program as described in section 672 of the Act.

Priority: The purpose of this priority is to award grants to eligible applicants for the support of individuals in the initial phases of their careers to initiate and develop promising lines of research consistent with the purposes of the program. For purposes of this priority, the initial phase of an individual's career is considered to be the first three years after completing a doctoral program and graduating (i.e., for fiscal year 2002 awards, projects may support individuals who completed a doctoral program and graduated no earlier than the 1998–1999 academic year).

At least 50 percent of the initial career researcher's time must be devoted to the project.

Projects must—

(a) Pursue a line of research that is developed either from theory or a conceptual framework. The line of research must establish directions for designing future studies extending beyond the support of this award. The project is not intended to represent all inquiry related to the particular theory or conceptual framework; rather, it is expected to initiate a new line or advance an existing one;

(b) Include, in design and conduct, sustained involvement with one or more nationally recognized experts having substantive or methodological knowledge and expertise relevant to the proposed research. The experts do not have to be at the same institution or agency at which the project is located, but the interaction with the project must be sufficient to develop the capacity of the initial career researcher to effectively pursue the research into mid-career activities;

(c) Prepare procedures, findings, and conclusions in a manner that improve results and outcomes for children with disabilities by informing other interested researchers and is useful for advancing professional practice or improving programs and services to infants, toddlers, and children with disabilities and their families; and

(d) Disseminate project procedures, findings, and conclusions to appropriate research institutes and technical assistance providers.

Invitational Priority

Within absolute priority 4 for FY 2002, we are particularly interested in applications that meet the following invitational priority. However, under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1) we do not give to an application that meets the priority a competitive or absolute preference over other applications.

Projects that include, in the design and conduct of the research project, a practicing teacher or clinician, in addition to the required involvement of nationally recognized experts.

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

Maximum Award: The maximum award amount is \$75,000. 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.

Page Limits: The maximum page limit for this priority is 30 double-spaced pages.

Note: Applications must meet the required page limit standards that are described in the "General Requirements" section of this notice.

Absolute Priority 5—Outreach Projects for Children with Disabilities (84.324R)

This priority supports projects that will improve results and outcomes by assisting educational and other agencies in replicating proven models, components of models, and other exemplary practices that improve services for infants, toddlers, children with disabilities, and students with disabilities who are pursuing post-school employment, postsecondary education, or independent living goals.

For the purposes of this priority, a "proven model" is a comprehensive description of a theory or system that, when applied, has been shown to be effective by evidence of improved results and outcomes. "Exemplary practices" are effective strategies and methods used to deliver educational, related, or early intervention services. The models, components of models, or exemplary practices selected for outreach may include those developed for pre-service and in-service personnel preparation, and do not need to have been developed through projects funded under IDEA, or by the applicant.

Important elements of an outreach project include but are not limited to:

(a) Providing supporting data or other documentation in the application regarding the effectiveness of the model, components of a model, or exemplary practices selected for outreach;

(b) Selecting implementation sites in multiple regions within one State or multiple States and describing the criteria for their selection;

(c) Describing the expected costs, needed personnel, staff training, equipment, and sequence of implementation activities associated with the replication efforts, including a description of any modifications to the model or practice made by the sites;

(d) Including public awareness, product development and dissemination, training, and technical assistance activities as part of the implementation of the project; and

(e) Coordinating dissemination and replication activities conducted as part of outreach with dissemination projects, technical assistance providers, consumer and advocacy organizations, State and local educational agencies, and the lead agencies for Part C of IDEA, as appropriate.

Projects must prepare products from the project in formats that are useful for specific audiences, including parents, administrators, teachers, early intervention personnel, related services personnel, and individuals with disabilities. (See section 661(f)(2)(B) of IDEA).

Federal financial participation for a project funded under this priority will not exceed 90 percent of the total annual costs of development, operation, and evaluation of the project (see section 661(f)(2)(A) of IDEA).

Applicants must (1) specify in the application whether the primary focus of the models, components of models, or exemplary practices intended for outreach are for pre-service or in-service personnel preparation, and (2) specify the use of scientifically based research demonstrating improved results and outcomes for children with disabilities and their families.

In addition to the annual two-day Project Directors' meeting in Washington, DC mentioned in the "General Requirements" section of this notice, projects must budget annually for another annual meeting in Washington, DC to collaborate with the Federal project officer and the other projects funded under this priority, to share information and discuss project implementation issues.

Competitive Preference

Within this absolute priority, we will give the following competitive preference points under section 606 of IDEA and 34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i), to applications that are otherwise eligible for funding under this priority:

Up to ten (10) points based on the effectiveness of the applicant's strategies for employing and advancing in employment qualified individuals with disabilities in project activities as required under paragraph (a) of the "General Requirements" section of this notice. In determining the effectiveness of those strategies, we may consider the applicant's past success in pursuit of this goal.

Therefore, 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.

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

Maximum Award: The maximum award amount is \$175,000. 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.

Page Limits: The maximum page limit for this priority is 50 double-spaced pages.

Note: Applications must meet the required page limit standards that are described in the "General Requirements" section of this notice.

TECHNOLOGY AND MEDIA SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES [CFDA 84.327]

Purpose of Program: The purpose of this program is to improve results and outcomes for children with disabilities by promoting the development, demonstration, and utilization of technology and to support educational media activities designed to be of educational value to children with disabilities. This program also provides support for some captioning, video description, and cultural activities.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, 86, 97, 98, and 99; (b) The selection criteria for the priorities under this program that are drawn from the EDGAR general selection criteria menu. The specific selection criteria for each priority are included in the funding application packet for the applicable competition.

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

Eligible Applicants: State and local educational agencies; institutions of higher education; other public agencies; private nonprofit organizations; outlying areas; freely associated States; Indian tribes or tribal organizations; and for-profit organizations.

PRIORITY

Under section 687 of IDEA and 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), we consider only applications that meet the following priority:

Absolute Priority 1—Steppingstones of Technology Innovation for Students With Disabilities (84.327A)

The purpose of this priority is to support projects that—

(a) Develop or select and describe a technology-based approach for achieving one or more of the following purposes for early intervention, preschool, elementary, middle school, or high school students with disabilities: (1) improving the results of education or early intervention; (2) improving access to and participation in the general curriculum, or developmentally appropriate activities for preschool children; and (3) improving accountability and participation in educational reform. The technology-based approach must be an innovative combination of a new technology and additional materials and methodologies that enable the technology to improve educational or early intervention results and outcomes for children with disabilities;

(b) Justify the approach on the basis of scientifically rigorous research or theory that supports the effectiveness of the technology-based approach for achieving one or more of the purposes presented in paragraph (a);

(c) Clearly identify and conduct work in *ONE* of the following phases:

(1) **Phase 1—Development:** Projects funded under Phase 1 must develop and refine a technology-based approach, and test its feasibility for use with students with disabilities. Activities may include development, adaptation, and refinement of technology, curriculum materials, or instructional methodologies. Activities must include formative evaluation. The primary product of Phase 1 should be a promising technology-based approach that is suitable for field-based evaluation of effectiveness in improving results and outcomes for children with disabilities.

(2) **Phase 2—Research on Effectiveness:** Projects funded under Phase 2 must select a promising technology-based approach that has been developed in a manner consistent with Phase 1, and subject the approach to rigorous field-based research and evaluation to determine effectiveness and feasibility in educational or early intervention settings. Approaches studied in Phase 2 may have been developed with previous funding under this priority or with funding from other sources. Products of Phase 2 include a further refinement and description of the technology-based approach, and sound evidence that, in a defined range of real world contexts, the approach can

be effective in achieving one or more of the purposes presented in paragraph (a).

(3) *Phase 3—Research on Implementation:* Projects funded under Phase 3 must select a technology-based approach that has been evaluated for effectiveness and feasibility in a manner consistent with Phase 2, and must study the implementation of the approach in multiple, complex settings to acquire an improved understanding of the range of contexts in which the approach can be used effectively, and the factors that determine the effectiveness and sustainability of the approach in this range of contexts. Approaches studied in Phase 3 may have been developed and tested with previous funding under this priority or with funding from other sources. Factors to be studied in Phase 3 include factors related to the technology, materials, and methodologies that constitute the technology-based approach. Also to be studied in Phase 3 are contextual factors associated with students, teacher attitudes and skills, physical setting, curricular and instructional or early intervention approaches, resources, professional development, policy supports, etc. Phases 2 and 3 can be contrasted as follows: Phase 2 studies the effectiveness the approach can have, while Phase 3 studies the effectiveness the approach is likely to have in sustained use in a range of typical educational settings. The primary product of Phase 3 should be a set of research findings that provide evidence of improved results and outcomes for children with disabilities and that can be used to guide dissemination and utilization of the technology-based approach;

(d) In addition to the annual two-day Project Directors' meeting in Washington, DC mentioned in the "General Requirements" section of this notice, budget for another annual trip to Washington, DC to collaborate with the Federal project officer and the other projects funded under this priority, and to share information and discuss findings and methods of dissemination; and

(e) Prepare products from the project in formats that are useful for specific audiences as appropriate, including parents, administrators, teachers, early intervention personnel, related services personnel, researchers, and individuals with disabilities.

Projects for Children From Birth to 3: We intend to fund at least two projects focusing on technology-based approaches for children with disabilities, ages birth to 3.

Competitive Preference

Within this absolute priority, we will give the following competitive preference points under section 606 of IDEA and 34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i), to applications that are otherwise eligible for funding under this priority:

Up to ten (10) points based on the effectiveness of the applicant's strategies for employing and advancing in employment qualified individuals with disabilities in project activities as required under paragraph (a) of the "General Requirements" section of this notice. In determining the effectiveness of those strategies, we may consider the applicant's past success in pursuit of this goal.

Therefore, 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.

Project Period: We intend to fund at least three projects in each phase. Projects funded under Phase 1 will be funded for up to 24 months. Projects funded under Phase 2 will be funded for up to 24 months. Projects funded under Phase 3 will be funded for up to 36 months. During the final year of projects funded under Phase 3, we will determine whether or not to fund an optional six-month period for additional dissemination activities.

Maximum Award: The maximum award amount is \$200,000 for projects in Phases 1 and 2, and \$300,000 for projects in Phase 3. 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.

Page Limits: The maximum page limit for this priority is 50 double-spaced pages.

Note: Applications must meet the required page limit standards that are described in the "General Requirements" section of this notice.

SPECIAL EDUCATION—TRAINING AND INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (CFDA No. 84.328)

Purpose of Program: The purpose of this program is to ensure that parents of children with disabilities receive training and information to help improve results and outcomes for their children.

Eligible Applicants: Eligible applicants are local parent organizations. According to section

682(g) of the Act, a parent organization is a private nonprofit organization (other than an institution of higher education) that:

- (a) Has a board of directors —
 - (1) The parent and professional members of which are broadly representative of the population to be served;
 - (2) The majority of whom are parents of children with disabilities; and
 - (3) That includes individuals with disabilities and individuals working in the fields of special education, related services, and early intervention; or
- (b) Has a membership that represents the interests of individuals with disabilities and has established a special governing committee meeting the requirements for a board of directors in paragraph (a) and has a memorandum of understanding between this special governing committee and the board of directors of the organization that clearly outlines the relationship between the board and the committee and the decisionmaking responsibilities and authority of each.

According to section 683(c) of the Act, local parent organizations are parent organizations that must meet one of the following criteria—

- (a) Have a board of directors the majority of whom are from the community to be served; or
- (b) Have, as part of their mission, serving the interests of individuals with disabilities from that community; and have a special governing committee to administer the project, a majority of the members of which are individuals from that community.

Examples of administrative responsibilities include controlling the use of the project funds, and hiring and managing project personnel.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, 97, 98, and 99; and (b) The selection criteria for this priority that are drawn from the EDGAR general selection criteria menu. The specific selection criteria for this priority are included in the funding application packet for this competition.

PRIORITY

Under sections 661(e)(2) and 683 of the Act, and 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), we will give an absolute preference to applications that meet this absolute priority:

Absolute Priority—Community Parent Resource Centers (84.328C)

The purpose of this priority is to support local parent training and

information centers that will help ensure that underserved parents of children with disabilities, including low-income parents, parents of children who are English language learners, and parents with disabilities, have the training and information they need to enable them to participate effectively in helping their children with disabilities to—

(a) Meet established developmental goals and, to the maximum extent possible, those challenging standards that have been established for all children; and

(b) Be prepared to lead productive independent adult lives, to the maximum extent possible.

Each community parent training and information center supported under this priority must—

(a) Provide training and information that meets the training and information needs of parents of children with disabilities proposed to be served by the project, particularly underserved parents and parents of children who may be inappropriately identified;

(b) Assist parents to understand the availability of, and how to effectively use, procedural safeguards under section 615 of the Act, including encouraging the use, and explaining the benefits, of alternative methods of dispute resolution, such as the mediation process described in the Act;

(c) Serve the parents of infants, toddlers, and children with the full range of disabilities by assisting parents to—

(1) Better understand the nature of their children's disabilities and their educational and developmental needs;

(2) Communicate effectively with personnel responsible for providing special education, early intervention, and related services;

(3) Participate in decisionmaking processes and the development of individualized education programs and individualized family service plans;

(4) Obtain appropriate information about the range of options, programs, services, and resources available to assist children with disabilities and their families;

(5) Familiarize themselves with the provision of special education and related services in the areas they serve to help ensure that children with disabilities are receiving appropriate services;

(6) Understand the provisions of the Act for the education of, and the provision of early intervention services designed to improve results and outcomes to, children with disabilities; and

(7) Participate in school reform activities;

(d) Contract with the State educational agencies, if the State elects to contract with the community parent resource centers, for the purpose of meeting with parents who choose not to use the mediation process to encourage the use and explain the benefits of mediation, consistent with section 615(e)(2)(B) and (D) of the Act;

(e) In order to serve parents and families of children with the full range of disabilities, network with appropriate clearinghouses, including organizations conducting national dissemination activities under section 685(d) of the Act, and with other national, State, and local organizations and agencies, such as protection and advocacy agencies;

(f) Establish cooperative partnerships with the parent training and information centers funded under section 682 of the Act;

(g) Be designed to meet the specific needs of families who experience significant isolation from available sources of information and support; and

(h) Annually report to the Department on—

(1) The number of parents to whom it provided information and training in the most recently concluded fiscal year, demographic information about those parents served; and

(2) The effectiveness of strategies used to reach and serve parents, including underserved parents of children with disabilities by providing evidence of how those parents were served effectively.

We intend to fund a maximum of 15 awards.

Competitive Preferences

Within this absolute priority, we will give competitive preference to applications under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i) that meet one or more of the following priorities:

(a) We will award 20 points to an application submitted by a local parent organization that has a board of directors, the majority of whom are parents of children with disabilities, from the community to be served.

(b) We will award 5 points to an application that proposes to provide services to one or more Empowerment Zones or Enterprise Communities that are designated within the areas served by projects. To meet this priority an applicant must indicate that it will:

(1)(i) Design a program that includes special activities focused on the unique needs of one or more Empowerment Zones or Enterprise Communities; or

(ii) Devote a substantial portion of program resources to providing services

within, or meeting the needs of residents of these zones and communities.

(2) As appropriate, contribute to the strategic plan of the Empowerment Zones or Enterprise Communities and become an integral component of the Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community activities.

A list of areas that have been selected as Empowerment Zones or Enterprise Communities is included in the application packet.

(c) We will award up to five (5) points based on the effectiveness of the applicant's strategies for employing and advancing in employment qualified individuals with disabilities in project activities as required under paragraph (a) of the "General Requirements" section of this notice (section 606 of IDEA). In determining the effectiveness of those strategies, we may consider the applicant's past success in pursuit of this goal.

Therefore, for purposes of these competitive preferences, applicants can be awarded up to a total of 30 points in addition to those awarded under the published selection criteria for this priority. That is, an applicant meeting all of these competitive preferences could earn a maximum total of 130 points.

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

Maximum Award: The maximum award amount is \$100,000. 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.

Page Limits: The maximum page limit for this priority is 30 double-spaced pages.

Note: Applications must meet the required page limit standards that are described in the "General Requirements" section of this notice.

For Applications Contact: Education Publications Center (ED Pubs), P.O. Box 1398, Jessup, Maryland 20794-1398. Telephone (toll free): 1-877-4ED-Pubs (1-877-433-7827). FAX: 301-470-1244. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) 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 the competition by the appropriate CFDA number.

For Further Information Contact: Grants and Contracts Services Team, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 3317,

Switzer Building, Washington, DC 20202-2550. Telephone: (202) 260-9182.

If you use a 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 contact persons listed in the preceding paragraph.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain a copy of the application package

in an alternative format by contacting the Department as listed above. However, the Department is not able to reproduce in an alternative format the standard forms included in the application package.

Intergovernmental Review

All programs in this notice (except for the Research and Innovation to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities Program) are subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12372

and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. The objective of the Executive Order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism by relying on processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

In accordance with the order, we intend this document to provide early notification of the Department's specific plans and actions for those programs.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT APPLICATION NOTICE FISCAL YEAR 2002

CFDA No. and Name	Applications available	Application deadline date	Deadline for intergovernmental review	Maximum award (per year)*	Project period	Page limit**	Estimated number of awards
84.324B Student Initiated Research Projects.	10/05/01	02/08/02	04/09/02	\$20,000	Up to 12 mos. ***Up to 60 mos.	25	12
84.324C Field-Initiated Research Projects.	10/05/01	11/16/01	01/16/02	180,000	Up to 48 mos.	50	14
84.324M Model Demonstration Projects for Children with Disabilities.	10/05/01	11/30/01	01/30/02	175,000	Up to 36 mos.	50	14
84.324N Initial Career Awards	10/05/01	11/09/01	01/09/02	75,000	Up to 36 mos.	30	4
84.324R Outreach Projects for Children with Disabilities.	10/05/01	12/14/01	02/12/02	175,000	Up to 36 mos.	50	14
84.324A Steppingstones of Technology Innovation for Students with Disabilities. Phase 1 and 2	10/05/01	12/07/01	02/05/02	.....	Up to 24 mos. Up to 36 mos.	50	10
Phase 3 .....	.....	.....	.....	200,000	.....	50	
84.328C Community Parent Resource Centers.	10/05/01	12/21/01	02/19/02	100,000	Up to 36 mos.	30	10

* 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. 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. ** Applicants must limit the Application Narrative, Part III of the Application, to the page limits noted above. Please refer to the "Page Limit" requirements and the page limit standards described in the "General Requirements" section included under each priority description. We will reject and will not consider an application that does not adhere to this requirement. ***The majority of projects will be funded for up to 36 months. Only in exceptional circumstances will projects be funded for more than 36 months, up to a maximum of 60 months.

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 the following site: www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister.

To use the PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have questions about using the 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 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: 20 U.S.C. 1405, 1461, 1472, 1474, and 1487.

Dated: September 25, 2001.

Robert H. Pasternack,

Assistant Secretary for Special Education and, Rehabilitative Services.

[FR Doc. 01-24403 Filed 9-27-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC01-002-000, FERC Form 2]

Proposed Information Collection and Request for Comments

September 24, 2001.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of proposed information collection and request for comments.