

**Topical Heading**

Disability and Rehabilitation Research

**Program Title**

# Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers

**Also Known as**

RERCs

**CFDA # (or ED #)**

84.133E

**Administering Office**

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS)

**Who May Apply (by category)**

Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs), Nonprofit Organizations, Other Organizations and/or Agencies

**Who May Apply (specifically)**

States, public or private agencies—including for-profit agencies, Indian tribes, and tribal organizations also may apply. RERCs must be operated by or in collaboration with one or more IHEs or nonprofit organizations.

**Current Competitions**

Multiple FY 2008 application deadlines: April 1 and Aug. 26, 2008. See the OSERS National Institute on Disability Rehabilitation and Research (NIDRR) forecast of funding opportunities Web site at: <http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/find/edlite-forecast.html#Chart7>, which is updated several times during the year, for subsequent application deadlines.

**Type of Assistance (by category)**

Discretionary/Competitive Grants

**Appropriations**

Fiscal Year 2006 \$16,698,749

Fiscal Year 2007 \$20,249,257

Fiscal Year 2008 \$17,898,241

Note: This is one of several NIDRR grant programs. Congress provides an appropriation for NIDRR as a whole; see the main entry for NIDRR (# 84.133), also under topical heading "Disability and Rehabilitation Research." The amounts listed here are a portion of the total NIDRR appropriation.

**Fiscal Year 2008 Awards Information**

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

Number of New Awards Anticipated: 7

Average New Award: \$943,750

Number of Continuation Awards: 12

Average Continuation Award: \$931,438

Range of Continuation Awards: \$850,000–\$1,700,000

**Legislative Citation**

*Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, Title II; 29 U.S.C. 764(b)(3)*

**Program Regulations**

*EDGAR; 34 CFR 350*

**Program Description**

RERCs support research on issues dealing with rehabilitation technology, including rehabilitation engineering and assistive technology devices and services. RERCs generally either: (1) lead to the development of methods, procedures, and devices that will benefit individuals with disabilities, especially those with the most severe disabilities or (2) involve technology for the purposes of enhancing opportunities for meeting the needs of and addressing the barriers confronted by individuals with disabilities in all aspects of their lives.

**Types of Projects**

Types of activities supported by RERCs include: the development of technological systems for persons with disabilities; stimulation of the production and distribution of equipment in the private sector; and clinical evaluations of equipment. Awards are for five years, except that grants to new recipients or to support new or innovative research may be made for fewer than five years.

**Education Level (specifically)**

All ages

**Subject Index**

Assistive Devices (for Disabled), Demonstration Programs, Disabilities, Engineering, Rehabilitation, Research

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**Links to Related Web Sites**

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/rerc/index.html>