

Change: None.

Background

On February 24, 1998, we published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 9376–9378) a notice inviting applications for new awards under the Regional Resource Center Program for fiscal year 1998. Based on this notice, the Department made six awards of 56 months under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Section 685 of IDEA authorizes the Secretary to support the establishment of Regional Resource Centers (RRCs). These Centers provide technical assistance and information that support States and local agencies in building capacity to improve early intervention, educational, and transitional services and results for children with disabilities and their families, and address systemic-change goals and priorities. The grant period for the six centers ends May 31, 2003.

In order to carry out activities related to implementing an initiative of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to identify and disseminate alternative approaches to identifying children with learning disabilities, it is necessary to issue continuation awards to the existing grantees. Specifically, the current RRCs are helping to conduct a survey in each of their regions to collect information on the ways that States identify children with learning disabilities.

In particular, the Secretary plans for the RRCs to work with staff of OSEP, the Kennedy Center Research Program on Learning Accommodations for Individuals with Special Needs at Vanderbilt University, State educational agencies, regional in-state technical assistance systems and other State and local agencies to:

(1) Develop a coordinated plan for identifying sites within each RRC region using alternative approaches for identification of children with learning disabilities;

(2) Assist in efforts to provide or gather evidence of the value of more effective approaches for addressing the needs of children with learning disabilities; and

(3) Use research-based dissemination, training, and technical assistance to extend and increase effective practices in the area of learning disabilities.

The RRCs will also work with centers providing technical assistance to projects funded under the Training and Information for Parents of Children with Disabilities program to continue to foster improved collaboration on the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and

IDEA, which will improve results for children with disabilities.

In addition, the Secretary plans for the RRCs to provide continued assistance to State educational agencies for Part B and the lead agencies for Part C in each region to support their implementation of continuous improvement and focused monitoring activities.

Reasons for Extension and Waiver

There is an immediate need to provide training and information to the populations that will be targeted by these efforts. Providing continuous support to existing grantees will help ensure the success of these efforts by avoiding the possible disruption or interruption of activities resulting from a change in grantees. Waiting until after a new RRC competition to begin this important work would severely hinder the Department's efforts to address the critical needs that are now present in the regions. The current RRCs have already conducted extensive training and information activities related to State implementation of the IDEA Amendments of 1997 and are best suited to conduct this effort. We have determined that an additional period of time is needed to begin the additional technical assistance and training activities described in this notice.

Therefore, the Secretary will issue continuation awards to the current grantees for twelve (12) months. A one-year time extension beginning June 1, 2003 thru May 31, 2004 is allowed to ensure the successful completion of the projects. The Secretary waives the requirements in 34 CFR 75.250 and 75.261(c)(2), which prohibit project periods exceeding 5 years and extensions that involve the obligation of additional Federal funds. This waiver gives the affected grantees early notice of the availability of an additional twelve months of funding.

Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

The Secretary certifies that the extension of project period and waiver will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The only small entities that would be directly affected are the six RRCs.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

This extension of project period and waiver does not contain any information collection requirements.

Intergovernmental Review

This program is subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79.

One of the objectives of the Executive order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism. The Executive order relies on processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

This document provides early notification of our specific plans and actions for this program.

Electronic Access to This Document

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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>.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 84.326, Technical Assistance and Dissemination to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities.)

Dated: May 23, 2003.

Robert H. Pasternack,

Assistant Secretary for Special Education and, Rehabilitative Services.

[FR Doc. 03–13396 Filed 5–28–03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

[CFDA Nos.: 84.133A–1, 84.133A–4, 84.133A–5, 84.133A–7]

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 competitions for new awards focus on projects designed to meet the priorities we describe in the Priority section of this application notice. We intend these

priorities to improve rehabilitation services and outcomes for individuals with disabilities.

In order to provide applicants with a 60-day application period and to ensure that these grants are awarded before the end of FY 2003, the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) is inviting applications based on the proposed priorities. NIDRR will publish the final priorities as soon as possible after the comment period closes on June 9, 2003.

Depending upon the comments that NIDRR receives, the final priorities may include revisions to the proposed priorities. It is generally the policy of

the Department of Education not to solicit applications before the publication of a final priority. However, in this case, it is essential to solicit applications on the basis of these proposed priorities in order to allow applicants sufficient time to prepare applications of appropriate quality to be funded. Applicants are advised to begin to develop their applications based on the proposed priorities. If changes are made in the final priorities, applicants will be given an opportunity to revise or resubmit their applications.

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.

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.

Letter of Intent: The due date for the Letter of Intent has been extended to June 18, 2003.

DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH PROJECTS (84.133A)

[Applications for FY 2003]

CFDA No./Program name	Application available	Deadline for transmittal of applications	Estimated available funds	Maximum award amount (per year) ¹	Estimated number of awards ²	Project period (months)
84.133A-1 Research Projects	May 29, 2003	July 28, 2003	\$600,000	\$300,000	2	60
84.133A-4 Research Infrastructure Capacity Building.	May 29, 2003	July 28, 2003	600,000	600,000	1	60
84.133A-5 Technical Assistance Resource Center on Parenting with a Disability.	May 29, 2003	July 28, 2003	500,000	500,000	1	60
84.133A-7 Development Projects.	May 29, 2003	July 28, 2003	300,000	300,000	1	60

¹ **Note:** 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)).

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

Priorities

This competition focuses on projects designed to meet the priorities in the notice of proposed priorities for the programs published in the **Federal Register** on May 9, 2003. (**Note:** See individual priority for **Federal Register** cite.) Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) we consider only applications that meet one or more of the following priorities. A separate application is required for each priority area.

Absolute Priority 1—Research Projects (84.133A-1) (68 FR 25014).

Absolute Priority 2—Research Infrastructure Capacity Building (84.133A-4) (68 FR 25009).

Absolute Priority 3—Technical Assistance Resource Center on Parenting with a Disability (84.133A-5) (68 FR 25017).

Absolute Priority 4—Development Projects (84.133A-7) (68 FR 25006).

Selection Criteria

The selection criteria to evaluate applications under these priorities are found in the application package.

For Applications Contact: Education Publications Center (ED Pubs), PO 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 these competitions as follows: CFDA number 84.133A-1, 84.133A-4, 84.133A-5, and 84.133A-7.

Application Procedures

Note: Some of the procedures in these instructions for transmitting applications differ from those in the 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

In FY 2003, the U.S. Department of Education is continuing to expand its

pilot project for electronic submission of applications to include additional formula grant programs and additional discretionary grant competitions. The Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) program—CFDA #84.133A is one of the programs included in the pilot project. If you are an applicant under the DRRP, 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) portion of the Grant Administration and Payment System (GAPS). 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 improvement.

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

- Your participation is voluntary.
- You will not receive any 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. When you enter the e-Application system, you will find information about its hours of operation.

- You may submit all documents electronically, including the Application for Federal Assistance (ED 424), Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs (ED 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications.

- 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 Assistance (ED 424) to the Application Control Center after following these steps:

- (1) Print ED 424 from the e-Application system.

- (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 all other forms at a later date.

- Closing Date Extension in Case of System Unavailability:** If you elect to participate in the e-Application pilot for the DRRP and you are prevented from submitting your application on the closing 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 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 deadline date. The Department must acknowledge and confirm these periods of unavailability before granting you an extension. To request this extension you must 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 DRRP at: <http://e-grants.ed.gov>.

We have included additional information about the e-Application pilot project (see Parity Guidelines between Paper and Electronic Applications) 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), you 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**.

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

Dated: May 23, 2003.

Robert H. Pasternack,

Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

[FR Doc. 03-13458 Filed 5-28-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Brown v. Board of Education 50th Anniversary Commission; Meeting

AGENCY: Brown v. Board of Education 50th Anniversary Commission, Department of Education (ED).

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice provides the schedule of a forthcoming meeting of the Brown v. Board of Education 50th Anniversary Commission. This notice also describes the functions of the commission. This document is intended to notify the general public of their opportunity to attend.

DATE AND TIME: June 4, 2003, at 8:45 a.m.

ADDRESSES: Adams Mark Hotel, 1200 Hampton Street, Columbia, South Carolina, (803) 771-7000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gwendolen Long, Program Support Assistant, 330 C Street SW., Washington, DC 20202, (202) 205-9610.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Brown v. Board of Education 50th Anniversary Commission is established under Public Law 107-41 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Brown decision. The Commission, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Education, is responsible for planning and coordinating public education activities and initiatives.

Also, the Commission, in cooperation with the Brown Foundation for Educational Equity, Excellence, and Research in Topeka, Kansas, and such other public or private entities as the Commission deems appropriate, is responsible for encouraging, planning, developing, and coordinating observances of the anniversary of the Brown decision. The meeting of the Commission is open to the public. Individuals who will need accommodations for a disability in order to attend the meeting (i.e., interpreting services, assistive listening devices, materials in alternative format) should notify Gwendolen Long at (202) 205-9556 by no later than May 30, 2003. We will attempt to meet requests after that date, but cannot guarantee availability.

Dated: May 22, 2003.

Gerald A. Reynolds,

Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

[FR Doc. 03-13372 Filed 5-28-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP99-301-077]

ANR Pipeline Company; Notice of Amended Negotiated Rate Filing

May 21, 2003.

Take notice that on May 16, 2003, ANR Pipeline Company (ANR),