

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202-2575

**FY 2007 APPLICATION PACKAGE FOR NEW GRANTS
UNDER
THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY AND
REHABILITATION RESEARCH**

DISABILITY REHABILITATION RESEARCH PROJECTS (DRRP)

Emergency Evacuation and Individuals with Disabilities

CFDA NUMBER: 84.133A-5



FORM APPROVED
OMB No. 1820-0027, EXP. DATE 02/28/2007
ED FORM 424, 02/28/2008

**DATED MATERIAL - OPEN IMMEDIATELY
CLOSING DATE: April 16, 2007**

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**SECTION
A**

DEAR APPLICANT LETTER

February 12, 2007

Dear Applicant:

The Secretary invites applications for a new award for fiscal year (FY) 2007 under the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects program for Emergency Evacuation and Individuals with Disabilities (CFDA Number - 84.133A-5). The purpose of the DRRP program is to plan and conduct research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities, and to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Include a one page abstract. The abstract is a critical component of the proposal, and it should describe the purpose, target population to be served during the project period, planned goals and objectives, proposed methodological approach, and anticipated project outcomes.

It is critical that proposals describe expected public benefits, especially benefits for individuals with disabilities and propose projects that are designed to demonstrate outcomes that are consistent with the proposed goals.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

This application package contains information and the required forms for potential applicants to apply and be considered for a FY 2007 grant award under this competition, including the published Federal Register notice dated Wednesday, February 14, 2007. The general requirements for the DRRP program were published in a Federal Register notice dated Friday, April 28, 2006 and are in Section D of this application package.

Potential applicants are advised to read the materials carefully, particularly the information on the types of organizations that are eligible to apply for these grants, how to prepare an application, the dollar amount for any year, the protection of human subjects, and the appropriate selection criteria (Section F) used by the reviewers to evaluate each application.

These instructions indicate that you can either submit your application electronically through the grants.gov system or by post, hand-delivery or carrier service. You must submit one original and two copies of your application on or before the application deadline date, to the address listed in Section B, Notice Inviting Applications (and repeated in Section J - Application Transmittal Instructions). The closing date (application deadline) is **Monday, April 16, 2007**.

Cost sharing of up to 1% is required and will be negotiated at the time of the grant award. Cost-match/share can be a reduced indirect cost rate, donated FTE, donated space, and/or donated equipment.

If you are submitting by post, hand-delivery or carrier service

Applications must be postmarked by the closing date of **Monday, April 16, 2007**, if submitting by post. Follow the Application Transmittal Instructions for submitting in paper found in Section J if submitting by post, hand-delivery or carrier service. Please include an electronic copy (disk) with your application. NIDRR would appreciate your including 9 additional copies of your application to facilitate the peer review process (12 copies in all). Also, we would like to suggest that the original copy of the application be secured with a binder clip to facilitate any additional copying that might be required.

If you are submitting electronically

We encourage you to submit your application electronically. Electronic copies must be uploaded on Grants.gov and then processed by Grants.gov successfully by 4:30 pm, Washington DC time on the closing date. It may take up to several hours for this process. Please allow several hours or a full day because, if there is a submission error, time will be needed to correct the error and resubmit either electronically or by paper to meet the deadline time and date. For additional information on electronic submission procedures, see the Grants.gov Submission Procedures and Tips for Applicants (Section J). Do not e-mail a copy of your application directly to the Department; electronic submissions can only be made to Grants.gov. We strongly suggest that you carefully check your submission to ensure that you have attached the correct files in the appropriate fields.

We encourage you to read Section J -- Grants.gov Submission Procedures and Tips for Applicants

PROGRAM REGULATIONS

These grants are subject to the requirements of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), in 34 CFR Parts 74, 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, and 97, which set forth general rules affecting the submittal, review, grant award, and post-award administration for Department of Education grant programs.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Pre-Application Meeting: A pre-application meeting will be held between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 7, 2007 by teleconference. Interested parties are invited to participate in a pre-application meeting to discuss the funding priority and to receive information and technical assistance. You must contact Donna Nangle at either 202-245-7462 or Donna.Nangle@ed.gov by Friday, March 2, 2007 in order to participate in this meeting. NIDRR staff also will be available to provide information and technical assistance via individual phone consultations from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on March 7, 2007. Requests for individual consultations during this one hour window must be made in advance to Donna Nangle.

If you have any questions about the information in this application package, please contact Donna Nangle at Donna.Nangle@ed.gov or by telephone at (202) 245-7462. Individuals who use a telecommunications device (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., EST, Monday through Friday.

If you need help with Grants.gov before the closing date, please contact Grants.gov Customer Support at 1-800-518-4726 or use the customer support available on the Web site: <http://www.grants.gov/CustomerSupport>.

NOTE: Please forward this entire application package to the individual or office responsible for preparing an application, as they will need the entire package to complete the grant application. Also note that we have included an abbreviated version of the February 14, 2007 Notice of Final Priorities. To see the complete version of the see <http://www.ed.gov/news/fedregister/index.html> then click on Final Priority.

Thank you for your interest in these programs.

Sincerely,

Steven James Tingus, M.S., C.Phil.
Director,
National Institute on Disability
and Rehabilitation Research

**SECTION
B**

**FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE INVITING
APPLICATIONS FOR NEW AWARDS**

4000-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

Overview Information

National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR)--
Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program--
Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRPs)--Emergency Evacuation
and Individuals with Disabilities

Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2007.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.133A-5

Dates:

Applications Available: February 14, 2007.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: April 16, 2007.

Date of Pre-Application Meeting: March 7, 2007.

Eligible Applicants: States; public or private agencies, including for-profit agencies; public or private organizations, including for-profit organizations; institutions of higher education (IHEs); and Indian tribes and tribal organizations.

Estimated Available Funds: \$450,000. The Administration has requested \$106,705,000 for the NIDRR program, of which we intend to use an estimated \$450,000 for the Emergency Evacuation and Individuals with Disabilities 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.

Maximum Award: We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding \$450,000 for a single budget period of 12 months. The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services may change the maximum amount through a notice published in the Federal Register.

Note: The maximum amount includes direct and indirect costs.

Estimated Number of Awards: 1.

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

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose of Program: The purpose of the DRRP program is to plan and conduct research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities, and to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. DRRPs carry out one or more of the following types of activities, as specified and defined in 34 CFR 350.13 through 350.19: research, development, demonstration, training, dissemination, utilization, and technical assistance.

An applicant for assistance under this program must demonstrate in its application how it will address, in whole or in part, the needs of individuals with disabilities from minority backgrounds (34 CFR 350.40(a)). The approaches an applicant may take to meet this requirement are found in 34 CFR 350.40(b).

Additional information on the DRRP program can be found at:
<http://www.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/res-program.html#DRRP>

Priorities: NIDRR has established two priorities for this competition. The General DRRP Requirements priority is from the notice of final priorities for the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers program, published in the Federal Register on April 28, 2006 (71 FR 25472). The National Data and Statistical Center for the Burn Model Systems priority is from the notice of final priorities for the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers program, published elsewhere in this issue of the Federal Register.

Absolute Priorities: For FY 2007, these priorities are absolute priorities. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) we consider only applications that meet these priorities.

These priorities are:

General Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Requirements and Emergency Evacuation and Individuals with Disabilities.

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

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, and 97. (b) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 350. (c) The notice of final priorities for the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers program, published in the Federal Register on April 28, 2006 (71 FR 25472). (d) The notice of final priorities for the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers program, published elsewhere in this issue of the Federal Register.

Note: The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to IHEs only.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Discretionary grants.

Estimated Available Funds: \$450,000. The Administration has requested \$106,705,000 for the NIDRR program, of which we intend to use an estimated \$450,000 for the Emergency Evacuation and Individuals with Disabilities 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.

Maximum Award: We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding \$450,000 for a single budget period of 12 months. The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services may change the maximum amount through a notice published in the Federal Register.

Note: The maximum amount includes direct and indirect costs.

Estimated Number of Awards: 1.

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

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

III. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants: States; public or private agencies, including for-profit agencies; public or private organizations, including for-profit organizations; IHEs; and Indian tribes and tribal organizations.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching: Cost sharing is required and will be negotiated at the time of the grant award.

IV. Application and Submission Information

1. Address to Request Application Package: You may obtain an application package via Internet or from the Education Publications Center (ED Pubs). To obtain a copy via Internet use the following address: <http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/grantapps/index.html>

To obtain a copy from ED Pubs, write or call the following: Education Publications Center, 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: 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 84.133A-5.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain a copy of the application package in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) by contacting the program contact person listed under For Further Information Contact in section VII of this notice.

2. Content and Form of Application Submission: Requirements concerning the content of an application, together with the forms you must submit, are in the application package for this competition. Page Limit: The application narrative (Part III of the application) is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. We recommend that you limit Part III to the equivalent of no more than 125 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. Single spacing may be used for 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 suggested page limit does not apply to Part I, the cover sheet; Part II, the budget section; 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.

The application package will provide instructions for completing all components to be included in the application. Each application must include a cover sheet (Standard Form 424); budget requirements (ED Form 524) and a budget narrative justification; other required forms; an abstract, Human Subjects narrative, Part III narrative; resumes of staff; and other related materials, if applicable.

3. Submission Dates and Times:

Applications Available: February 14, 2007.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: April 16, 2007.

Pre-Application Meeting: Interested parties are invited to participate in a pre-application meeting to discuss the priorities and to receive information and technical assistance through individual consultation. The pre-application meeting will be held on March 7, 2007. Interested parties may participate in this meeting by conference call with NIDRR staff from the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., Washington, DC time. On the same day, NIDRR staff also will be available from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., by telephone, to provide information and technical assistance through individual consultation. For further information or to make arrangements to participate on the conference call or for an individual consultation, contact Donna Nangle, U.S. Department of Education, Potomac Center Plaza,

room 6030, 550 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 245-7462 or by e-mail:

Donna.Nangle@ed.gov

Applications for grants under this competition may be submitted electronically using the Grants.gov Apply site (Grants.gov), or in paper format by mail or hand delivery. For information (including dates and times) about how to submit your application electronically, or by mail or hand delivery, please refer to section IV. 6. Other Submission Requirements in this notice.

We do not consider an application that does not comply with the deadline requirements.

Individuals with disabilities who need an accommodation or auxiliary aid in connection with the application process should contact the person listed under For Further Information Contact.

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

5. Funding Restrictions: We reference regulations outlining funding restrictions in the Applicable Regulations section of this notice.

6. Other Submission Requirements: Applications for grants under this competition may be submitted electronically or in paper format by mail or hand delivery.

a. Electronic Submission of Applications.

To comply with the President's Management Agenda, we are participating as a partner in the Governmentwide Grants.gov Apply site in FY 2007. Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (84.133A-5) is included in this project. We request your participation in Grants.gov.

If you choose to submit your application electronically, you must use the Governmentwide Grants.gov Apply site at <http://www.Grants.gov>. Through this site, you will be able to download a copy of the application package, complete it offline, and then upload and submit your application. You may not e-mail an electronic copy of a grant application to us.

You may access the electronic grant application for Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects at <http://www.Grants.gov>. You must search for the downloadable application package for this program or competition by the CFDA number. Do not include the CFDA number's alpha suffix in your search (e.g., search for 84.133, not 84.133A).

Please note the following:

- Your participation in Grants.gov is voluntary.
- When you enter the Grants.gov site, you will find information about submitting an application electronically through the site, as well as the hours of operation.
- Applications received by Grants.gov are date and time stamped. Your application must be fully uploaded and submitted and must be date and time stamped by the Grants.gov system no later than 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. Except as otherwise noted in this section, we will not consider your application if it is date and time stamped by the Grants.gov system later than 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. When we retrieve your application from Grants.gov, we will notify you if we are rejecting your application because it was date and time stamped by the Grants.gov system after 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date.
- The amount of time it can take to upload an application will vary depending on a variety of factors, including the size of the application and the speed of your Internet connection. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you do not wait until the application deadline date to begin the submission process through Grants.gov.
- You should review and follow the Education Submission Procedures for submitting an application through Grants.gov that are included in the application package for this competition to ensure that you submit your application in a timely manner to the Grants.gov system. You can also find the Education Submission Procedures pertaining to Grants.gov at <http://e-Grants.ed.gov/help/GrantsgovSubmissionProcedures.pdf>

- To submit your application via Grants.gov, you must complete all steps in the Grants.gov registration process (see http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). These steps include (1) registering your organization, a multi-part process that includes registration with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR); (2) registering yourself as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR); and (3) getting authorized as an AOR by your organization. Details on these steps are outlined in the Grants.gov 3-Step Registration Guide (see <http://www.grants.gov/section910/Grants.govRegistrationBrochure.pdf>). You also must provide on your application the same D-U-N-S Number used with this registration. Please note that the registration process may take five or more business days to complete, and you must have completed all registration steps to allow you to submit successfully an application via Grants.gov. In addition you will need to update your CCR registration on an annual basis. This may take three or more business days to complete.

- You will not receive additional point value because you submit your application in electronic format, nor will we penalize you if you submit your application in paper format.

- If you submit your application electronically, you must submit all documents electronically, including all information you typically provide on the following forms: Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424), the Department of Education Supplemental Information for SF 424, Budget Information--Non-Construction Programs (ED 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications. Please note that two of these forms--the SF 424 and the Department of Education Supplemental Information for SF 424--have replaced the ED 424 (Application for Federal Education Assistance).

- If you submit your application electronically, you must attach any narrative sections of your application as files in a .DOC (document), .RTF (rich text), or .PDF (Portable Document) format. If you upload a file type other than the three file types specified in this paragraph or submit a password-protected file, we will not review that material.

- Your electronic application must comply with any page-limit requirements described in this notice.

- After you electronically submit your application, you will receive from Grants.gov an automatic notification of receipt that contains a Grants.gov tracking number. (This notification indicates receipt by Grants.gov only, not receipt by the Department.) The Department then will retrieve your application from Grants.gov and send a second notification to you by e-mail. This second notification indicates that the Department has received your application and has assigned your application a PR/Award number (an ED-specified identifying number unique to your application).

- We may request that you provide us original signatures on forms at a later date.

Application Deadline Date Extension in Case of Technical Issues with the Grants.gov System: If you are experiencing problems submitting your application through Grants.gov, please contact the Grants.gov Support Desk at 1-800-518-4726. You must obtain a Grants.gov Support Desk Case Number and must keep a record of it.

If you are prevented from electronically submitting your application on the application deadline date because of technical problems with the Grants.gov system, we will grant you an extension until 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, the following business day to enable you to transmit your application electronically or by hand delivery. You also may mail your application by following the mailing instructions described elsewhere in this notice.

If you submit an application after 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date, please contact the person listed elsewhere in this notice under For Further Information Contact and provide an explanation of the technical problem you experienced with Grants.gov, along with the Grants.gov Support Desk Case Number. We will accept your application if we can confirm that a technical problem occurred with the Grants.gov system and that that problem affected your ability to submit your application by 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. The Department will contact you after a determination is made on whether your application will be accepted.

Note: The extensions to which we refer in this section apply only to the unavailability of, or technical problems with, the Grants.gov system. We

will not grant you an extension if you failed to fully register to submit your application to Grants.gov before the application deadline date and time or if the technical problem you experienced is unrelated to the Grants.gov system.

b. Submission of Paper Applications by Mail.

If you submit your application in paper format by mail (through the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial carrier), you must mail the original and two copies of your application, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the applicable following address:

By mail through the U.S. Postal Service:

U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center
Attention: (CFDA Number 84.133A-5)
400 Maryland Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC 20202-4260

or

By mail through a commercial carrier:

U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center, Stop 4260
Attention: (CFDA Number 84.133A-5)
7100 Old Landover Road
Landover, MD 20785-1506

Regardless of which address you use, you must show proof of mailing consisting of one of the following:

- (1) A legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark.
- (2) A legible mail receipt with the date of mailing stamped by the U.S. Postal Service.
- (3) A dated shipping label, invoice, or receipt from a commercial carrier.
- (4) Any other proof of mailing acceptable to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

If you mail your application through the U.S. Postal Service, we do not accept either of the following as proof of mailing:

- (1) A private metered postmark.
- (2) A mail receipt that is not dated by the U.S. Postal Service.

If your application is postmarked after the application deadline date, we will not consider your application.

Note: The U.S. Postal Service does not uniformly provide a dated postmark. Before relying on this method, you should check with your local post office.

c. Submission of Paper Applications by Hand Delivery.

If you submit your application in paper format by hand delivery, you (or a courier service) must deliver the original and two copies of your application by hand, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address:

U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center
Attention: (CFDA Number 84.133A-5)
550 12th Street, SW.
Room 7041, Potomac Center Plaza
Washington, DC 20202-4260

The Application Control Center accepts hand deliveries daily between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, except Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays.

Note for Mail or Hand Delivery of Paper Applications: If you mail or hand deliver your application to the Department--

(1) You must indicate on the envelope and--if not provided by the Department--in Item 11 of the SF 424 the CFDA number, including suffix letter, if any, of the competition under which you are submitting your application; and

(2) The Application Control Center will mail to you a notification of receipt of your grant application. If you do not receive this notification within 15 business days from the application deadline date, you should call the U.S. Department of Education Application Control Center at (202) 245-6288.

V. Application Review Information

Selection Criteria: The selection criteria for this competition are from 34 CFR 75.210 of EDGAR and 34 CFR 350.54 and are listed in the application package.

The Secretary is interested in hypothesis-driven research and development projects. To address this interest it is expected that applicants will articulate goals, objectives, and expected outcomes for the proposed research and development activities. It is critical that proposals describe expected public benefits, especially benefits for

individuals with disabilities, and propose projects that are optimally designed to demonstrate outcomes that are consistent with the proposed goals. Applicants are encouraged to include information describing how they will measure outcomes, including the indicators that will represent the end-result, the mechanisms that will be used to evaluate outcomes associated with specific problems or issues, and how the proposed activities will support new intervention approaches and strategies, including a discussion of measures of effectiveness. Submission of this information is voluntary except where required by the selection criteria listed in the application package.

VI. Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices: If your application is successful, we notify your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators and send you a Grant Award Notification (GAN). We may also notify you informally.

If your application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we notify you.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements: We identify administrative and national policy requirements in the application package and reference these and other requirements in the Applicable Regulations section of this notice.

We reference the regulations outlining the terms and conditions of an award in the Applicable Regulations section of this notice and include these and other specific conditions in the GAN. The GAN also incorporates your approved application as part of your binding commitments under the grant.

3. Reporting: At the end of your project period, you must submit a final performance report, including financial information, as directed by the Secretary. If you receive a multi-year award, you must submit an annual performance report that provides the most current performance and financial expenditure information as specified by the Secretary in 34 CFR 75.118.

Note: NIDRR will provide information by letter to grantees on how and when to submit the report.

4. Performance Measures: To evaluate the overall success of its research program, NIDRR assesses the quality of its funded projects through review of grantee performance and products. Each year, NIDRR examines, through expert review, a portion of its grantees to determine:

- The percentage of newly awarded NIDRR projects that are multi-site, collaborative, controlled studies of interventions and programs.

- The number of accomplishments (e.g., new or improved tools, methods, discoveries, standards, interventions, programs, or devices) developed or tested with NIDRR funding that have been judged by expert panels to be of high quality and to advance the field.

- The percentage of grantee research and development that has appropriate study design, meets rigorous standards of scientific and/or engineering methods, and builds on and contributes to knowledge in the field.

- The average number of publications per award based on NIDRR-funded research and development activities in refereed journals.

- The percentage of new grants that include studies funded by NIDRR that assess the effectiveness of interventions, programs, and devices using rigorous and appropriate methods.

NIDRR uses information submitted by grantees as part of their Annual Performance Reports (APRs) for these reviews. NIDRR also determines, using information submitted as part of the APR, the number of publications in refereed journals that are based on NIDRR-funded research and development activities.

Department of Education program performance reports, which include information on NIDRR programs, are available on the Department's Web site:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/opepd/sas/index.html>

Updates on the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA) indicators, revisions, and methods appear on the NIDRR Program Review Web site:

<http://www.neweditions.net/pr/commonfiles/pmconcepts.htm>

Grantees should consult these sites, on a regular basis, to obtain details and explanations on how NIDRR programs contribute to the advancement of the Department's long-term and annual performance goals.

VII. Agency Contact

For Further Information Contact: Donna Nangle, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 6030, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 245-7462 or by e-mail: donna.nangle@ed.gov

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the TDD number at (202) 245-7317 or the Federal Relay Service (FRS) 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 in this section.

VIII. Other Information

Electronic Access to This Document: You may view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the Federal Register, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: www.ed.gov/news/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: www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html

Dated: February 14, 2007

John H. Hager,
Assistant Secretary for
Special Education and Rehabilitative
Services.

SECTION C

FEDERAL REGISTER FINAL PRIORITY NOTICE

Including the priority for the Emergency Evacuation and Individuals with Disabilities

This is an abbreviated version of the NFP, which also includes the comment section for the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERC) on Priority 11--RERC for Emergency Management Technologies. To see the complete version with the RERCs (133E) included – Please go to <http://www.ed.gov/news/fedregister/index.html> then click on Final Priority

4000-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research--Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program--Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRPs) and Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs)

AGENCY: Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of final priorities for DRRPs and RERCs.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services announces certain funding priorities for the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program administered by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). Specifically, this notice announces four final priorities for DRRPs and seven priorities for RERCs. The Assistant Secretary may use these priorities for competitions in fiscal year (FY) 2007 and later years. We take this action to focus research attention on areas of national need. We intend these priorities to improve rehabilitation services and outcomes for individuals with disabilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: These priorities are effective March 15, 2007.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Donna Nangle, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 6030, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-2700. Telephone: (202) 245-7462 or via Internet: donna.nangle@ed.gov

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

We published a notice of proposed priorities (NPP) for NIDRR's Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program in the Federal Register on September 19, 2006 (71 FR 54870). The NPP

included a background statement that described our rationale for each priority proposed in that notice.

In this notice, we are announcing the following priorities for DRRPs and RERCs.

For DRRPs, the priorities are:

- Priority 1--National Data and Statistical Center for the Burn Model Systems.

- Priority 2--Burn Model Systems (BMS) Centers.

- Priority 3--Emergency Evacuation and Individuals with Disabilities.

- Priority 4--Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems (TBIMS) Centers.

For RERCs, the priorities are:

- Priority 5--RERC for Spinal Cord Injury.

- Priority 6--RERC for Recreational Technologies and Exercise Physiology Benefiting Individuals with Disabilities.

- Priority 7--RERC for Relating Physiological Data and Functional Performance.

- Priority 8--RERC for Accessible Medical Instrumentation.

- Priority 9--RERC for Workplace Accommodations.

- Priority 10--RERC for Rehabilitation Robotics and Telemanipulation Systems.

- Priority 11--RERC for Emergency Management Technologies.

There are differences between the NPP and this notice of final priorities (NFP). Specifically, we have made changes to Priority 3--Inclusive Emergency Evacuation of Individuals with Disabilities, including changing the title to "Emergency Evacuation and Individuals with Disabilities," and Priority 4--Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems (TBIMS) Centers. We also have changed the title of Priority 7 from "RERC for Translating Physiological Data into Predictions for Functional Performance" to "RERC for Relating Physiological Data and Functional Performance."

Analysis of Comments and Changes

In response to our invitation in the NPP, 22 parties submitted comments on the proposed priorities addressed in this NFP. An analysis of the comments and the changes in the priorities since the publication of the NPP follows. We discuss major issues according to general topic questions and priorities.

Generally, we do not address technical and other minor changes, or suggested changes the law does not authorize us to make under the applicable statutory authority. In addition, we do not address general comments that raised concerns not directly related to the proposed priorities.

General

Collaborative Research Module Projects (Priority 2--Burn Model Systems (BMS) Centers and Priority 4--Traumatic Brain Injury Systems (TBIMS) Centers)

Comment: Several commenters requested clarification on the collaborative research module requirements reflected in paragraph (b) of the Burn Model Systems (BMS) Centers priority (Priority 2) and paragraph (b) of the Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems (TBIMS) Centers priority (Priority 4). In particular, commenters requested more information on the process by which module research projects will be selected for implementation.

Discussion: The priorities for the BMS Centers and the TBIMS Centers require applicants to propose one collaborative research module project and to participate in at least one collaborative research module project. These priorities state that, in conjunction with NIDRR, at the beginning of the funding cycle project directors will select specific modules for implementation from approved applications. The details of this selection process will be based, in part, on input from project directors of funded centers, and, therefore, will not be finalized until after grant awards have been made. As stated in both priorities, decisions regarding selection of module projects for implementation will be made by the project directors of the newly awarded centers in conjunction with NIDRR staff. NIDRR is not requiring applicants to identify collaborators or to have established relationships with such collaborators prior to submitting applications.

Under both priorities, multiple applicants may propose the same, or substantially similar, module projects. In the case of the TBIMS Centers priority, applicants may also propose to continue, refine, or extend an existing collaborative module project. Under both priorities, participation in the module projects will be limited to the funded centers. Because these are peer-reviewed projects, in accordance with NIDRR policies, any substantial changes to project scope (e.g., addition of outside collaborative sites) must be approved by the assigned NIDRR project officer.

Moreover, under both priorities, funded centers may participate in more than one module project. The number and subject of the modules selected for implementation will not be known, however, until after the first Project Directors' meeting. Each successful applicant will work with NIDRR staff to determine if allocations of staffing and budget allow participation in more than one module project. NIDRR recommends that each center set aside up to 15 percent of its budget for participating in module projects.

NIDRR requires that applicants fully develop and present their module research project, identifying research question(s) to be addressed by their projects, along with a description of the importance of the research they intend to conduct and the specific outcomes they hope to achieve through the projects, so that reviewers may determine whether the scope and format of the projects are appropriate.

Changes: None.

Priority 2--Burn Model Systems (BMS) Centers

Comment: Two commenters suggested that NIDRR should require BMS Centers grantees to conduct research on rural areas.

Discussion: While NIDRR agrees that focus on the treatment needs of individuals in rural areas might be an excellent subject for burn research, we do not believe that all applicants should be required to focus on rural areas in their proposals. Nothing in the priority precludes an applicant from suggesting such a research focus. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of individual proposals.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested that NIDRR should require BMS Centers grantees to conduct research focused on the measurement of burn outcome.

Discussion: While NIDRR agrees that outcome measures might be an excellent subject for burn research, we do not believe that all applicants should be required to propose projects that focus only on outcomes measurement. Nothing in the priority precludes an applicant from suggesting such a research focus, however. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of the individual proposals.

Changes: None.

Priority 3--Emergency Evacuation and Individuals with Disabilities

Comment: One commenter inquired about the expected level of funding and duration of projects to be supported under this priority.

Discussion: Because funding level and project duration are not subject to public comment, this information was not included in the NPP. We will include information about the expected level of funding and project duration in the notice inviting applications for any competition using this priority.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter asked whether the use of the term "inclusive" in this priority means that applicants must include people with all forms of disabilities in their target population. Another commenter suggested that NIDRR change the title of this priority from "Inclusive Emergency Evacuation of Individuals with Disabilities" to "Including Individuals with Disabilities in Emergency Evacuation."

Discussion: The term "inclusive" is not intended to require applicants to include individuals with all forms of disabilities in their target population(s). Rather, the priority is intended to direct applicants to define the parameters and units of analysis for their proposed activities, including the target population of their project. Applicants may choose to focus on individuals with one or more types of disabilities. It is up to the applicant to explain and justify their proposed target population in their applications. The peer review process will assess the merits of individual applications.

Changes: To clarify that projects funded under this priority are not required to include all forms of disabilities in their target

population(s), we have changed the title of this priority from "Inclusive Emergency Evacuation of Individuals with Disabilities" to "Emergency Evacuation and Individuals with Disabilities" and removed other references to the term "inclusive" throughout the priority.

Comment: One commenter requested clarification on whether applicants are required to focus on buildings, transportation systems, and geographic locations, or whether they can select one or more of these areas. The commenter also requested clarification on whether applicants are required to focus on disability-related evacuation devices, plans, exercises, protocols, models, systems, networks, and standards, or whether applicants can focus on one or more of these. The commenter stated that the language in paragraph (a) of the proposed priority is unclear.

Discussion: In each case, applicants may choose one or more of the areas listed. Regardless of the area(s) selected, applicants must clearly define and justify their chosen area(s) of focus in their applications.

Changes: We have revised paragraph (a) of the priority by deleting the term "and," and inserting the term "or" in both lists of areas of focus. We also have made other editorial, non-substantive revisions to this paragraph in order to clarify it further.

Comment: None.

Discussion: Upon internal review of this priority, NIDRR determined that the phrase "disability-related" in the priority could lead applicants to focus narrowly on disability issues instead of more broadly on emergency management initiatives and evacuation solutions (i.e., evacuation devices, plans, exercises, protocols, models, systems, networks, standards and interventions) that incorporate disability issues.

Changes: We have deleted the phrase "disability-related" from paragraphs (a) and (b) of the priority. We have added the phrase "for individuals with disabilities" to paragraph (b).

Comment: None.

Discussion: Upon internal review of this priority, NIDRR determined that it may not be clear that the phrase "evacuation solutions" as stated in paragraph (b) of the priority refers to the focus areas identified in paragraph (a) (i.e., evacuation devices, plans, exercises, protocols, models, systems, networks, standards, and interventions).

Changes: We have added the phrase "evacuation solutions" to paragraph (a) of the priority to clarify that evacuation devices, plans, exercises, protocols, models, systems, networks, standards, and interventions are all evacuation solutions.

Comment: Two commenters asked NIDRR to clarify the requirement that the DRRP synthesize the current evidence base in the area(s) selected by the grantee. Specifically, the commenters asked: (a) whether the proposed priority is asking for an assessment of the current evidence base and (b) whether the required synthesis is to be a one-time or ongoing activity.

Discussion: The priority requires a synthesis and assessment of the current evidence base in the area(s) selected by the grantee (e.g., evacuation devices, plans, exercises, protocols, models, systems, networks, standards, or interventions). We expect that this synthesis will develop over the course of the project period. The synthesis should inform implementation of the proposed project and should culminate in a final document that provides a comprehensive assessment of what we know and what research needs remain.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter asked whether the requirement that the DRRP synthesize the current evidence base in the area(s) selected by the grantee requires that knowledge translation strategies be addressed.

Discussion: NIDRR is integrating knowledge translation requirements across its research portfolio and does want applicants to address knowledge translation strategies when responding to this priority. For this reason, we think it is important to clarify the role of knowledge translation in the work to be performed under this priority.

Changes: For clarification, we have added an additional requirement in paragraph (b) of the priority. This new requirement directs the DRRP to share findings with the emergency management community and other stakeholders. It will be up to the applicant to propose a specific strategy or method for sharing information with stakeholders. The peer review process will determine the merits of individual proposals.

Comment: One commenter suggested that the priority include the establishment of an electronic clearinghouse of information in order to

facilitate dissemination to stakeholders and assist the translation of research into practice.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that an electronic clearinghouse could be a useful dissemination tool. Applicants may propose to establish an electronic clearinghouse to facilitate the dissemination of research and assist in the translation of research into practice. However, NIDRR does not believe that it would be appropriate to require that every applicant include such a clearinghouse in their proposed project. The peer review process will assess the merits of individual applications.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter asked whether the priority mostly focuses on establishing the current state of the science, or solicits ideas for new interventions or enhancement of existing interventions.

Discussion: The priority requires the DRRP to synthesize and assess the evidence base in one or more of the following areas: buildings, transportation systems, or geographic locations. It also requires the DRRP to advance the evidence base in one or more of these areas. We intend for the priority to allow for the generation of ideas for new interventions or enhancements of existing interventions. Applicants may choose their area(s) of focus.

Changes: In order to clarify our intent, we have reworded paragraph (a) of the priority to incorporate a requirement related to advancing the current evidence base. We also have added the word "interventions" to this paragraph to clarify that applicants may suggest new interventions or enhancements of existing interventions.

Comment: One commenter asked whether the requirement to examine barriers and facilitators to effective implementation of disability-related evacuation solutions within existing emergency management initiatives suggests a research and evaluation component to this priority.

Discussion: The intended outcome of requirement (b)(1) of this priority is that the DRRP will add to the evidence base about factors that help or hinder the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in existing emergency evacuation plans. We anticipate that, in order to add to the current evidence base about these factors, grantees will need to conduct research. Evaluation activities also may be required, depending on the

area of focus chosen by the applicant. It is up to the applicant to define and justify area(s) of focus. The peer review process will determine the merits of individual proposals.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter stated that in order to develop inclusive evacuation plans, people with disabilities should be included in the planning process. The commenter stated that the DRRP should include research on ways in which people with disabilities can participate in the planning processes at a macro and micro level.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that including individuals with disabilities in the planning process is a sound approach. As noted in the NPP and elsewhere in this notice, NIDRR intends to require all DRRP applicants under this priority to meet the requirements of the General Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Requirements priority that it published in a notice of final priorities in the Federal Register on April 28, 2006 (71 FR 25472). Under the General DRRP Requirements priority, each applicant must involve individuals with disabilities in planning and implementing the DRRP's research, training, and dissemination activities, and evaluating its work. It is up to the applicant to propose how it will meet this requirement and the peer reviewers will assess the merits of each individual proposal.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter stated that State and local safety codes may present barriers to inclusive, effective evacuation of people with disabilities. The commenter recommended that the priority require grantees to investigate the impact of these codes and how they interact with applicable nondiscrimination requirements of legislation such as the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that State and local safety codes may present barriers to inclusive, effective evacuation of individuals with disabilities. This may be an appropriate focus of research; nothing in the priority precludes an applicant from proposing to examine these variables. However, NIDRR does not believe that it would be appropriate to require every applicant to examine these codes and their effect on including individuals with disabilities in effective evacuation plans.

The peer review process will assess the merits of each individual proposal.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter recommended that an important outcome of the proposed DRRP would be engagement and collaboration with the emergency management community, emergency technology providers, and end users to develop inclusive communication plans in their respective emergency management protocols.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees with this comment, and believes that the priority includes this focus. The priority states that the DRRP must be designed to contribute to the outcome of increased implementation of evacuation solutions for individuals with disabilities within existing emergency management initiatives, and requires meaningful and sustained collaboration with a variety of stakeholders, including mainstream emergency management professionals.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter recommended that the proposed priority be changed to use a functional definition of disability. The commenter stated that condition-specific definitions of disability may not be appropriate in the disaster management context and that it is important to think broadly about disability in terms of function, and not impairment or diagnosis.

Discussion: Consistent with the definition of "disability" that applies to title II of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, NIDRR agrees that a broad view of disability is appropriate. However, we wish to retain the requirement that applicants specify the target populations (e.g., individuals with physical, sensory or mental impairments) of their proposed project in order to emphasize the breadth of populations that could be included in the target population(s) of the work to be performed under this priority. However, this does not mean that applicants may not choose to use a functional definition of disability in their application. Applicants are free to define the target population(s) of their proposed project and to justify the population(s) as they deem appropriate. The peer review process will determine the merits of individual proposals.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested that the priority specifically include research to support evacuation planning, preparation, and strategies that fully account for the broad population of individuals who are blind or visually impaired (including seniors with vision loss, people with multiple disabilities, and individuals who are ethnically or linguistically diverse).

Discussion: This priority is intentionally stated as broadly as possible in order to enable applicants with varying focus areas to apply. Nothing in the priority would preclude an applicant from including individuals with vision loss as their target population; the priority states that applicants must define their target population (e.g., individuals with physical, sensory, or mental impairments). NIDRR does not believe that it would be appropriate to require that all applicants include individuals with vision loss in their target populations.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter stated that, as currently written, the Inclusive Emergency Evacuation of Individuals with Disabilities priority could be interpreted as requiring the synthesis and assessment of technological evidence (i.e., highway width, design capacity specifications, building standards, etc.) or systemic evidence (i.e., improved communication plans, guidelines or annexes among best practices of disaster management, training modules, etc.). The commenter asked which of these two types of evidence the priority seeks to address.

Discussion: The priority is broadly stated, permitting applicants to choose their area(s) of focus, and, hence, the types of evidence they synthesize and assess. Applicants may propose to focus their research on any one or more of the following: evacuation solutions - evacuation devices, plans, exercises, protocols, models, systems, networks, standards and interventions. It is up to the applicant to define and justify their chosen area(s). The peer review process will evaluate the merits of individual proposals.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter stated that it would be better for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to fund the research described in the Inclusive Emergency Evacuation of Individuals with Disabilities priority.

The commenter stated that DHS has specific responsibility in this area, has research programs and portfolios that are appropriate to this topic, and has funding capability via the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The commenter added that emergency management targeted to people with disabilities should be a mainstream activity of DHS and that funding through DHS would facilitate the rapid adoption of findings and products.

Discussion: This DRRP fits within NIDRR's research agenda, which includes a growing portfolio of research to improve outcomes for individuals with disabilities in emergency and disaster situations. In addition, NIDRR chairs the Research Subcommittee of the DHS Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities. As such, in developing this priority, NIDRR worked collaboratively with representatives of DHS as well as seven other Federal agencies. The priority requires applicants to demonstrate how they plan to implement a sustained, meaningful and integrated collaboration with a variety of stakeholders, including relevant Federal agencies and members of DHS's Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities.

Changes: None.

Priority 4--Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems (TBIMS) Centers

Comment: Two commenters expressed concern that the proposed TBIMS Centers priority would be understood by applicants to favor local projects that conduct intervention trials over projects that conduct diagnostic and prognostic studies. These commenters expressed concern that local projects that conduct intervention trials are likely to lack the sample sizes necessary to ensure adequate statistical power and generalizability of the research findings.

Discussion: Under this priority applicants may propose to test innovative approaches to treatment and evaluation of traumatic brain injury (TBI) outcomes; however, NIDRR suggests that applicants also may consider the ways in which prognostic or diagnostic research can support the development of interventions that improve outcomes for persons with TBI. Nothing in the priority prohibits an applicant from proposing such prognostic or diagnostic research projects. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of each individual proposal.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter requested that the TBIMS Centers priority be modified to include an indication of how the 35-case-minimum (for enrollment in the TBIMS database) will be enforced. The commenter explained that the inclusion of this information in the priority would serve to discourage applicants from artificially inflating their estimate of TBIMS database enrollment in the application.

Discussion: NIDRR expects that all applicants will make a good faith estimate of the number of people to be enrolled in the TBIMS database based on clinical enrollment rates at their respective institutions, accounting for expected refusals and attrition. Monitoring and enforcement of funded activities, including the number of persons enrolled in the TBIMS database, is the post-award responsibility of NIDRR staff.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter noted that the TBIMS Centers priority does not address whether collaborative research module projects developed under the last funding cycle of this program would be eligible for funding under this priority.

Discussion: Grants under this priority will provide funds for collaborative research module projects that meet the requirements of the priority and are selected for implementation. Nothing in the TBIMS Centers priority prohibits an applicant from proposing a continuation or extension of a collaborative research module project that was funded in the last funding cycle of the TBIMS program. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of individual proposals.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter requested that the TBIMS Centers priority explicate the process by which module research projects will be selected for implementation.

Discussion: We discuss the process by which module research projects proposed under this priority will be selected for implementation under the heading Collaborative Research Module Projects (Priority 2--Burn Model Systems (BMS) Centers and Priority 4--Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems (TBIMS) Centers) elsewhere in this notice.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter inquired about the components of the required multidisciplinary system of care designed to meet the needs of individuals with TBI, stating that emergency medical services or Level 1 trauma centers were not explicitly mentioned in the TBIMS Centers priority.

Discussion: As explained in the background statement for the TBIMS Centers priority in the NPP, each TBIMS center funded under this program should be designed to offer a multidisciplinary system for providing rehabilitation services specifically designed to meet the special needs of individuals with TBI. These services span the continuum of treatment from acute care through community re-entry. Paragraph (1) of the priority also makes clear that a TBIMS Center must "provide a multidisciplinary system of rehabilitation care specifically designed to meet the needs of individuals with TBI. The system must encompass a continuum of care, including emergency medical services, acute care services, acute medical rehabilitation services, and post-acute services." While NIDRR agrees that Level 1 trauma centers can play a key role in this system, NIDRR has no basis for requiring that applicants provide Level 1 trauma center care. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of individual proposals.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter expressed concern about the under-representation of persons from minority and lower socioeconomic backgrounds in some TBIMS research. The commenter recommended that NIDRR more strongly encourage the inclusion of underserved populations in research conducted by the TBIMS Centers.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that members of underserved populations with TBI experience greater challenges in receiving health care services and are generally in poorer health. NIDRR does encourage the inclusion of underserved populations in the research funded through the TBIMS program. Nothing in the TBIMS Centers priority prohibits an applicant from proposing to include members of underserved populations in the proposed research. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of individual proposals.

Changes: None.

Comment: None.

Discussion: Paragraph (2) of the TBIMS Centers priority requires that all TBIMS Centers coordinate with the NIDRR-funded Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center to provide scientific results and information for dissemination to clinical and consumer audiences. Since the publication of the NPP, the NIDRR-funded Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center has been established. Information about the newly funded Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center can be found at the following Web site: <http://uwctds.washington.edu/projects/msktc.asp>

Changes: We have revised paragraph (2) of the priority by adding the following Web site address for the NIDRR-funded Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center: <http://uwctds.washington.edu/projects/msktc.asp>

Comment: None.

Discussion: In the NPP, the background statement for the proposed TBIMS Centers priority stated that additional information regarding the TBIMS database, which is maintained by the NIDRR-funded National Data and Statistical Center for the TBIMS can be found at <http://tbindc.org>. Please note that, since the publication of the NPP, the NIDRR-funded TBIMS National Data and Statistical Center has been awarded to a different institution, and the associated Web site address has changed to www.tbindsc.org

Changes: None.

Priority 11--Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs)

Comment: One commenter stated that the RERC for Emergency Management Technologies priority should address specifically the inter-operability of communications platforms, and digital emergency alert systems, and that it should involve the Federal, State, and local emergency management communities.

Discussion: NIDRR recognizes that compatible communications, digital emergency alert systems, and the involvement of the Federal, State, and local emergency management communities are critical to effective emergency management communications. That said, NIDRR does not believe that it would be appropriate to require all applicants under this priority to address inter-operability issues or digital alert systems, or

to involve Federal, State, and local emergency management communities through their proposed projects. Nothing prohibits an applicant from proposing to address compatible communications, or digital emergency alert systems, or to involve the Federal, State, and local emergency management communities; the peer review process will evaluate the merits of individual proposals.

Changes: None.

Note: This notice does not solicit applications. In any year in which we choose to use one or more of these priorities, we invite applications through a notice in the Federal Register. When inviting applications we designate each priority as absolute, competitive preference, or invitational. The effect of each type of priority follows:

Absolute priority: Under an absolute priority, we consider only applications that meet the priority (34 CFR 75.105(c)(3)).

Competitive preference priority: Under a competitive preference priority, we give competitive preference to an application by either (1) awarding additional points, depending on how well or the extent to which the application meets the competitive preference priority (34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i)); or (2) selecting an application that meets the competitive preference priority over an application of comparable merit that does not meet the priority (34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(ii)).

Invitational priority: Under an invitational priority, we are particularly interested in applications that meet the invitational priority. However, we do not give an application that meets the invitational priority a competitive or absolute preference over other applications (34 CFR 75.105(c)(1)).

Note: This NFP is in concert with President George W. Bush's New Freedom Initiative (NFI) and NIDRR's Final Long-Range Plan for FY 2005-2009 (Plan). The NFI can be accessed on the Internet at the following site:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/newfreedom>

The Plan, which was published in the Federal Register on February 15, 2006 (71 FR 8165), can be accessed on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/nidrr/policy.html>.

Through the implementation of the NFI and the Plan, NIDRR seeks to: (1) improve the quality and utility of disability and rehabilitation research; (2) foster an exchange of expertise, information, and training to facilitate the advancement of knowledge and understanding of the unique needs of traditionally underserved populations; (3) determine best strategies and programs to improve rehabilitation outcomes for underserved populations; (4) identify research gaps; (5) identify mechanisms of integrating research and practice; and (6) disseminate findings.

PRIORITIES:

Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Program

The purpose of the DRRP program is to plan and conduct research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities, and to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. DRRPs carry out one or more of the following types of activities, as specified and defined in 34 CFR 350.13 through 350.19: research, development, demonstration, training, dissemination, utilization, and technical assistance.

An applicant for assistance under this program must demonstrate in its application how it will address, in whole or in part, the needs of individuals with disabilities from minority backgrounds (34 CFR 350.40(a)). The approaches an applicant may take to meet this requirement are found in 34 CFR 350.40(b). In addition, NIDRR intends to require all DRRP applicants to meet the requirements of the General Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Requirements priority that it published in a notice of final priorities in the Federal Register on April 28, 2006 (71 FR 25472).

Additional information on the DRRP program can be found at:
<http://www.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/res-program.html#DRRP>

National Data and Statistical Center for the Burn Model Systems

Priority:

The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services establishes a priority for the establishment of a National Data and Statistical Center for the Burn Model Systems (National BMS Data Center). The National BMS Data Center must advance medical rehabilitation by increasing the rigor and efficiency of scientific efforts to assess the experience of individuals with burn injury. To meet this priority, the National BMS Data Center's research and technical assistance must be designed to contribute to the following outcomes:

(a) Maintenance of a national longitudinal database (BMS Database) for data submitted by each of the Burn Model Systems centers (BMS Centers). This database must provide for confidentiality, quality control, and data-retrieval capabilities, using cost-effective and user-friendly technology.

(b) High-quality, reliable data in the BMS Database. The National BMS Data Center must contribute to this outcome by providing training and technical assistance to BMS Centers on subject retention and data collection procedures, data entry methods, and appropriate use of study instruments, and by monitoring the quality of the data submitted by the BMS Centers.

(c) Rigorous research conducted by BMS Centers. To help in the achievement of this outcome, the National BMS Data Center must make statistical and other methodological consultation available for research projects that use the BMS Database, as well as center-specific and collaborative projects of the BMS program.

(d) Improved efficiency of the BMS Database operations. The National BMS Data Center must pursue strategies to achieve this outcome, such as collaborating with the National Data and Statistical Center for Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems, the National Data and Statistical Center for Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems, and the Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center.

Burn Model Systems (BMS) Centers

Priority:

The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services establishes a priority for the funding of Burn Model Systems (BMS) centers (BMS Center) under the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Program to conduct research that contributes to evidence-based rehabilitation interventions and clinical as well as practice guidelines that improve the lives of individuals with burn injury. Each BMS Center must--

(a) Contribute to continued assessment of long-term outcomes of burn injury by enrolling at least 30 subjects per year into the national longitudinal database for BMS data maintained by the National Data and Statistical Center for the BMS, following established protocols for the collection of enrollment and follow-up data on subjects;

(b) Contribute to improved outcomes for individuals with burn injury by proposing one collaborative research module project and participating in at least one collaborative research module project, which may range from pilot research to more extensive studies; and

(c) Contribute to improved long-term outcomes of individuals with burn injury by conducting no more than two site-specific research projects to test innovative approaches that contribute to rehabilitation interventions and evaluating burn injury outcomes in accordance with the focus areas identified in NIDRR's Final Long-Range Plan for FY 2005-2009 (Plan). Applicants who propose more than two site-specific projects will be disqualified.

In carrying out these activities, each BMS Center may select from the following research domains related to specific areas of the Plan: Health and function, employment, participation and community living, and technology for access and function.

In addition, each BMS Center must--

(1) Provide a multidisciplinary system of rehabilitation care specifically designed to meet the needs of individuals with burn injury. The system must encompass a continuum of care, including emergency medical services, acute care services, acute medical rehabilitation services, and post-acute services; and

(2) Coordinate with the NIDRR-funded Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center to provide scientific results and information for dissemination to clinical and consumer audiences.

Emergency Evacuation and Individuals with Disabilities

Priority:

The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services announces a priority for a Disability Rehabilitation Research Project (DRRP) on Emergency Evacuation and Individuals with Disabilities. This DRRP must conduct research that contributes to improved outcomes for individuals with disabilities in emergencies and disasters. Under this priority, the DRRP must be designed to contribute to the following outcomes:

(a) Increased evidence-based knowledge about the emergency evacuation of individuals with disabilities from one or more of the following areas: buildings; transportation systems; or geographic locations (e.g., cities and States). The DRRP must contribute to this outcome by synthesizing, assessing, and advancing the current state of evidence-based knowledge within the area(s) chosen above. This must include a focus on one or more of the following evacuation solutions-- evacuation devices, plans, exercises, protocols, models, systems, networks, standards, or interventions. Research activities must be designed with the goal of achieving reliable, usable, accessible, safe, effective, and emergency evacuation for individuals with disabilities.

(b) Increased implementation of evacuation solutions for individuals with disabilities within existing emergency management initiatives. The DRRP must contribute to this outcome by-- (1) examining barriers and facilitators to incorporating disability-related evacuation solutions within existing emergency management initiatives; (2) sharing findings from this DRRP with the emergency management community and other key stakeholders; and (3) collaborating with the emergency management community and other key stakeholders to propose solutions to identified barriers.

In addition to the above outcomes, applicants must:

- Define, in their applications, the parameters and units of analysis for their proposed activities. Applications must include a

description of each of the following: (1) type(s) of evacuation (i.e., evacuation from buildings, transportation systems, geographic locations such as cities or States); (2) target population(s) (e.g., individuals with physical, sensory, mental impairments); and (3) type(s) of evacuation solutions (e.g., evacuation devices, plans, exercises, protocols, models, systems, networks, standards, interventions).

- Demonstrate in their applications how they plan to implement a sustained, meaningful, and integrated collaboration throughout the project with key stakeholders. These may include but are not limited to: (1) disability and aging advocates and organizations, disability subject matter experts, and qualified individuals with disabilities; (2) fire engineers, homeland security and preparedness personnel, and other mainstream emergency management professionals and associations; (3) industry, standard-setting organizations, and other relevant stakeholders involved in standards development; (4) researchers (including researchers working on projects funded by NIDRR, other government agencies, and researchers in the private sector); and (5) relevant Federal agencies, including but not limited to those participating in the Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities.

Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems (TBIMS) Centers

Priority:

The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services establishes a priority for Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems (TBIMS) centers under the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) program to conduct research that contributes to evidence-based rehabilitation interventions which improve the lives of individuals with traumatic brain injury (TBI). Each TBIMS center must contribute to the following outcomes:

- (a) Continued assessment of long-term outcomes of TBI by enrolling at least 35 subjects per year into the longitudinal portion of the TBIMS database maintained by the National Data and Statistical Center for the TBIMS, following established protocols for the collection of enrollment and follow-up data on subjects.

(b) Improved outcomes for individuals with TBI by proposing one collaborative research module project and participating in at least one collaborative research module project, which may range from pilot research to more extensive studies (At the beginning of the funding cycle, the TBIMS directors, in conjunction with NIDRR, will select specific modules for implementation from the approved applications).

(c) Improved long-term outcomes of individuals with TBI by conducting no more than two site-specific research projects to test innovative approaches that contribute to rehabilitation interventions and evaluating TBI outcomes in accordance with the focus areas identified in NIDRR's Long-Range Plan for FY 2005-2009 (Plan). Applicants who propose more than two site-specific projects will be disqualified.

In carrying out each of these research activities, each TBIMS Center may select from the following research domains related to specific areas of the Plan: Health and Function, Employment, Participation and Community Living, and Technology for Access and Function.

In addition, each TBIMS Center must--

(1) Provide a multidisciplinary system of rehabilitation care specifically designed to meet the needs of individuals with TBI. The system must encompass a continuum of care, including emergency medical services, acute care services, acute medical rehabilitation services, and post-acute services; and

(2) Coordinate with the NIDRR-funded Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center to provide scientific results and information for dissemination to clinical and consumer audiences. (Additional information on this center can be found at <http://uwctds.washington.edu/projects/msktc.asp>).

Executive Order 12866

This NFP has been reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 12866. Under the terms of the order, we have assessed the potential costs and benefits of this regulatory action.

The potential costs associated with this NFP are those resulting from statutory requirements and those we have determined as necessary for administering this program effectively and efficiently.

In assessing the potential costs and benefits -- both quantitative and qualitative -- of this NFP, we have determined that the benefits of the final priorities justify the costs.

Summary of potential costs and benefits:

The benefits of the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Programs have been well established over the years in that similar projects have been completed successfully. These final priorities will generate new knowledge and technologies through research, development, dissemination, utilization, and technical assistance projects.

Another benefit of these final priorities is that the establishment of new DRRPs and new RERCs will support the President's NFI and will improve the lives of persons with disabilities. The new DRRPs and RERCs will generate, disseminate, and promote the use of new information that will improve the options for individuals with disabilities to perform regular activities in the community.

Applicable Program Regulations: 34 CFR part 350.

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/news/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:

www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers 84.133A Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects and 84.133E Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers Program)

PROGRAM AUTHORITY: 29 U.S.C. 762(g), 764(a), 764(b)(2), and 764(b)(3).

Dated: February 14, 2007

John H. Hager,
Assistant Secretary for
Special Education and
Rehabilitative Services.

**SECTION
D**

**PRIORITY 1
General Requirements For Each DRRP**

For the 133A program only

Priority 1--General Disability and Rehabilitation Research
Projects (DRRP) Requirements

Background:

NIDRR proposes the following General DRRP Requirements priority because it believes that the effectiveness of any DRRP (including any DBTAC) depends on, among other things, how well the DRRP coordinates its research efforts with the research of other NIDRR-funded projects, involves individuals with disabilities in its activities, and identifies specific anticipated outcomes that are linked to its objectives in applying for DRRP funding. Accordingly, NIDRR intends to use proposed Priority 1--General DRRP Requirements in conjunction with each of the other DRRP priorities proposed in this notice (i.e., priorities 2 through 11).

Priority:

To meet this priority, the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) must—

(a) Coordinate on research projects of mutual interest with relevant NIDRR-funded projects, as identified through consultation with the NIDRR project officer;

(b) Involve individuals with disabilities in planning and implementing the DRRP's research, training, and dissemination activities, and in evaluating its work; and

(c) Identify anticipated outcomes (i.e., advances in knowledge or changes and improvements in policy, practice, behavior, and system capacity) that are linked to the applicant's stated grant objectives.

**SECTION
E**

BACKGROUND STATEMENT

Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (133A-5)

Priority 3--Inclusive Emergency Evacuation of Individuals with Disabilities

(Note: Name of priority was changed in the Notice of Final Priority)

Background:

Executive Order 13347, Individuals with Disabilities in Emergency Preparedness, directs the Federal Government to protect the safety and security of individuals with disabilities in disasters. Legal requirements related to nondiscrimination, architectural and communications access, technology, transportation, and other areas, such as those contained in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq. (ADA) and relevant court decisions, apply in emergency situations as well.

Incorporating disability considerations into emergency evacuation, planning, preparation, and other activities is critical. Currently, there is insufficient evidence on demonstrating the most effective ways to ensure the safety of individuals with disabilities during emergency situations. For example, many individuals with disabilities rely on elevators, accessible transportation, and accessible communications, all of which can be compromised during disasters or other emergency situations (Executive Order 13347, Annual Report, 2005). Additional research is needed on approaches to evacuation that include the evacuation of individuals with disabilities (e.g., physical, sensory, mental impairments).

A study by the National Council on Disability states that, while there is a wealth of anecdotal reports by the disability community about their experiences in disaster situations, there is scarce research related to people with disabilities in disaster planning, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. This study also reports that: “a common theme emerging after 9/11 is there are virtually no empirical data on the safe and efficient evacuation of persons with disabilities in emergency planning” (National Council on Disability, 2005). Increased knowledge about devices, systems, plans, standards, and the incorporation of disability considerations into mainstream emergency management initiatives are needed in order to build system capacity and improve outcomes for individuals with disabilities in emergencies.

References:

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.

National Council on Disability, Saving Lives: Including People with Disabilities in Emergency Planning. April 2005. Available at: www.ncd.gov.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Individuals with Disabilities in Emergency Preparedness: Executive Order 13347, Annual Report. July 2005. Available at:

<http://www.dhs.gov/disabilitypreparednessicc>.

**SECTION
F**

SECTION CRITERIA

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Secretary uses the following criteria to evaluate an application for DRRP 133A-5: Priority 3--
Emergency Evacuation and Individuals with Disabilities.

(a) Responsiveness to an absolute or competitive priority (8 points)

(1) The Secretary considers the responsiveness of the application to an absolute or competitive priority published in the Federal Register. (2) In determining the application's responsiveness to the absolute or competitive priority, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the applicant addresses all requirements of the absolute or competitive priority. (4 points)

(ii) The extent to which the applicant's proposed activities are likely to achieve the purposes of the absolute or competitive priority. (4 points)

(b) Significance (15 points)

(1) The Secretary considers the significance of the proposed project. (2) In determining the significance of the proposed project, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:

(1) The potential contribution of the proposed project to the development and advancement of theory, knowledge, and practices in the field of study. (5 points)

(2) The likely utility of the products (such as information, materials, processes, or techniques) that will result from the proposed project, including the potential for their being used effectively in a variety of other settings. (5 points)

(3) The extent to which the results of the proposed project are to be disseminated in ways that will enable others to use the information or strategies. (5 points)

(c) Quality of the project design. (35 points)

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the design of the proposed project. (2) In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the proposed project are clearly specified and measurable. (4 points)

(ii) The extent to which the proposed project is based upon a specific research design, and the quality and appropriateness of that design, including the scientific rigor of the studies involved. (12 points)

(iii) The extent to which the proposed research design includes a thorough, high-quality review of the relevant literature, a high-quality plan for research activities, and the use of appropriate theoretical and methodological tools, including those of a variety of disciplines, if appropriate. (15 points)

(iv) The extent to which the proposed project encourages consumer involvement. (4 points)

(d) Design of utilization activities (7 points)

(1) The Secretary considers the extent to which the design of utilization activities is likely to be effective in accomplishing the objectives of the project. (2) In determining the extent to which the design is likely to be effective in accomplishing the objectives of the project, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the utilization strategies are likely to be effective. (7 points)

(e) Quality of the management plan. (7 points)

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project. (2) In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:

(i) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks. (7 points)

(f) Collaboration (8 points)

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of collaboration. (2) In determining the quality of collaboration, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the applicant's proposed collaboration with one or more agencies, organizations, or institutions is likely to be effective in achieving the relevant proposed activities of the project. (4 points)

(ii) The extent to which agencies, organizations, or institutions demonstrate a commitment to collaborate with the applicant. (2 points)

(iii) The extent to which agencies, organizations, or institutions that commit to collaborate with the applicant have the capacity to carry out collaborative activities. (2 points)

(g) Project staff (10 points)

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the project staff. (2) In determining the quality of the project staff, the Secretary considers the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability. (2 points)

(3) In addition, the Secretary considers one or more of the following:

(i) The extent to which the key personnel and other key staff have appropriate training and experience in disciplines required to conduct all proposed activities. (5 points)

(ii) The extent to which the commitment of staff time is adequate to accomplish all the proposed activities of the project. (3 points)

(h) Adequacy of resources (5 points)

(1) The Secretary considers the adequacy of resources for the proposed project. (2) In determining the adequacy of resources for the proposed project, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:

(i) The adequacy of support, including facilities, equipment, supplies, and other resources, from the applicant organization or the lead applicant organization. (3 points)

(ii) The extent to which the costs are reasonable in relation to the objectives, design, and potential significance of the proposed project. (2 points)

(i) Quality of the project evaluation (5 points)

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the evaluation to be conducted of the proposed project. (2) In determining the quality of the evaluation, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the proposed project. (2 points)

(ii) The extent to which the methods of evaluation include the use of objective performance measures that are clearly related to the intended outcomes of the project and will produce quantitative and qualitative data to the extent possible. (3 points)

**SECTION
G**

PROTECTION OF HUMAN SUBJECTS

Protection of Human Subjects

Research activities involving human subjects supported by awards under these programs are subject to Department of Education Regulations for the Protection of Human Subjects.

If you are applying on Grants.gov there is a separate place to include exempt and non-exempt narratives.

Applicants answering "Yes" to item 3 on form ED Supplemental to the SF 424 on Grants.gov or item 13 on form ED 424 whose research activities are nonexempt must complete the seven-point narrative on protection of human subjects. Additionally, seven point narratives are required for each participating partner if research is being conducted at other sites.

Copies of the Department of Education regulations for the Protection of Human Subjects are available from the Grants Policy and Oversight Staff (GPOS), Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Washington, D.C., telephone: (202) 245-6154 and on the Protection of Human Subjects in research Web Site at:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/humansub.html>

**SECTION
H**

APPLICATION FORMAT

APPLICATION FORMAT

Applications for an award must be postmarked or hand delivered by the closing date of **Monday, April 16, 2007.**

It is recommended that your electronic (Grants.gov) or paper application be organized in the following manner and include the following:

Note: In Grants.gov the forms will appear in the order that they are built in the template- so they won't be the exact order below and the applicant won't be able to change the order.

1. Application for Federal Education Assistance (Form ED 424-paper submission or SF 424 -electronic submission)

- This application cover sheet requires basic identifying information about the applicant and the application.
- Applicants should clearly indicate, in block #4 (ED 424) of this form, the CFDA number of the program (84.133A-5). If this information is not provided, your application may be assigned and reviewed under a different program. Grants.gov will pre-populate block 11 of the SF 424.

2. Table of Contents

- The Table of Contents shows where and how the important sections of your proposal are organized.
- While the application will be submitted electronically, the reviewers will use printed copies during the review process. The Table of Contents will assist them in more efficiently and effectively evaluating your application.
- If applying through Grants.gov use the Project Narrative Attachments form to attach your Table of Contents.

3. Project Abstract

- The ONE-PAGE abstract should be a comprehensive description of what the whole (all years) project is, not a description of the competency of the institution or project director. It is not an executive summary. It can be single or double-spaced.
- If applying through Grants.gov use the ED Abstract form to attach your abstract.

Cost Share or Matching: You are required to provide third party cost share or matching in the amount of up to 1% of your total budget amount if you are applying for 84.133A. However, you may include more than 1% but "up to 1%" represents the requirement. Please include this information on the ED Form 524, Section B – Budget Summary, Non-Federal Funds.

4. Budget Narrative

- This part requires an itemized budget breakdown for the project year and the basis for estimating the costs of personnel salaries, benefits, project staff travel, materials and supplies, consultants and subcontracts, indirect costs and any other projected expenditures.

- Address Cost Share or Matching in a separate budget narrative labeled “Cost Share or Matching”. Please provide an itemized budget breakdown for each project year.
- Descriptions of purchases may be included but is not required.
- If applying through Grants.gov use the Budget Narrative Attachment form to attach your detailed budget narrative/justification.

Name: Enter the Name of the applicant organization(s) or institution(s) in the space provided.

Personnel (Line 1): Enter project personnel salaries and wages only. Include fees and expenses for consultants on line 6.

Fringe Benefits (Line 2): The institution’s normal fringe benefits contribution may be charged to the program. Leave this line blank if fringe benefits applicable to direct salaries and wages are treated as part of the indirect cost.

Travel (Line 3): Indicate the travel costs of employees and participants only. Include travel of persons such as consultants and trainees on line 6.

Equipment (Line 4): Indicate the cost of tangible, non-expendable personal property that has a usefulness greater than one year and acquisition costs that are the lesser of the capitalization level established by the applicant entity for financial statement purposes or \$5,000 per article. Lower limits may be established to maintain consistency with the applicant’s policy.

Supplies (line 5): Show all tangible personal property except that on line 4.

Contractual (line 6): The contractual category should include all costs specifically incurred with actions that the applicant takes in conjunction with an established internal procurement system. Include consultant fees, expenses, and travel costs in this category if the consultant’s services are obtained through a written binding agreement or contract.

Construction (line 7): Not applicable.

Other (line 8): Indicate all direct costs not covered on lines 1-6. For example, include costs such as space rental, required fees, honoraria and travel (where a contract is not in place for services), stipends, training, and communication and printing costs.

Total Direct Costs (line 9): The sum of lines 1-8.

Indirect Costs (line 10): There is no restricted indirect cost rate for this program. You should use your federal negotiated indirect cost rate.

Training Stipends (line 11): There are three types of projects that might included budget requests for stipends, tuition allowance, or other types of similar charges to support the objectives of the project:

- Fellowship or Scholarship Programs
- Educational Training Projects
- Projects where students receive tuition remission or other forms of compensation, as, or in lieu of wages.

Total Cost (line 12): This should equal to sum of lines 9-11 (total direct costs + indirect + stipends). The sum for column one, labeled *Project Year 1 (a)*, should also be equal to item 13a on the application cover sheet (ED Form 424).

5. Budget Narrative

- This part requires an itemized budget breakdown for the project year and the basis for estimating the costs of personnel salaries, benefits, project staff travel, materials and supplies, consultants and subcontracts, indirect costs and any other projected expenditures.
- Address Cost Share or Matching in a separate budget narrative labeled “Cost Share or Matching”. Please provide an itemized budget breakdown for each project year.
- Descriptions of purchases may be included but is not required.
- If applying through Grants.gov use the Budget Narrative Attachment form to attach your detailed budget narrative/justification.

6. Application Narrative

- The application narrative responds to the selection criteria found in Section F of this application package. The reviewers will use this section to evaluate your application.
- If applying through Grants.gov use the Project Narrative Attachment form to attach your narrative.

Each applicant is encouraged to limit the application narrative to the equivalent of no more than 125 pages and adhere to the following guidelines:

- 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. Single space may be used for 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 recommended page limit does not apply to the cover sheet; the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; the assurances and certifications; or the one page abstract, the resumes, the bibliography, or the letters of support.

7. Vitae/Bibliography/Letters of Support

- Vitae of staff or consultants should include the individual's title and role in the proposed project, and other information that is specifically pertinent to this proposed project. The budgets for all years should be included.
- If applying through Grants.gov use the Other Narrative Attachment form to attach your vitas.
- If collaboration with another organization is involved in the proposed activity, the application should include assurances of participation by the other parties, including written agreements or assurances of cooperation.

8 Assurances, Certifications, Disclosures

- Assurances - Non-Construction Programs; Certifications Regarding Lobbying; or Grants.gov Lobbying form

**SECTION
I**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**POINTS TO REMEMBER IN APPLICATION
PREPARATION**

DUNS NUMBER INSTRUCTIONS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. CAN I GET AN EXTENSION OF THE DUE DATE?

In the case of most competitions the answer is no. On rare occasions the Department of Education may extend a closing date for all applicants. If that occurs, a notice of the revised due date is published in the Federal Register, this extension applies to all applications for a given competition. There are no extensions or exceptions to the due date made for individual applicants. Additionally, there are provisions for extension for Grants.gov, per the guidance included in the application package.

2. WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE APPLICATION?

The application should include a project narrative, vitae of key personnel, and a budget, as well as all other forms identified in this package. Vitae of staff or consultants should include the individual's title and role in the proposed projects, and other information that is specifically pertinent to this proposed project. The budgets for all years, including a detailed budget narrative, should be included. The 133F (Research Fellowship) is the exemption to the required budget. If collaboration with another organization or individual is involved in any proposed activity, the application should include assurances of participation by the other parties, including written agreements or letters of cooperation. It is not useful to include general letters of support or endorsement in the application. If the applicant proposes to use unique tests or other measurement instruments that are not widely known in the field, it would be helpful to include the instrument in the application. Many applications contain voluminous appendices that are not helpful and in many cases cannot even be mailed to the reviewers. It is generally not helpful to include such things as brochures, general capability statements of collaborating organizations, maps, copies of publications, or descriptions of other projects completed by the applicant.

3. WHAT FORMAT SHOULD BE USED FOR THE APPLICATION?

NIDRR generally advises applicants to organize the application to follow the selection criteria that will be used. The project narrative should address the specific selection criteria for the competition. The specific review criteria vary according to the specific programs and are contained in this application package. Additionally, applicants should provide clearly stated hypotheses, goals, objectives, expected outcomes, and public benefit of the research or development project. The application should be organized to provide a thorough description of the methods and target population(s) and supported by evidence of need for the project, as identified in the relevant literature; citations are useful and may strengthen the proposal. Specific information on the format can be found in the application format section of this application package.

4. ARE THERE PAGE LIMITS TO MY APPLICATION?

NIDRR has two competitions with mandatory page limitations, Research Fellowships (133F) and Small Business Innovative Research (133S). All other competitions will suggest page limitations for the narrative sections of the proposal. The application narrative is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. The Notice Inviting Applications will describe the mandatory or suggested limitations, such as page size, spacing, and font size. The suggested page limit does not apply to the cover sheet; the human subjects narrative; the budget narrative; the assurances and certifications; or the one-page abstract, the resumes, the bibliography, or the letters of support. However, you must include all pertinent information in the application narrative.

5. MAY I SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO MORE THAN ONE OPEN NIDRR PROGRAM COMPETITIONS AT A TIME OR MORE THAN ONE APPLICATION TO A PARTICULAR PROGRAM COMPETITION?

Yes. You may submit more than one application in any given competition. You may submit to as many open competitions, which an application is responsive to the program requirements. However, each competition is unique and the selection criteria will vary from one competition to another. It is important that each separate application include the required materials for that particular competition.

6. DO I NEED AN ABSTRACT AND WHAT SHOULD IT INCLUDE?

Yes. The abstract is used by both the peer reviewers and the program staff in the review and processing of the application. The ONE-PAGE abstract should be a comprehensive description of the project (all years), not a description of the competency of the institution or project director. It is not an executive summary. It can be single or double-spaced. If applying through Grants.gov, use the ED Abstract form to attach your abstract.

7. WHAT IS THE ALLOWABLE INDIRECT COST RATE?

The limits on indirect costs vary according to the program. NIDRR currently has two programs with a restricted indirect cost rate. An applicant for a Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (133B) program may not collect more than 15% of the total grant award as indirect cost charges. An applicant for Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training project (133P) is limited to a training grant indirect rate of 8%, less tuition, stipend, and fees. For all other programs, Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (133A), Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (133E), Field Initiated projects (133G) and Small Business Innovative Research (133S), applicants must have a current indirect cost rate agreement to charge indirect costs. The maximum amount of the award includes both direct and indirect costs. The Department's Indirect Cost office has more information on indirect cost rates.

8. CAN PROFIT MAKING BUSINESSES APPLY FOR GRANTS?

Yes; however, for-profit organizations will not be able to collect a fee or profit on the grant. It varies by program.

9. CAN INDIVIDUALS APPLY FOR GRANTS?

Individuals are not eligible to apply for most grant competitions under NIDRR programs (133A, B, E, G, P, or S). The one exception is the Research Fellowship program (84.133F), which is available only to individuals.

10. CAN NIDRR STAFF ADVISE ME WHETHER MY PROJECT IS OF INTEREST TO NIDRR OR LIKELY TO BE FUNDED?

No. NIDRR staff can only advise you of the requirements of the program in which you propose to submit your application. However, staff cannot advise you of whether your subject area or proposed approach is likely to receive approval.

11. HOW DO I ENSURE THAT MY APPLICATION WILL BE REVIEWED UNDER THE CORRECT COMPETITION?

Applicants should be sure that their applications are referred to the correct competition by clearly including the competition title and CFDA number, including alphabetical code, on the Standard Form 424, and include a project title that describes the project, based on the competition. If reapplying for the Field Initiated (133G), you should identify if the application is a resubmittal from a previous fiscal year.

12. HOW SOON AFTER SUBMITTING MY APPLICATION CAN I FIND OUT IF IT WILL BE FUNDED?

The time from closing date to grant award date varies from program to program. Generally speaking, NIDRR endeavors to have awards made within six to seven months of the closing date. Unsuccessful applicants generally will be notified within that time frame as well. When NIDRR is able to release information on the status of grant applications, it will notify applicants by letter. The results of the peer review cannot be released except through this formal notification. This information is **not** posted on the NIDRR homepage or the Grants.gov website.

13. WHAT START DATE SHOULD I USE ON MY APPLICATION?

For the purpose of estimating a project start date, the applicant should estimate approximately six to seven months from the closing date, preferably October 1, but no later than December 1. You must have a start date that allows you to complete an Annual Performance Report (APR) by May 31st with six month of activities to report on.

14. IF MY APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL, CAN I ASSUME I WILL GET THE REQUESTED BUDGET AMOUNT IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS?

No. Funding in subsequent years is subject to availability of funds and project performance.

15. WILL ALL APPROVED APPLICATIONS BE FUNDED?

No. Peer review panels can result in more applications being determined to be worthy of consideration for funding than available resources allow.. Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to consider resubmitting applications in future competitions. Funded applications will be notified in the manner described in #12.

16. HOW DOES THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS IMPACT ON MY APPLICATION?

Successful applicants with multi-year grants must submit an Annual Performance Report (APR) demonstrating and documenting their progress in meeting approved project objectives and their success in addressing the performance measures outlined in the Notice Inviting Applications. Grantees must also provide the most current financial and performance measure data for each year of the project. Grantees will also be required to submit a final performance report, 90 days after the end of the project period. For NIDRR, the APR is submitted electronically via a web-based system. This system is maintained by a contractor and grantees are notified after receiving an award with the appropriate URL and personal password to access the system. The contractor will also send a letter to the grantee informing them when and how to submit their APR. The Department will use the applicant's performance data for program management and administration, in such areas as determining new and continuation funding and planning technical assistance. Grantees will participate fully in any evaluation of the NIDRR program carried out by the Department of Education.

17. DO I HAVE TO INCLUDE COST SHARE/MATCHING IN MY APPLICATION?

NIDRR has cost share/matching requirements on two of its programs, the Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (133A) and the Field Initiated program (133G). This information should be reflected on the ED 524 form in the Section B – Budget Summary Non-Federal Funds and in the budget narrative for each year. An amount of up to 1% of the total yearly budget amount is requested; however, you may include more than 1%. If the cost share amount is changed for a competition, it will be announced in the Notice Inviting Applications. For more information, see EDGAR 74.23 and 84.24.

18. WHAT DO I NEED TO DO ABOUT HUMAN SUBJECTS PROTECTION IN MY RESEARCH?

If you are planning research involving human subjects at any time during the project period, you check “Yes” in the Human Subjects section of the 424 form. If you checked “Yes,” you need to indicate whether the research is exempt or not exempt from the protection of human subjects requirements of EDGAR part 97 and if you have an IRB number. You will need to fill out the human subjects narrative for each site where the research is being conducted. The program and the Department’s human subjects staff review the applicant’s response against the application itself to determine its accuracy. They contact you for additional information or clarification, if needed. More information can be found in the instructions for the SF 424 form and in this application package in the Human Subjects section.

19. SHOULD I SUBMIT MY APPLICATION VIA GRANTS.GOV?

The Federal Government is moving towards mandatory electronic submission for its grant applications. The Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) provides information on how to submit via Grants.gov and the application package includes helpful tips. The NIA will also identify if paper submission is allowed. If you do submit by paper, include a disk copy of your application. **We strongly suggest:** (1) Read the Grants.gov instructions carefully; (2) Check with your organization or institution if they are already registered in Grants.gov; if not, **do not wait** to set up your account because it can take five or more days to register; (3) Review the form sections before sending the application to ensure that all information has been uploaded correctly and completely; and (4) Submit early; electronic applications must be uploaded on Grants.gov by 4:30 pm, Washington, D.C. time on the closing date and processed by Grants.gov successfully. Please allow several hours or a full day for this process; if there is a submission error, time will be needed to correct the error and resubmit to meet the deadline. Applications received/logged in after 4:30 pm (Washington, DC time) will not be reviewed.

POINTS TO REMEMBER IN APPLICATION PREPARATION

RELEVANT TO PROGRAM

1. CFDA Number: In the title block on the 424 form, please note the appropriate CFDA 84.133A. For electronic submissions, you must download the correct application package from Grants.gov, Funding Opportunity number **ED-GRANTS- 021407-003 (Emergency)**.
2. Indirect Cost: There is no restricted indirect cost rate for the 133A program. You should use your federal negotiated indirect cost rate. Indirect cost office:
<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/fipao/jcindex.html>
3. Application Narrative - Organize your narrative in accordance with the selection criteria in Section F of this package. Address all criteria. Include a table of contents in your application in order to highlight where the application narrative can be found in the application. If applying through Grants.gov use the Project Narrative form to attach your narrative. We recommend that you limit the application narrative to the equivalent of no more than 125 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. Single space may be used for 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).

Closing Date/Transmittal of Application

4. Applications must be postmarked by the closing date of ***Monday, April 16, 2007, if submitting in paper***. Follow the transmittal instructions for submitting in paper or electronically found in Section J. Please include an electronic copy (disk) with your application.
5. Electronic copies must be uploaded on Grants.gov by 4:30 pm, Washington DC time on the closing date and then processed by Grants.gov successfully. Please allow several hours or a full day for this process, if there is a submission error time will be needed to correct the error and resubmit to meet the deadline. For additional information on electronic submission procedures, see the section J. A copy of your application should not be emailed directly to the Department. Must submit it electronically via Grants.gov

Forms

ED 424 (If applying by paper)

6. CFDA Number: In the title block of #4 on the 424 form, please note the appropriate CFDA.
7. DUNS number: It is important to verify with your fiscal office the DUNS number, which goes in Block #2 on the ED 424 form. If you do not have one, call 1-800-333-0505 to set one up. This number is required.

8. Novice applicant. Please leave Block #6 blank. Does not apply to NIDRR programs.
9. EO 12372: Mark Block #11, the EO 12372 as no and not covered. This program is not covered.
10. Human Subjects: Remember to include a seven-point narrative on the protection of Human Subjects as it pertains to your grant if you check “yes” on ED 424 block number 13. You must include a separate narrative for each site where the research is being conducted. If you check “no” please include a paragraph of why it is not required.
11. Block # 15a : The total amount requested includes both direct and indirect costs for the first year only. The totals on the ED 524 form must include direct and indirect costs and no year can be over the maximum amount.

SF 424 and ED Supplemental (If applying through Grants.gov)

12. DUNS #: You must enter the DUNS number for your organization used when it registered with the Central Contractor Registry.
13. Legal Name: Block #8a is for the name of institution or entity. **Please note** the CFDA. 84.133, will automatically populate on Block #11 of the SF 424.
14. Project Director: Project director information is on the ED supplemental form in Block #1. You are the person to contact, the project director and the authorized representative.
15. Novice applicant. Block #2 on the ED Supplemental - Please leave this one blank. Does not apply to NIDRR programs.
16. Block #15a: The total amount requested includes both direct and indirect costs for the first year only. The totals on the ED 524 form must include direct and indirect costs and no year can be over the maximum amount.
17. EO 12372: Mark Block #19, the EO 12372 as b. no and not covered.
18. Human Subjects: Block #3 on the ED Supplemental. You must include a separate narrative for each site where the research is being conducted. If you check “no”, please include a paragraph of why it is not required.

SF or ED 424 and ED 524

19. Budget Information: **BE SURE TO CHECK THE MATH** - the application will not be reviewed if the request for funds on block 15a of either the ED 424 or SF 424 form, the ED 524 form or the budget justifications goes over the maximum amount for any year (direct and indirect costs). A detailed budget narrative is needed for the total grant period years requested. By requesting detailed budget information in the initial application for the total project period, the need for formal non-competing continuation applications in the remaining years will be eliminated. A performance report that will be required annually will be used in place of the continuation application to determine progress.

20. Only the primary institution fills out the required forms. Any partner or collaborating groups will be a subcontractor to the primary. The only paperwork subcontractor needs to fill out is what is required by the primary institution. You should include a letter of intent in the application from any collaborating group saying that if awarded what they will be doing for your project and for what amount.

Abstract/Narrative/Appendices

21. Abstract: The ONE-PAGE abstract should be a comprehensive description of what the whole (all years) project is, not a description of the competency of the institution or project director. It is not an executive summary. It can be single or double-spaced. If applying through Grants.gov use the ED Abstract form to attach your abstract.

22. Number all pages to make it easier for the reader to refer to a page number if comments are given (including the appendices).

23. Vitae: Remember to include pertinent information in your narrative of the qualifications of the key personnel. A more extensive 2-4 page vitae can be included in the appendices. If applying through Grants.gov use the Other Narrative form to attach your vitae.

24. Advisory Board: We suggest that you limit your list of advisory board members in the application. You can give a description of the type/qualification of the person. Remember that an extensive listing of proposed names effects our peer reviewer selection. If applying through Grants.gov use the Other Narrative form to attach your letters of commitment and vitae.

25 Letters of Commitment/Support: If you have identified a partner, sub-contractor or consultant you should include a letter of commitment from them stating what they'll be doing on your project. We suggest that you only include key letters of support. Remember that letters of support diminish our peer reviewer pool. If applying through Grants.gov use the Other Narrative form to attach your letters.

26. Use Of Person Loading Charts. It is important for applicants to include proposed time commitments for all project personnel. Also, program officials and applicants often find person loading charts useful formats for showing project personnel and their time commitments to individual activities. A personal loading chart is a tabular representation of major evaluation activities by number of days spent by each key person involved in each activity.

GRANTS.GOV

27. **We strongly suggest:** (1) Read the instructions carefully; (2) Don't wait until close to the due date to set up your account - It can take five or more days to register; (3) Review the application before sending final version to ensure that all information has been uploaded correctly and completely; and (4) Submit early.

28. Electronic applications must be uploaded on Grants.gov by 4:30 pm, Washington, D.C. time on the closing date and processed by Grants.gov successfully. Please allow several hours or a full day for this process, if there is a submission error time will be needed to correct the error and resubmit to meet the deadline. For additional information on electronic submission procedures, see the transmittal section of the Notice Inviting Applications.

29. The application information will be uploaded in four areas: ED Abstract Form; Budget Narrative Attachment Form; Program Narrative Attachment Form; and Other Narrative Attachment Form. The ED Abstract Form is for the abstract. The Budget Narrative Attachment Form is for the budget justification. The Program Narrative Attachment Form is for the application narrative based on the selection criteria along with a table of contents - this section has the recommended 125-page limit recommendation. The Other Narrative Attachment Form will include vitas; letters, and any other appendices. You must attach any narrative sections of your application as files in a .DOC (document), .RTF (rich text), or .PDF (Portable Document) format, if you upload a file type other than these three file types, such as Excel, or submit a password protected file, we will not review that material.

30. UNSUBMIT: Please note that Grants.gov does not allow you to unsubmit your application if you find an error before the due date and time. You will have to submit another “new” application and notify NIDRR that you have submitted two applications and which one is the “correct” one to review.

Miscellaneous Information and Reminders

31. Rehabilitation Act: To find information on the Rehab Act of 1973, as amended, as well as other NIDRR policy & legislation, go to:
<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/nidrr/policy.html> and
<http://www.ed.gov/policy/speced/reg/narrative.html?exp=0>

32. Help in Preparing Applications. We are happy to provide general program information. Clearly it would not be appropriate for staff to participate in the actual writing of an application, but we can respond to specific questions about our application requirements and evaluation criteria, or about the announced priorities. Applicants should understand that such previous contact is not required, nor does it guarantee the success of an application.

33. Possibility Of Learning The Outcome Of Review Panels Prior To Official Notification. Every year we are called by a number of applicants who have legitimate reasons for needing to know the outcome of the review prior to official notification. Some applicants need to make job decisions, some need to notify a partner, etc. Regardless of the reason, we cannot share information about the review with anyone until the Assistant Secretary has approved a slate of projects recommended for funding. You will be notified as quickly as possible either by telephone (if your application is recommended for funding), or through a letter (if your application is not successful).

34. Return of Non-Funded Applications. We do not return original copies of applications. Thus, applicants should retain at least one copy of the application. Copies of reviewer comments will be mailed to all applicants.

35. Successful Applications And Estimated/Projected Budget Amounts In Subsequent Years.

There is a maximum award amount specified for the priority/competitions included in this package. The Department rejects and does not consider an application that proposes a budget exceeding the maximum amount for any single budget period of 12 months for the priorities included in this package. Since the yearly budgets for multi-year projects will be negotiated at the time of the initial award, applicants must include detailed budgets for each year of their proposed project. Generally, out-year funding levels most likely will not exceed 1st year budgets. However, budget modifications during the negotiation process, the findings from the previous year, or needed changes in the study design can affect your budget requirements in subsequent years, but in no case will out-year budgets exceed the maximum award amount.

36. To see what NIDRR has funded or are currently funding on Emergency Evacuation and Individuals with Disabilities, we have an on-line program directory at www.naric.com

Once there - click on NIDRR. Under grantee resources click on search for other research projects. This will connect you to the program directory. Click on search all fields then type in Emergency Evacuation. By clicking on a grant number you can see information on who has the grant, how to contact them and a brief description of their project. Instead of search all field you can select searching by project type – Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects.

DUNS NUMBER INSTRUCTIONS

NOTE: Check with your fiscal office to see if your institution has an assigned DUNS before contacting Dun & Bradstreet

D-U-N-S No.: Please provide the applicant's D-U-N-S Number. You can obtain your D-U-N-S Number at no charge by calling **1-800-333-0505** or by completing a D-U-N-S Number Request Form. The form can be obtained via the Internet at the following URL:

http://www.dnb.com/US/duns_update/index.html

The D-U-N-S Number is a unique nine-digit number that does not convey any information about the recipient. A built in check digit helps assure the accuracy of the D-U-N-S Number. The ninth digit of each number is the check digit, which is mathematically related to the other digits. It lets computer systems determine if a D-U-N-S Number has been entered correctly.

Dun & Bradstreet, a global information services provider, has assigned D-U-N-S numbers to over 43 million companies worldwide. **Live help Monday-Friday 8am-6pm (EST) Dial 1.888.814.1435**

Note: Electronic submission via Grants.gov must use DUNS number your organization used when it registered in the Central Contractor Registry.

SECTION

J

GRANTS.GOV SUBMISSION PROCEDURES AND TIPS FOR APPLICANTS

APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ FIRST

U.S. Department of Education Grants.gov Submission Procedures and Tips for Applicants

Please note that the Grants.gov site works differently than the U.S. Department of Education’s (Department) e-Application system. To facilitate your use of Grants.gov, this document includes important submission procedures you need to be aware of to ensure your application is received in a timely manner and accepted by the Department of Education.

- 1) **REGISTER EARLY** – Grants.gov registration is a one-time process that may take five or more days to complete. You may begin working on your application while completing the registration process, but you cannot submit an application until all of the Get Started steps are complete. For detailed information on the Get Started Steps, please go to: <http://www.grants.gov/GetStarted>.
- 2) **SUBMIT EARLY** – We strongly recommend that you do not wait until the last day to submit your application. Grants.gov will put a date/time stamp on your application and then process it after it is fully uploaded. The time it takes to upload an application will vary depending on a number of factors including the size of the application and the speed of your Internet connection, and the time it takes Grants.gov to process the application will vary as well. If Grants.gov rejects your application (see step three below), you will need to resubmit successfully before 4:30 pm on the deadline date.

Note: To submit successfully, you must provide the DUNS number on your application that was used when your organization registered with the CCR (Central Contractor Registry).

- 3) **VERIFY SUBMISSION IS OK** – You will want to verify that Grants.gov and the Department receive your Grants.gov submission timely and that it was validated successfully. To see the date/time your application was received, login to Grants.gov and click on the Check Application Status link. For a successful submission, the date/time received should be earlier than 4:30 p.m. on the deadline date, AND the application status should be: Validated, Received by Agency, or Agency Tracking Number Assigned.

If the date/time received is later than 4:30 p.m. Washington, D.C. time, on the closing date, your application is late. If your application has a status of “Received” it is still awaiting validation by Grants.gov. Once validation is complete, the status will either change to “Validated” or “Rejected with Errors.” If the status is “Rejected with Errors,” your application has not been received successfully. Some of the reasons Grants.gov may reject an application can be found on the Grants.gov site:

<http://www.grants.gov/assets/ApplicationErrorTips.doc>. If you discover your application is late or has been rejected, please see the instructions below. Note: You will receive a

series of confirmations both online and via e-mail about the status of your application. Please do not rely solely on e-mail to confirm whether your application has been received timely and validated successfully.

Submission Problems – What should you do?

If you have problems submitting to Grants.gov before the closing date, please contact Grants.gov Customer Support at 1-800-518-4726 or use the customer support available on the Web site: <http://www.grants.gov/CustomerSupport>.

If electronic submission is optional and you have problems that you are unable to resolve before the deadline date and time for electronic applications, please follow the transmittal instructions for hard copy applications in the Federal Register notice and get a hard copy application postmarked by midnight on the deadline date.

If electronic submission is required, you must submit an electronic application before 4:30 p.m., unless you follow the procedures in the Federal Register notice and qualify for one of the exceptions to the electronic submission requirement and submit, no later than two weeks before the application deadline date, a written statement to the Department that you qualify for one of these exceptions. (See the Federal Register notice for detailed instructions.)

Helpful Hints When Working with Grants.gov

Please note, once you download an application from Grants.gov, you will be working offline and saving data on your computer. Please be sure to note where you are saving the Grants.gov file on your computer. You will need to logon to Grants.gov to upload and submit the application. (This is different from e-Application, where you are working online and saving data to the Department's database.) **You must provide on your application the DUNS number that was used when your organization registered with the CCR.**

Please go to <http://www.grants.gov/ForApplicants> for help with Grants.gov and click on the links in the lower right corner of the screen under Applicant Tips and Tools. For additional tips related to submitting grant applications, please refer to the Grants.gov Submit Application Tips found on the Grants.gov homepage <http://www.grants.gov>.

Dial-Up Internet Connections

When using a dial up connection to upload and submit your application, it can take significantly longer than when you are connected to the Internet with a high-speed connection, e.g. cable modem/DSL/T1. While times will vary depending upon the size of your application, it can take a few minutes to a few hours to complete your grant submission using a dial up connection. If you do not have access to a high-speed

connection and electronic submission is required, you may want to consider following the instructions in the Federal Register notice to obtain an exception to the electronic submission requirement no later than two weeks before the application deadline date. **(See the Federal Register notice for detailed instructions.)**

MAC Users

If you do not have a Windows operating System, you will need to use a Windows Emulation program to submit an application using Grants.gov. For additional information, review the PureEdge Support for Macintosh white paper published by Pure Edge: http://www.grants.gov/GrantsGov_UST_Grantee!/SSL!/WebHelp/MacSupportforPureEdge.pdf, and/or contact Grants.gov Customer Support (<http://www.grants.gov/CustomerSupport>) for more information. **If you do not have a Windows emulation program and electronic submission is required, please follow instructions in the Federal Register notice to obtain an exception to the electronic submission requirement no later than two weeks before the application deadline date.** (See the Federal Register notice for detailed instructions.)

APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAIL OR HAND DELIVERY

Submission of Paper Applications by Mail.

If you submit your application in paper format by mail (through the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial carrier), you must mail the original and two copies of your application, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the applicable following address:

By mail through the U.S. Postal Service:

U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center
Attention: (CFDA Number 84.133A-5)
400 Maryland Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC 20202-4260

or

By mail through a commercial carrier:

U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center, Stop 4260
Attention: (CFDA Number 84.133A-5)
7100 Old Landover Road
Landover, MD 20785-1506

Regardless of which address you use, you must show proof of mailing consisting of one of the following:

- (1) A legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark.
- (2) A legible mail receipt with the date of mailing stamped by the U.S. Postal Service.
- (3) A dated shipping label, invoice, or receipt from a commercial carrier.
- (4) Any other proof of mailing acceptable to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

If you mail your application through the U.S. Postal Service, we do not accept either of the following as proof of mailing:

- (1) A private metered postmark.
- (2) A mail receipt that is not dated by the U.S. Postal Service.

If your application is postmarked after the application deadline date, we will not consider your application.

Note: The U.S. Postal Service does not uniformly provide a dated postmark. Before relying on this method, you should check with your local post office.

c. Submission of Paper Applications by Hand Delivery.

If you submit your application in paper format by hand delivery, you (or a courier service) must deliver the original and two copies of your application by hand, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address:

U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center
Attention: (CFDA Number 84.133A-5)
550 12th Street, SW.
Room 7041, Potomac Center Plaza
Washington, DC 20202-4260

The Application Control Center accepts hand deliveries daily between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, except Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays.

Note for Mail or Hand Delivery of Paper Applications: If you mail or hand deliver your application to the Department--

(1) You must indicate on the envelope and--if not provided by the Department--in Item 11 of the SF 424 the CFDA number, including suffix letter, if any, of the competition under which you are submitting your application; and

(2) The Application Control Center will mail to you a notification of receipt of your grant application. If you do not receive this notification within 15 business days from the application deadline date, you should call the U.S. Department of Education Application Control Center at (202) 245-6288.

**SECTION
K**

**REQUIRED FORMS
and
FORM INSTRUCTIONS**

APPLICATION FORMS

The enclosed forms shall be used by all applicants for Federal Assistance under all NIDRR programs. A separate application must be submitted for each grant sought. No grant may be awarded unless the completed application forms have been received. If an item does not appear to be relevant to the assistance requested, write "NA" for not applicable.

For paper submission this application consists of four parts. These parts are organized in the same manner that the submitted application should be organized. These parts are as follows:

- Part I - Federal Assistance Application Face Page (ED 424)
- Part II - Budget Information
- Part III - Application Narrative
- Part IV - Assurances, Certifications and Disclosures

Each submitted application should include an index or table of contents and a one-page project abstract. Pages should be consecutively numbered.

For electronic submission through Grants.gov the application format is set in that system.

- Part I Federal Assistance Application Face Page (SF 424)
ED Supplemental
- Part II ED Abstract form
Budget Narrative Attachment form
Project Narrative Attachment form
Other Narrative Attachment form
- Part III - Assurances, Certifications and Disclosures

PAPERWORK BURDEN STATEMENT

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1820-0027. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 200 hours per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection.

If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20202-4651. If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this form, write directly to: 84.133 Grant Program, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitation Services, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-2700.

REQUIRED FORMS:

For paper submission go to the website below to access the required forms.

<http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html>

If applying on Grants.gov the forms are set up in the system for you to fill out. The instructions to these forms are in the subsequent pages.

Federal Assistance Face Page (ED 424)

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424 (grants.gov)

Instruction for the SF-424 (grants.gov)

Budget Information (ED 524)

Assurances - Non-Construction Programs (SF 424b)

Certifications Regarding Lobbying; or Grants.gov Lobbying form

Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF LLL)

Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunity for Applicants

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SF-424

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 60 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0043), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

This is a standard form (including the continuation sheet) required for use as a cover sheet for submission of preapplications and applications and related information under discretionary programs. Some of the items are required and some are optional at the discretion of the applicant or the Federal agency (agency). Required items are identified with an asterisk on the form and are specified in the instructions below. In addition to the instructions provided below, applicants must consult agency instructions to determine specific requirements.

Item	Entry:	Item	Entry:
1.	Type of Submission: (Required): Select one type of submission in accordance with agency instructions. Preapplication Application Changed/Corrected Application – If requested by the agency, check if this submission is to change or correct a previously submitted application. Unless requested by the agency, applicants may not use this to submit changes after the closing date.	10.	Name Of Federal Agency: (Required) Enter the name of the Federal agency from which assistance is being requested with this application.
		11.	Catalog Of Federal Domestic Assistance Number/Title: Enter the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number and title of the program under which assistance is requested, as found in the program announcement, if applicable.
2.	Type of Application: (Required) Select one type of application in accordance with agency instructions. New – An application that is being submitted to an agency for the first time. Continuation - An extension for an additional funding/budget period for a project with a projected completion date. This can include renewals. Revision - Any change in the Federal Government's financial obligation or contingent liability from an existing obligation. If a revision, enter the appropriate letter(s). More than one may be selected. If "Other" is selected, please specify in text box provided. A. Increase Award B. Decrease Award C. Increase Duration D. Decrease Duration E. Other (specify)	12.	Funding Opportunity Number/Title: (Required) Enter the Funding Opportunity Number and title of the opportunity under which assistance is requested, as found in the program announcement.
		13.	Competition Identification Number/Title: Enter the Competition Identification Number and title of the competition under which assistance is requested, if applicable.
		14.	Areas Affected By Project: List the areas or entities using the categories (e.g., cities, counties, states, etc.) specified in agency instructions. Use the continuation sheet to enter additional areas, if needed.
3.	Date Received: Leave this field blank. This date will be assigned by the Federal agency.	15.	Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project: (Required) Enter a brief descriptive title of the project. If appropriate, attach a map showing project location (e.g., construction or real property projects). For preapplications, attach a summary description of the project.
4.	Applicant Identifier: Enter the entity identifier assigned by the Federal agency, if any, or applicant's control number, if applicable.		
5a	Federal Entity Identifier: Enter the number assigned to your organization by the Federal Agency, if any.	16.	Congressional Districts Of: (Required) 16a. Enter the applicant's Congressional District, and 16b. Enter all

5b.	Federal Award Identifier: For new applications leave blank. For a continuation or revision to an existing award, enter the previously assigned Federal award identifier number. If a changed/corrected application, enter the Federal Identifier in accordance with agency instructions.		District(s) affected by the program or project. Enter in the format: 2 characters State Abbreviation – 2-3 characters District Number, e.g., CA-12 for California 12 th district, NC-103 for North Carolina's 103 rd district. If all congressional districts in a state are affected, enter "all" for the district number, e.g., MD-all for all congressional districts in Maryland. If nationwide, i.e. all districts within all states are affected, enter US-all. If the program/project is outside the US, enter 00-000.
6.	Date Received by State: Leave this field blank. This date will be assigned by the State, if applicable.		
7.	State Application Identifier: Leave this field blank. This identifier will be assigned by the State, if applicable.		
8.	Applicant Information: Enter the following in accordance with agency instructions:		
	a. Legal Name: (Required): Enter the legal name of applicant that will undertake the assistance activity. This is the name that the organization has registered with the Central Contractor Registry. Information on registering with CCR may be obtained by visiting the Grants.gov website.	17.	Proposed Project Start and End Dates: (Required) Enter the proposed start date and end date of the project.
	b. Employer/Taxpayer Number (EIN/TIN): (Required): Enter the Employer or Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN or TIN) as assigned by the Internal Revenue Service. If your organization is not in the US, enter 44-4444444.	18.	Estimated Funding: (Required) Enter the amount requested or to be contributed during the first funding/budget period by each contributor. Value of in-kind contributions should be included on appropriate lines, as applicable. If the action will result in a dollar change to an existing award, indicate only the amount of the change. For decreases, enclose the amounts in parentheses.
	c. Organizational DUNS: (Required) Enter the organization's DUNS or DUNS+4 number received from Dun and Bradstreet. Information on obtaining a DUNS number may be obtained by visiting the Grants.gov website.	19.	Is Application Subject to Review by State Under Executive Order 12372 Process? Applicants should contact the State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for Federal Executive Order 12372 to determine whether the application is subject to the State intergovernmental review process. Select the appropriate box. If "a." is selected, enter the date the application was submitted to the State
	d. Address: Enter the complete address as follows: Street address (Line 1 required), City (Required), County, State (Required, if country is US), Province, Country (Required), Zip/Postal Code (Required, if country is US).	20.	Is the Applicant Delinquent on any Federal Debt? (Required) Select the appropriate box. This question applies to the applicant organization, not the person who signs as the authorized representative. Categories of debt include delinquent audit disallowances, loans and taxes. If yes, include an explanation on the continuation sheet.
	e. Organizational Unit: Enter the name of the primary organizational unit (and department or division, if applicable) that will undertake the assistance activity, if applicable.		
	f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application: Enter the name (First and last name required), organizational affiliation (if affiliated with an organization other than the applicant organization), telephone number (Required), fax number, and email address (Required) of the person to contact on matters related to this application.		
9.	Type of Applicant: (Required) Select up to three applicant type(s) in accordance with agency instructions .	21.	Authorized Representative: (Required) To be signed and dated by the authorized representative of the applicant organization. Enter the name (First and last name required) title (Required), telephone number (Required), fax number, and email address (Required) of the person authorized to sign for the applicant. A copy of the governing body's authorization for you to sign this application as the official representative must be on file in the applicant's office. (Certain Federal agencies may require that this authorization be submitted as part of the application.)
	State Government County Government City or Township Special District Regional Organization U.S. Territory or Possession Independent		Nonprofit with 501C3 IRS Status (Other than Institution of Higher Education) Nonprofit without 501C3 IRS Status (Other than Institution of Higher Education) Private Institution of Higher Education Individual For-Profit Organization (Other than Small Business) Small Business Hispanic-serving Institution Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)

	School District Public/State Controlled Institution of Higher Education Indian/Native American Tribal Government (Federally Recognized) Indian/Native American Tribal Government (Other than Federally Recognized) Indian/Native American Tribally Designated Organization Public/Indian Housing Authority	Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs) Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions Non-domestic (non-US) Entity Other (specify)		
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**INSTRUCTIONS FOR
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR
SF 424**

1. Project Director. Name, address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address of the person to be contacted on matters involving this application.

2. Novice Applicant. Check “Yes” or “No” only if assistance is being requested under a program that gives special consideration to novice applicants. Otherwise, **leave blank.**

Check “Yes” if you meet the requirements for novice applicants specified in the regulations in 34 CFR 75.225 and included on the attached page entitled “Definitions for Department of Education Supplemental Information for SF 424.” By checking “Yes” the applicant certifies that it meets these novice applicant requirements. Check “No” if you do not meet the requirements for novice applicants.

3. Human Subjects Research. (See I. A. “Definitions” in attached page entitled “Definitions for Department of Education Supplemental Information For SF 424.”)

If Not Human Subjects Research. Check “No” if research activities involving human subjects are not planned at any time during the proposed project period. The remaining parts of Item 3 are then not applicable.

If Human Subjects Research. Check “Yes” if research activities involving human subjects are planned at any time during the proposed project period, either at the applicant organization or at any other performance site or collaborating institution. Check “Yes” even if the research is exempt from the regulations for the protection of human subjects. (See I. B. “Exemptions” in

attached page entitled “Definitions for Department of Education Supplemental Information For SF 424.”)

3a. If Human Subjects Research is Exempt from the Human Subjects Regulations. Check “Yes” if all the research activities proposed are designated to be exempt from the regulations. Insert the exemption number(s) corresponding to one or more of the six exemption categories listed in I. B. “Exemptions.” In addition, follow the instructions in II. A. “Exempt Research Narrative” in the attached page entitled “Definitions for Department of Education Supplemental Information For SF 424.”

3a. If Human Subjects Research is Not Exempt from Human Subjects Regulations. Check “No” if some or all of the planned research activities are covered (not exempt). In addition, follow the instructions in II. B. “Nonexempt Research Narrative” in the page entitled “Definitions for Department of Education Supplemental Information For SF 424

3a. Human Subjects Assurance Number. If the applicant has an approved Federal Wide (FWA) on file with the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, that covers the specific activity, insert the number in the space provided. If the applicant does not have an approved assurance on file with OHRP, enter “None.” In this case, the applicant, by signature on the SF-424, is declaring that it will comply with 34 CFR 97 and proceed to obtain the human subjects assurance upon request by the designated ED official. If the application is recommended/selected for funding, the designated ED official will request that the applicant obtain the assurance within 30 days after the specific formal request.

Note about Institutional Review Board Approval. ED does not require certification of Institutional Review Board approval with the application. However, if an application that involves non-exempt human subjects research is recommended/selected for funding, the designated ED official will request that the applicant obtain and send the certification to ED within 30 days after the formal request.

Paperwork Burden Statement. According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1890-0017. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average between 15 and 45 minutes per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20202-4700. If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this form write directly to: Joyce I. Mays, Application Control Center, U.S. Department of Education, Potomac Center Plaza, 550 12th Street, S.W. Room 7076, Washington, D.C. 20202-4260.

**DEFINITIONS FOR
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR SF 424**

(Attachment to Instructions for Supplemental Information for SF 424)

Definitions:

Novice Applicant (See 34 CFR 75.225). For discretionary grant programs under which the Secretary gives special consideration to novice applications, a novice applicant means any applicant for a grant from ED that—

- Has never received a grant or subgrant under the program from which it seeks funding;
- Has never been a member of a group application, submitted in accordance with 34 CFR 75.127-75.129, that received a grant under the program from which it seeks funding; and
- Has not had an active discretionary grant from the Federal government in the five years before the deadline date for applications under the program. For the purposes of this requirement, a grant is active until the end of the grant’s project or funding period, including any extensions of those periods that extend the grantee’s authority to obligate funds.

In the case of a group application submitted in accordance with 34 CFR 75.127-75.129, a group includes only parties that meet the requirements listed above.

PROTECTION OF HUMAN SUBJECTS IN RESEARCH

I. Definitions and Exemptions

A. Definitions.

A research activity involves human subjects if the activity is research, as defined in the Department’s regulations, and the research activity will involve use of human subjects, as defined in the regulations.

—Research

The ED Regulations for the Protection of Human Subjects, Title 34, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 97, define research as “a systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge.” *If an activity follows a deliberate plan whose purpose is to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge it is research.* Activities which meet this definition constitute research whether or not they are conducted or supported under a program that is considered research for other purposes. For example, some demonstration and service programs may include research activities.

—Human Subject

The regulations define human subject as “a living individual about whom an investigator (whether professional or student) conducting research obtains (1) data through intervention or interaction with the individual, or (2) identifiable private information.” *(1) If an activity involves obtaining*

information about a living person by manipulating that person or that person's environment, as might occur when a new instructional technique is tested, or by communicating or interacting with the individual, as occurs with surveys and interviews, the definition of human subject is met. (2) If an activity involves obtaining private information about a living person in such a way that the information can be linked to that individual (the identity of the subject is or may be readily determined by the investigator or associated with the information), the definition of human subject is met. [Private information includes information about behavior that occurs in a context in which an individual can reasonably expect that no observation or recording is taking place, and information which has been provided for specific purposes by an individual and which the individual can reasonably expect will not be made public (for example, a school health record).]

B. Exemptions.

Research activities in which the **only** involvement of human subjects will be in one or more of the following six categories of *exemptions* are not covered by the regulations:

- (1) Research conducted in established or commonly accepted educational settings, involving normal educational practices, such as (a) research on regular and special education instructional strategies, or (b) research on the effectiveness of or the comparison among instructional techniques, curricula, or classroom management methods.
- (2) Research involving the use of educational tests (cognitive, diagnostic, aptitude, achievement), survey procedures, interview procedures or observation of public behavior, unless: (a) information obtained is recorded in such a manner that human subjects can be identified, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects; and (b) any disclosure of the human subjects' responses outside the research could reasonably place the subjects at risk of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to the subjects' financial standing, employability, or reputation. ***If the subjects are children, exemption 2 applies only to research involving educational tests and observations of public behavior when the investigator(s) do not participate in the activities being observed. Exemption 2 does not apply if children are surveyed or interviewed or if the research involves observation of public behavior and the investigator(s) participate in the activities being observed.*** [Children are defined as persons who have not attained the legal age for consent to treatments or procedures involved in the research, under the applicable law or jurisdiction in which the research will be conducted.]
- (3) Research involving the use of educational tests (cognitive, diagnostic, aptitude, achievement), survey procedures, interview procedures or observation of public behavior that is not exempt under section (2) above, if the human subjects are elected or appointed public officials or candidates for public office; or federal statute(s) require(s) without exception that the confidentiality of the personally identifiable information will be maintained throughout the research and thereafter.
- (4) Research involving the collection or study of existing data, documents, records, pathological specimens, or diagnostic specimens, if these sources are publicly available or if the information is recorded by the investigator in a manner that subjects cannot be identified, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects.
- (5) Research and demonstration projects which are conducted by or subject to the approval of department or agency heads, and which are designed to study, evaluate, or otherwise examine: (a) public benefit or service programs; (b) procedures for obtaining benefits or services under those programs;

(c) possible changes in or alternatives to those programs or procedures; or (d) possible changes in methods or levels of payment for benefits or services under those programs.

(6) Taste and food quality evaluation and consumer acceptance studies, (a) if wholesome foods without additives are consumed or (b) if a food is consumed that contains a food ingredient at or below the level and for a use found to be safe, or agricultural chemical or environmental contaminant at or below the level found to be safe, by the Food and Drug Administration or approved by the Environmental Protection Agency or the Food Safety and Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

II. Instructions for Exempt and Nonexempt Human Subjects Research Narratives

If the applicant marked “Yes” for Item 3 of Department of Education Supplemental Information for SF 424, the applicant must provide a human subjects “exempt research” or “nonexempt research” narrative. Insert the narrative(s) in the space provided. If you have multiple projects and need to provide more than one narrative, be sure to label each set of responses as to the project they address.

A. Exempt Research Narrative.

If you marked “Yes” for item 3 a. and designated exemption numbers(s), provide the “exempt research” narrative. The narrative must contain sufficient information about the involvement of human subjects in the proposed research to allow a determination by ED that the designated exemption(s) are appropriate. The narrative must be succinct.

B. Nonexempt Research Narrative.

If you marked “No” for item 3 a. you must provide the “nonexempt research” narrative. The narrative must address the following seven points. Although no specific page limitation applies to this section of the application, be succinct.

(1) **Human Subjects Involvement and Characteristics:** Provide a detailed description of the proposed involvement of human subjects. Describe the characteristics of the subject population, including their anticipated number, age range, and health status. Identify the criteria for inclusion or exclusion of any subpopulation. Explain the rationale for the involvement of special classes of subjects, such as children, children with disabilities, adults with disabilities, persons with mental disabilities, pregnant women, prisoners, institutionalized individuals, or others who are likely to be vulnerable

(2) **Sources of Materials:** Identify the sources of research material obtained from individually identifiable living human subjects in the form of specimens, records, or data. Indicate whether the material or data will be obtained specifically for research purposes or whether use will be made of existing specimens, records, or data.

(3) **Recruitment and Informed Consent:** Describe plans for the recruitment of subjects and the consent procedures to be followed. Include the circumstances under which consent will be sought and obtained, who will seek it, the nature of the information to be provided to prospective subjects, and the method of documenting consent. State if the Institutional Review Board (IRB) has authorized a modification or waiver of the elements of consent or the requirement for documentation of consent.

(4) **Potential Risks:** Describe potential risks (physical, psychological, social, legal, or other) and assess their likelihood and seriousness. Where appropriate, describe alternative treatments and procedures that might be advantageous to the subjects.

(5) **Protection Against Risk:** Describe the procedures for protecting against or minimizing potential risks, including risks to confidentiality, and assess their likely effectiveness. Where appropriate, discuss provisions for ensuring necessary medical or professional intervention in the event of adverse effects to the subjects. Also, where appropriate, describe the provisions for monitoring the data collected to ensure the safety of the subjects.

(6) **Importance of the Knowledge to be Gained:** Discuss the importance of the knowledge gained or to be gained as a result of the proposed research. Discuss why the risks to subjects are reasonable in relation to the anticipated benefits to subjects and in relation to the importance of the knowledge that may reasonably be expected to result.

(7) **Collaborating Site(s):** If research involving human subjects will take place at collaborating site(s) or other performance site(s), name the sites and briefly describe their involvement or role in the research.

Copies of the Department of Education's Regulations for the Protection of Human Subjects, 34 CFR Part 97 and other pertinent materials on the protection of human subjects in research are available from the Grants Policy and Oversight Staff, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20202-4250, telephone: (202) 245-6120, and on the U.S. Department of Education's Protection of Human Subjects in Research Web Site: www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/OCFO/humansub.html

NOTE: The **State Applicant Identifier** on the SF 424 is for State Use only. Please complete it on the OMB Standard 424 in the upper right corner of the form (if applicable).

Instructions for ED 524

General Instructions

This form is used to apply to individual U.S. Department of Education (ED) discretionary grant programs. Unless directed otherwise, provide the same budget information for each year of the multi-year funding request. Pay attention to applicable program specific instructions, if attached. Please consult with your Business Office prior to submitting this form.

Section A - Budget Summary
U.S. Department of Education Funds

All applicants must complete Section A and provide a breakdown by the applicable budget categories shown in lines 1-11.

Lines 1-11, columns (a)-(e): For each project year for which funding is requested, show the total amount requested for each applicable budget category.

Lines 1-11, column (f): Show the multi-year total for each budget category. If funding is requested for only one project year, leave this column blank.

Line 12, columns (a)-(e): Show the total budget request for each project year for which funding is requested.

Line 12, column (f): Show the total amount requested for all project years. If funding is requested for only one year, leave this space blank.

Indirect Cost Information:

If you are requesting reimbursement for indirect costs on line 10, this information is to be completed by your Business Office. (1): Indicate whether or not your organization has an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement that was approved by the Federal government. (2): If you checked "yes" in (1), indicate in (2) the beginning and ending dates covered by the Indirect Cost Rate Agreement. In addition, indicate whether ED or another Federal agency (Other) issued the approved agreement. If you check "Other," specify the name of the Federal agency that issued the approved agreement. (3): If you are applying for a grant under a Restricted Rate Program (34 CFR 75.563 or 76.563), indicate whether you are using a restricted indirect cost rate that is included on your approved Indirect Cost Rate Agreement or whether you are using a restricted indirect cost rate that complies with 34 CFR 76.564(c)(2). Note: State or Local government agencies may not use the provision for a restricted indirect cost rate specified in 34 CFR 76.564(c)(2). Check only one response. Leave blank, if this item is not applicable.

Section B - Budget Summary
Non-Federal Funds

If you are required to provide or volunteer to provide matching funds or other non-Federal resources to the project, these should be shown for each applicable budget category on lines 1-11 of Section B.

Lines 1-11, columns (a)-(e): For each project year, for which matching funds or other contributions are provided, show the total contribution for each applicable budget category.

Lines 1-11, column (f): Show the multi-year total for each budget category. If non-Federal contributions are provided for only one year, leave this column blank.

Line 12, columns (a)-(e): Show the total matching or other contribution for each project year.

Line 12, column (f): Show the total amount to be contributed for all years of the multi-year project. If non-Federal contributions are provided for only one year, leave this space blank.

Section C - Budget Narrative [Attach separate sheet(s)]
Pay attention to applicable program specific instructions,
if attached.

1. Provide an itemized budget breakdown, and justification by project year, for each budget category listed in Sections A and B. For grant projects that will be divided into two or more separately budgeted major activities or sub-projects, show for each budget category of a project year the breakdown of the specific expenses attributable to each sub-project or activity.
2. If applicable to this program, provide the rate and base on which fringe benefits are calculated.
3. If you are requesting reimbursement for indirect costs on line 10, this information is to be completed by your Business Office. Specify the estimated amount of the base to which the indirect cost rate is applied and the total indirect expense. Depending on the grant program to which you are applying and/or your approved Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, some direct cost budget categories in your grant application budget may not be included in the base and multiplied by your indirect cost rate. For example, you must multiply the indirect cost rates of "Training grants" (34 CFR 75.562) and grants under programs with "Supplement not Supplant" requirements ("Restricted Rate" programs) by a "modified total direct cost" (MTDC) base (34 CFR 75.563 or 76.563). Please indicate which costs are included and which costs are excluded from the base to which the indirect cost rate is applied.

When calculating indirect costs (line 10) for "Training grants" or grants under "Restricted Rate" programs, you must refer to the information and examples on ED's website at:
<http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html>.

You may also contact (202) 377-3838 for additional information regarding calculating indirect cost rates or general indirect cost rate information.

4. Provide other explanations or comments you deem necessary.

Paperwork Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1890-0004. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to vary from 13 to 22 hours per response, with an average of 17.5 hours per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data sources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20202-4651. If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this form, write directly to (insert program office), U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION OF SF-LLL, DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

This disclosure form shall be completed by the reporting entity, whether sub-awardee or prime Federal recipient, at the initiation or receipt of a covered Federal action, or a material change to a previous filing, pursuant to title 31 U.S.C. section 1352. The filing of a form is required for each payment or agreement to make payment to any lobbying entity for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with a covered Federal action. Complete all items that apply for both the initial filing and material change report. Refer to the implementing guidance published by the Office of Management and Budget for additional information.

1. Identify the type of covered Federal action for which lobbying activity is and/or has been secured to influence the outcome of a covered Federal action.

2. Identify the status of the covered Federal action.

3. Identify the appropriate classification of this report. If this is a follow-up report caused by a material change to the information previously reported, enter the year and quarter in which the change occurred. Enter the date of the last previously submitted report by this reporting entity for this covered Federal action.

4. Enter the full name, address, city, State and zip code of the reporting entity. Include Congressional District, if known. Check the appropriate classification of the reporting entity that designates if it is, or expects to be, a prime or sub-award recipient. Identify the tier of the sub-awardee, e.g., the first sub-awardee of the prime is the 1st tier. Sub-awards include but are not limited to subcontracts, subgrants and contract awards under grants.

5. If the organization filing the report in item 4 checks "Sub-awardee," then enter the full name, address, city, State and zip code of the prime Federal recipient. Include Congressional District, if known.

6. Enter the name of the federal agency making the award or loan commitment. Include at least one organizational level below agency name, if known. For example, Department of Transportation, United States Coast Guard.

7. Enter the Federal program name or description for the covered Federal action (item 1). If known, enter the full Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for grants, cooperative agreements, loans, and loan commitments.

8. Enter the most appropriate Federal identifying number available for the Federal action identified in item 1 (e.g., Request for Proposal (RFP) number; Invitations for Bid (IFB) number; grant announcement number; the contract, grant, or loan award number; the application/proposal control number assigned by the Federal agency). Included prefixes, e.g., "RFP-DE-90-001."

9. For a covered Federal action where there has been an award or loan commitment by the Federal agency, enter the Federal amount of the award/loan commitment for the prime entity identified in item 4 or 5.

10. (a) Enter the full name, address, city, State and zip code of the lobbying registrant under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 engaged by the reporting entity identified in item 4 to influence the covered Federal action.

(b) Enter the full names of the individual(s) performing services, and include full address if different from 10(a). Enter Last Name, First Name, and Middle Initial (MI).

11. The certifying official shall sign and date the form, print his/her name, title, and telephone number.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act, as amended, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control Number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is OMB No. 0348-0046. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0046), Washington, DC 20503

**SECTION
L**

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Does your application include each of the following?

- Cover page (ED 424) marked appropriately with **84.133A-5**, if applying by post, hand-delivery or carrier service or download of correct package for **84.133A-5** if applying electronically?
- Priority Topic identified in the Descriptive Title block#14 of the ED 424 or in Block 11 of the SF 424?
- Budget form (ED form 524) with dollar amounts not exceeding the maximum in any year
- Budget narrative for each year with arithmetic checked for accuracy
- Program narrative, including abstract and responses to the selection criteria
- Assurances and Certifications (from the forms list in section K)
- Correctly uploaded files if submitting electronically
- All required forms with original signatures and dates if submitting by post, hand-delivery or carrier service
- Narrative on the Protection of Human Subjects?

Did You do each of the following?

- Mail or submit application on or before **Monday, April 16, 2007?**
- Provide 1 original and 2 copies of the application if submitting by post, hand-delivery or carrier service (Although not required, 1 original and 10 copies are requested)?
- Fully complete the upload of your application and receive successful validation of the submission **before 4:30 pm**, Washington, D.C. time on the closing date if submitting electronically
- Use the correct mailing address from Section B or J if submitting by post, hand-delivery or carrier service?

GRANT APPLICATION RECEIPT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

If you fail to receive the notification of application within fifteen (15) days from the closing date, call:

**U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center
(202) 245-6288**

GRANT AND CONTRACT FUNDING INFORMATION

The Department of Education provides information about grant and contract opportunities electronically in several ways:

ED Internet Home Page <http://www.ed.gov/> (WWW address)