

Tuesday January 21, 1997

Part V

Department of Education

Individuals With Disabilities; Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year 1997; Notice

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services; Individuals With Disabilities; Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year 1997

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

ACTION: Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year 1997.

SUMMARY: This notice provides closing dates and other information regarding the transmittal of applications for fiscal year 1997 competitions under five programs authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. This notice supports the National Education Goals by improving understanding of how to enable children and youth with disabilities to reach higher levels of academic achievement.

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

Early Education Program for Children With Disabilities [CFDA No. 84.024]

Purpose of Program: To support activities that are designed (a) to address the special needs of children with disabilities, birth through age eight, and their families; and (b) to assist State and local entities in expanding and improving programs and services for these children and their families.

Eligible Applicants: Public agencies and private nonprofit organizations.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, and 86; and (b) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 309.

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

Priorities: Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), the Secretary gives an absolute preference to applications that meet one of the following priorities. The Secretary funds under these competitions only those applications that meet one of these absolute priorities:

Absolute Priority 1—Model Demonstration Projects for Young Children with Disabilities (84.024B). The priority for Model Demonstration Projects for Young Children with Disabilities in the notice of final priority for this program, published in the Federal Register on February 2, 1996 at 61 FR 4171 applies to this competition.

Applications Available: February 10, 1997.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: March 28, 1997.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: May 27, 1997.

Estimated Number of Awards: 10. *Maximum Award:* The Secretary rejects and does not consider an application that proposes a budget exceeding \$140,000 for any single budget period of 12 months. However, because of budgetary considerations contingent upon congressional action, the Secretary may change the maximum amount through a notice published in the Federal Register.

Page Limits: Part III of the application, the Application Narrative, requires applicants to address the selection criteria that will be used by reviewers in evaluating individual proposals. The applicant must limit the Part III Application Narrative to no more than 40 double-spaced 8¹/₂×11" pages (on one side only) with one-inch margins (top, bottom, and sides). This page limitation applies to all material presented in the application narrative—including, for example, any charts, tables, figures, and graphs. The application narrative page limit does not apply to: Part I-the electronically scannable form; Part IIthe budget section (including the narrative budget justification); and Part IV—the assurances and certifications. Also, the one-page abstract, resumes, bibliography, or letters of support, while considered part of the application, are not subject to the page limitation. Applicants should note that reviewers are not required to review any information provided in addition to the application information listed above. All sections of text in the application narrative must be double-spaced (no more than 3 lines per vertical inch). If using a proportional computer font, use no smaller than a 12-point font, and an average character density no greater than 14 characters per inch. If using a nonproportional font or a typewriter, do not use more than 12 characters to the inch. Double-spacing and font requirements do not apply within charts, tables, figures, and graphs, but the information presented in those formats should be easily readable. The Secretary rejects and does not consider an application that does not adhere to these requirements.

Project Period: Up to 48 months. (Applicants should note that the 48month project period is a change from previous competitions that allowed for a project period of up to 60 months. Previously, in determining whether to continue a project funding for the fourth and fifth years, the Secretary considered, among other things, the evaluation by a review team in the project's third year. The Secretary has determined that this approach is too cumbersome, and that three years does not allow projects sufficient time to develop the model for projects under this program.)

The project period change in the priority is considered a change to a rule under 553 of the Administrative Procedure Act, which would normally require the Secretary to offer interested parties the opportunity to comment. However, because it is a procedural change the Secretary has determined, under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(A), that rulemaking requirements do not apply.

Absolute Priority 2—Outreach Projects for Young Children with Disabilities (84.024D). The priority for Outreach Projects for Young Children with Disabilities in the notice of final priority for this program, published in the Federal Register on February 2, 1996 at 61 FR 4172, applies to this competition.

Competitive Priority

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(2), the Secretary gives a competitive preference to applications that are otherwise eligible for funding under this priority and that meet the following competitive priority:

Propose to provide services to one or more Empowerment Zones or Enterprise Communities that are designated within the areas served by the projects. To meet this priority an applicant must indicate that it will:

• Design a program that includes special activities focused on the unique needs of one or more Empowerment Zones or Enterprises Communities; or

• Devote a substantial portion of program resources to providing services within, or meeting the needs of residents of, these zones and communities.

As appropriate, the proposed project under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act must contribute to the strategic plan of the Empowerment Zones or Enterprise Communities and be made an integral component of the Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community activities.

The Secretary awards 5 points to an application that meets this competitive priority relating to Empowerment Zones and Enterprises Communities, which was published in the Federal Register on November 7, 1994 (59 FR 55534). These points are in addition to any points the application earns under the selection criteria for the program.

A listing of areas that have been selected as Empowerment Zones or Enterprises Communities is included in an appendix to a notice published in the Federal Register on December 6, 1995 (60 FR 62699). Applications Available: February 10, 1997.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: March 28, 1997. Deadline for Intergovernmental

Review: May 27, 1997.

Estimated Number of Awards: 17. Maximum Award: The Secretary rejects and does not consider an application that proposes a budget exceeding \$140,000 for any single budget period of 12 months. However, because of budgetary considerations contingent upon congressional action, the Secretary may change the maximum amount through a notice published in

the Federal Register. Page Limits: Part III of the application, the Application Narrative, requires applicants to address the selection criteria that will be used by reviewers in evaluating individual proposals. The applicant must limit the Part III-Application Narrative to no more than 40 double-spaced 8¹/₂×11" pages (on one side only) with one-inch margins (top, bottom, and sides). This page limitation applies to all material presented in the application narrative—including, for example, any charts, tables, figures, and graphs. The application narrative page limit does not apply to: Part I-the electronically scannable form; Part IIthe budget section (including the narrative budget justification); and Part IV-the assurances and certifications. Also, the one-page abstract, resumes, bibliography, or letters of support, while considered part of the application, are not subject to the page limitation. Applicants should note that reviewers are not required to review any information provided in addition to the application information listed above. All sections of text in the application narrative must be double-spaced (no more than 3 lines per vertical inch). If using a proportional computer font, use no smaller than a 12-point font, and an average character density no greater than 14 characters per inch. If using a nonproportional font or a typewriter, do not use more than 12 characters to the inch. Double-spacing and font requirements do not apply within charts, tables, figures, and graphs, but the information presented in those formats should be easily readable. The Secretary rejects and does not consider an application that does not adhere to these requirements.

Project Period: Up to 36 months. For Application Information Contact: For the priorities under the Early Education Program for Children with Disabilities contact the U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.W., room 3072, Switzer Building, Washington, D.C. 20202–2651. Telephone: (202) 205–8761. FAX: (202) 205–9070. Internet:

Ernestine_Jefferson@ed.gov

Individuals who use a

telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the TDD number: (202) 260–7381.

Training Personnel for the Education of Individuals With Disabilities—Grants for Personnel Training [CFDA 84.029]

Purpose of Program: The purpose of Grants for Personnel Training is to increase the quantity and improve the quality of personnel available to serve infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities.

Eligible Applicants: Institutions of higher education; State agencies; and other appropriate nonprofit agencies.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR Parts 74, 75, 76, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, and 86; and (b) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR Part 318.

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

Priority: Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), and 34 CFR 318, the Secretary gives an absolute preference to applications that meet the following priority. The Secretary funds under this competition only those applications that meet this absolute priority:

Absolute Priority: Special Projects (84.029K). This priority supports projects that include development, evaluation, and distribution of innovative approaches to personnel preparation; development of curriculum materials to prepare personnel to educate or provide early intervention services; and other projects of national significance related to the preparation of personnel needed to serve infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities.

(a) Appropriate areas of interest include—

(1) Preservice training programs to prepare regular educators to work with children and youth with disabilities and their families;

(2) Training teachers to work in community and school settings with children and youth with disabilities and their families;

(3) Inservice and preservice training of personnel to work with infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities and their families;

(4) Inservice and preservice training of personnel to work with minority infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities and their families;

(5) Preservice and inservice training of special education and related services

personnel in instructive and assistive technology to benefit infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities; and

(6) Recruitment and retention of special education, related services, and early intervention personnel.

(b) Both inservice and preservice training must include a component that addresses the coordination among all service providers, including regular educators. (See 34 CFR 318.11(a)(5).)

Invitational priorities: Within this absolute priority the Secretary is particularly interested in applications that meet one or more of the following invitational priorities. However, under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1) an application that meets one or more of these invitational priorities does not receive competitive or absolute preference over other applications:

Projects that develop, demonstrate, evaluate, and disseminate—

(a) Approaches to prepare teachers with strategies, including behavioral management techniques, for addressing the conduct of children with disabilities that impedes their learning and that of non-disabled children in the classroom;

(b) Approaches to better enable faculty at schools and colleges of education to prepare teachers to serve students with disabilities in regular classrooms;

(c) Approaches to prepare teachers in innovative instructional methodologies designed to help children with disabilities improve their reading performance; or

(d) Intensive and sustained inservice training of teachers or teams of teachers through institutes or other methods designed to ensure that they have the knowledge and skills necessary to help children with disabilities meet challenging standards established for all children.

Applications Available: February 10, 1997.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: March 28, 1997.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: May 27, 1997.

Estimated Number of Awards: 16. *Maximum Award:* The Secretary rejects and does not consider an application that proposes a budget exceeding \$180,000 for any single budget period of 12 months. However, because of budgetary considerations contingent upon congressional action, the Secretary may change the maximum amount through a notice published in the Federal Register.

Page Limits: Part III of the application, the Application Narrative, requires applicants to address the selection criteria that will be used by reviewers in evaluating individual proposals. The applicant must limit the Part III-Application Narrative to no more than 40 double-spaced 81/2×11" pages (on one side only) with one-inch margins (top, bottom, and sides). This page limitation applies to all material presented in the application narrative—including, for example, any charts, tables, figures, and graphs. The application narrative page limit does not apply to: Part I—the electronically scannable form; Part IIthe budget section (including the narrative budget justification); and Part IV-the assurances and certifications. Also, the one-page abstract, résumés, bibliography, or letters of support, while considered part of the application, are not subject to the page limitation. Applicants should note that reviewers are not required to review any information provided in addition to the application information listed above. All sections of text in the application narrative must be double-spaced (no more than 3 lines per vertical inch).

If using a proportional computer font, use no smaller than a 12-point font, and an average character density no greater than 14 characters per inch. If using a nonproportional font or a typewriter, do not use more than 12 characters to the inch. Double-spacing and font requirements do not apply within charts, tables, figures, and graphs, but the information presented in those formats should be easily readable. The Secretary rejects and does not consider an application that does not adhere to these requirements.

Project Period: Up to 36 months. For Application Information Contact: For the priority under the Training Personnel for the Education of Individuals with Disabilities—Grants for Personnel Training program contact the U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.W., room 4623, Switzer Building, Washington, D.C. 20202–2641. Telephone: (202) 205– 9377. FAX: (202) 205–8971. Internet: Patricia_Wright@ed.gov

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the TDD number: (202) 205–8169.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1431.

Postsecondary Education Programs for Individuals With Disabilities [CFDA No. 84.078]

Purpose of Program: To provide assistance for the development, operation, and dissemination of specially designed model programs of postsecondary, vocational, technical, continuing, or adult education for individuals with disabilities. *Eligible Applicants:* State educational agencies, institutions of higher education, junior and community colleges, vocational and technical institutions, and other appropriate nonprofit educational agencies.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, and 86; and (b) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 338.

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

Priority: Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), the Secretary gives an absolute preference to applications that meet the following priority. The Secretary funds under this competition only those applications that meet this absolute priority:

Absolute Priority—Model Demonstration Projects to Improve the Delivery and Outcomes of Postsecondary Education for Individuals with Disabilities (84.078C). The priority for Model Demonstration Projects to Improve the Delivery and Outcomes of Postsecondary Education for Individuals with Disabilities in the notice of final priority for this program, published in the Federal Register on February 2, 1996 at 61 FR 4175, applies to this competition.

Applications Available: February 10, 1997.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: March 28, 1997.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: May 27, 1997.

Estimated Number of Awards: 11. Maximum Award: The Secretary rejects and does not consider an application that proposes a budget exceeding \$140,000 for any single budget period of 12 months. However, because of budgetary considerations contingent upon congressional action, the Secretary may change the maximum amount through a notice published in the Federal Register.

Page Limits: Part III of the application, the Application Narrative, requires applicants to address the selection criteria that will be used by reviewers in evaluating individual proposals. The applicant must limit the Part III-Application Narrative to no more than 40 double-spaced $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11^{\prime\prime}$ pages (on one side only) with one-inch margins (top, bottom, and sides). This page limitation applies to all material presented in the application narrativeincluding, for example, any charts, tables, figures, and graphs. The application narrative page limit does not apply to: Part I-the electronically

scannable form; Part II-the budget section (including the narrative budget justification); and Part IV-the assurances and certifications. Also, the one-page abstract, resumes, bibliography, or letters of support, while considered part of the application, are not subject to the page limitation. Applicants should note that reviewers are not required to review any information provided in addition to the application information listed above. All sections of text in the application narrative must be double-spaced (no more than 3 lines per vertical inch). If using a proportional computer font, use no smaller than a 12-point font, and an average character density no greater than 14 characters per inch. If using a nonproportional font or a typewriter, do not use more than 12 characters to the inch. Double-spacing and font requirements do not apply within charts, tables, figures, and graphs, but the information presented in those formats should be easily readable. The Secretary rejects and does not consider an application that does not adhere to these requirements.

Project Period: Up to 36 months. For Applications and General Information Contact: For the priority under the Postsecondary Education Programs for Individuals with Disabilities contact the U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.W., room 4623, Switzer Building, Washington, D.C. 20202–2641. Telephone: (202) 205–9377. FAX: (202) 205–8971. Internet:

Patricia_Wright@ed.gov

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the TDD number: (202) 205–8169.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1424a.

Secondary Education and Transitional Services for Youth With Disabilities Program [CFDA No. 84.158]

Purpose of Program: To (1) assist youth with disabilities in the transition from secondary school to postsecondary environments, such as competitive or supported employment, and (2) ensure that secondary special education and transitional services result in competitive or supported employment for youth with disabilities.

Eligible Applicants: Institutions of higher education, State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and other public and nonprofit private institutions or agencies (including the State job training coordinating councils and service delivery area administrative entities established under the Job Training Partnership Act). *Applicable Regulations:* (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, and 86; and (b) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 326.

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

Priorities: Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), the Secretary gives an absolute preference to applications that meet any one of the following priorities. The Secretary funds under this competition only those applications that meet any one of these absolute priorities:

Absolute Priority 1—Outreach Projects for Services for Youth with Disabilities (84.158Q). The priority for Outreach Projects for Services for Youth with Disabilities in the notice of final priority for this program, published in the Federal Register on February 2, 1996 at 61 FR 4176, applies to this competition.

Applications Available: February 10, 1997.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: March 28, 1997. Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: May 27, 1997.

Estimated Number of Awards: 11. Maximum Award: The Secretary rejects and does not consider an application that proposes a budget exceeding \$140,000 for any single budget period of 12 months. However, because of budgetary considerations contingent upon congressional action, the Secretary may change the maximum amount through a notice published in the Federal Register.

Page Limits: Part III of the application, the Application Narrative, requires applicants to address the selection criteria that will be used by reviewers in evaluating individual proposals. The applicant must limit the Part III-Application Narrative to no more than 40 double-spaced 8¹/₂×11" pages (on one side only) with one-inch margins (top, bottom, and sides). This page limitation applies to all material presented in the application narrative—including, for example, any charts, tables, figures, and graphs. The application narrative page limit does not apply to: Part I-the electronically scannable form; Part IIthe budget section (including the narrative budget justification); and Part IV—the assurances and certifications. Also, the one-page abstract, resumes, bibliography, or letters of support, while considered part of the application, are not subject to the page limitation. Applicants should note that reviewers are not required to review any information provided in addition to the

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Project Period: Up to 36 months. Absolute Priority 2—Model Demonstration Projects to Improve the Delivery and Outcomes of Secondary Education Services for Students with Disabilities (84.158V). The priority for Model Demonstration Projects to Improve the Delivery and Outcomes of Secondary Education Services for Students with Disabilities in the notice of final priority for this program, published in the Federal Register on February 2, 1996 at 61 FR 4177, applies to this competition.

Applications Available: February 10, 1997.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: March 28, 1997. Deadline for Intergovernmental

Review: May 27, 1997. Estimated Number of Awards: 14.

Maximum Award: The Secretary rejects and does not consider an application that proposes a budget exceeding \$150,000 for any single budget period of 12 months. However, because of budgetary considerations contingent upon congressional action, the Secretary may change the maximum amount through a notice published in the Federal Register.

Page Limits: Part III of the application, the Application Narrative, requires applicants to address the selection criteria that will be used by reviewers in evaluating individual proposals. The applicant must limit the Part III-Application Narrative to no more than 40 double-spaced 81/2×11" pages (on one side only) with one-inch margins (top, bottom, and sides). This page limitation applies to all material presented in the application narrative—including, for example, any charts, tables, figures, and graphs. The application narrative page limit does not apply to: Part I-the electronically scannable form; Part IIthe budget section (including the narrative budget justification); and Part IV-the assurances and certifications. Also, the one-page abstract, resumes,

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Project Period: Up to 36 months. For Application Information Contact: For the priorities under the Secondary Education and Transitional Services for Youth with Disabilities Program contact the U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.W., room 4623, Switzer Building, Washington, D.C. 20202–2641. Telephone: (202) 205– 9377. FAX: (202) 205–8971. Internet: Patricia_Wright@ed.gov

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Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1425.

Special Studies Program [CFDA No. 84.159]

Purpose of Program: To support studies to assess the impact and effectiveness of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), including State and local efforts to provide a free appropriate public education to children and youth with disabilities and early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities, and to provide State, local, and Federal agencies with information relevant to program management, administration, delivery, and effectiveness with respect to that education and those early intervention services.

Eligible Applicants: Public or private agencies, institutions, organizations, and other appropriate parties as designated in the statute and regulations.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR Parts 74, 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, 85, and 86; and (b) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR Part 327.

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

Priority: Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), the Secretary gives an absolute preference to applications that meet the following priority. The Secretary funds under this competition only those applications that meet this absolute priority:

Absolute Priority—State-Federal Administrative Information Exchange (84.159K). The priority for State-Federal Administrative Information Exchange in the notice of final priority for this program, published in the Federal Register on May 6, 1996 at 61 FR 20417, applies to this competition.

Applications Available: February 10, 1997.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: April 14, 1997 Estimated Number of Awards: 1.

Maximum Award: The Secretary rejects and does not consider an application that proposes a budget exceeding \$300,000 for any single budget period of 12 months. However, because of budgetary considerations contingent upon congressional action, the Secretary may change the maximum amount through a notice published in the Federal Register.

Page Limits: Part III of the application, the Application Narrative, requires applicants to address the selection criteria that will be used by reviewers in evaluating individual proposals. The applicant must limit the Part III— Application Narrative to no more than 50 double-spaced 8 ½×11″ pages (on one side only) with one-inch margins (top, bottom, and sides). This page

limitation applies to all material presented in the application narrativeincluding, for example, any charts, tables, figures, and graphs. The application narrative page limit does not apply to: Part I-the electronically scannable form; Part II—the budget section (including the narrative budget justification); and Part IV-the assurances and certifications. Also, the one-page abstract, resumes, bibliography, or letters of support, while considered part of the application, are not subject to the page limitation. Applicants should note that reviewers are not required to review any information provided in addition to the application information listed above. All sections of text in the application narrative must be double-spaced (no more than 3 lines per vertical inch). If using a proportional computer font, use no smaller than a 12-point font, and an average character density no greater than 14 characters per inch. If using a nonproportional font or a typewriter, do not use more than 12 characters to the inch. Double-spacing and font requirements do not apply within charts, tables, figures, and graphs, but the information presented in those formats should be easily readable. The Secretary rejects and does not consider an application that does not adhere to these requirements.

Project Period: Up to 36 months. For Application Information Contact: For the priority under the Special Studies Program contact the U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.W., room 4627, Switzer Building, Washington, D.C. 20202–4641. Telephone: (202) 205– 8894. FAX: (202) 205–8971. Internet: Jeffrey_Payne@ed.gov Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the TDD number: (202) 205–8169.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1418.

Information about the Department's funding opportunities, including copies of application notices for discretionary grant competitions, can be viewed on the Department's electronic bulletin board (ED Board), telephone (202) 260-9950; on the Internet Gopher Server (at gopher://gcs.ed.gov); or on the World Wide Web (at http://gcs.ed.gov). In addition, information on downloading application packages from the World Wide Web can be obtained at the Office of Special Education Programs homepage (at http://www.ed.gov/ offices/OSERS/OSEP). However, the official application notice for a discretionary grant competition is the notice published in the Federal Register. Application packages are available in an alternate format upon request.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers: Early Education Program for Children with Disabilities, 84.024; Training Personnel for the Education of Individuals with Disabilities—Grants for Personnel Training, 84.029; Postsecondary Education Programs for Individuals with Disabilities, 84.078; Secondary Education and Transitional Services for Youth with Disabilities Program, 84.158; and Special Studies Program, 84.327)

Dated: January 14, 1997.

Katherine D. Seelman, Acting Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. [FR Doc. 97–1393 Filed 1–17–97; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 4000–01–P