

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**[CFDA No.: 84.234M]****Projects With Industry; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 1997**

PURPOSE OF PROGRAM: The Projects With Industry (PWI) program creates and expands job and career opportunities for individuals with disabilities in the competitive labor market by engaging the talent and leadership of private industry as partners in the rehabilitation process. PWI projects identify competitive job and career opportunities and the skills needed to perform those jobs, create practical settings for job readiness and training programs, and provide job placement and career advancement services.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS: Employers and profitmaking and nonprofit organizations, including any designated State units, labor unions, employers, community rehabilitation program providers, trade associations, Indian tribes or tribal organizations, and other agencies or organizations with the capacity to create and expand job and career opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Only eligible applicants that propose to serve a geographic area that is currently unserved or underserved by the PWI program can receive new awards under this program.

DEADLINE FOR TRANSMITTAL OF APPLICATIONS: April 21, 1997.

DATELINE FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW: June 20, 1997.

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE: February 7, 1997.

AVAILABLE FUNDS: \$18,472,708.
ESTIMATED RANGE OF AWARDS: \$158,000–238,000.

ESTIMATED AVERAGE SIZE OF AWARDS: \$198,000.

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF AWARDS: 78–117.

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

PROJECT PERIOD: Up to 60 months.
APPLICABLE REGULATIONS: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, and 86; (b) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 369; and (c) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 379, as published elsewhere in this issue of the Federal Register.

PRIORITIES: *Competitive Preference Priority.* The competitive preference priority concerning Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities in

the notice of final priorities for this program, published in the Federal Register on December 9, 1994 (59 FR 63860), applies to this competition.

The Federal Government has designated 9 Empowerment Zones (Atlanta, Georgia; Baltimore, Maryland; Chicago, Illinois; Detroit, Michigan; New York, New York; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania/Camden, New Jersey; Kentucky Highlands, Kentucky; Mid-Delta, Mississippi; and Rio Grande Valley, Texas). Two Supplemental Empowerment Zones have been designated—Los Angeles, California and Cleveland, Ohio. A total of 95 Enterprise Communities have been designated. A full list of Enterprise Communities is available upon request from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at 1-800-998-9999.

The Secretary gives preference to applications that meet the following competitive priority. Ten bonus points will be assigned to applications determined to be approvable on the basis of their evaluation under the applicable program selection criteria. These bonus points are in addition to any points the application earns under the selection criteria for the program.

Competitive Preference Priority—Providing Program Services in an Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community

Under the Projects With Industry program, competitive preference will be given to applications that—(1) Propose the provision of substantial services in Empowerment Zones or Enterprise Communities; and (2) Propose projects that contribute to the strategic plan of the Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community and that are made an integral component of the Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community activities.

A PWI project may provide services at one or more sites. Under this program a PWI project is considered to be providing substantial services in a zone or community if a minimum of 51 percent of the total number of persons served by the project, irrespective of the number of sites, reside in a zone or community and at least 1 of the project sites is located within the boundaries of a zone or community. If there is only one project site, it must be located within the boundaries of a zone or community.

Invitational Priorities

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1) the Secretary is particularly interested in applications that meet one or more of the following invitational priorities.

However, an application that meets one or more of these invitational priorities does not receive competitive or absolute preference over other applications:

Invitational Priority 1. Projects that demonstrate the use of alternative work settings, such as flexiplace or telecommuting, to assist individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with severe disabilities, to secure job skills training and employment opportunities in the competitive labor market.

Invitational Priority 2. Projects that demonstrate the use of workplace apprenticeship programs to train persons with disabilities for employment in careers with advancement potential.

Invitational Priority 3. Projects that demonstrate effective outreach and collaboration with minority-owned businesses in order to secure competitive placement opportunities for persons with disabilities. Minority-owned businesses are defined as nonprofit and for-profit entities that are at least 51 percent owned or controlled by one or more minority individuals. Applications should demonstrate a project's capacity to address cultural diversity issues as these issues relate to the training and placement of individuals with disabilities in competitive employment.

Invitational Priority 4. Projects designed to facilitate the school-to-work transition of students who are individuals with disabilities. Projects should focus on placing youth with disabilities in employment with clearly defined career-path or career-advancement opportunities, or both.

FOR APPLICATIONS OR INFORMATION CONTACT: Martha Muskie, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 3332, Switzer Building, Washington, DC 20202-2649. Telephone: (202) 205-3293. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

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/>). However, the official application notice for a discretionary grant competition is the notice published in the Federal Register.

Program Authority: 29 U.S.C. 795g.

Dated: January 30, 1997.

Judith E. Heumann,

*Assistant Secretary for Special Education and
Rehabilitative Services.*

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