

**DATES:** An emergency review has been requested in accordance with the Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 3507 (j)), since public harm is reasonably likely to result if normal clearance procedures are followed. Approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has been requested by August 16, 2005. A regular clearance process is also beginning. Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before October 7, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments regarding the emergency review should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Carolyn Lovett, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget; 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or faxed to (202) 395-6974.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Director of OMB provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Information Management Case Services Team, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes this notice containing proposed information collection requests at the beginning of the Departmental review of the information collection. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, *e.g.*, new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. ED invites public comment.

The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be

collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: August 2, 2005.

**Angela C. Arrington,**

*Leader, Information Management Case Services Team, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

#### **Federal Student Aid**

*Type of Review:* Revision.

*Title:* FFEL Deferment Requests.

*Abstract:* These forms will serve as the means of collecting information necessary to determine whether a Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) borrower qualifies for a specific type of loan deferment.

*Additional Information:* Federal Student Aid needs this emergency collection processed in order to have this significant information collection legally available for students' use. Not having legal deferment requests available will impact graduates' and other students' financial status.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or household.

*Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:*

Responses: 1,180,986.

Burden Hours: 188,958.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 2830. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Potomac Center, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20202-4700. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the Internet address [OCIO\\_RIMG@ed.gov](mailto:OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov) or faxed to 202-245-6621. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements, contact Joseph Schubart at his e-mail address [Joe.Schubart@ed.gov](mailto:Joe.Schubart@ed.gov). Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

[FR Doc. 05-15595 Filed 8-5-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4001-01-P**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

#### **Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services; Overview Information; Centers for Independent Living—Training and Technical Assistance; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2005**

*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:* 84.132B.

*Dates:* Applications Available: August 8, 2005.

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* September 7, 2005.

*Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:* September 19, 2005.

*Eligible Applicants:* Entities that have experience in the operation of centers for independent living and submit a proposal to provide training and technical assistance to eligible agencies, centers for independent living, and Statewide Independent Living Councils.

*Estimated Available Funds:* \$153,699.

*Estimated Range of Awards:* \$70,000–\$153,699.

*Estimated Average Size of Awards:* \$76,849.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 1 to 2.

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

*Project Period:* Up to 60 months.

#### **Full Text of Announcement**

##### **I. Funding Opportunity Description**

*Purpose of Program:* To provide training and technical assistance with respect to planning, developing, conducting, administering, and evaluating centers for independent living to the following eligible entities authorized under title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Act): eligible agencies, centers for independent living (CILs), and Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILCs).

The purpose of independent living (IL) services is to maximize independence, productivity, empowerment, and leadership of individuals with disabilities and integrate these individuals into the mainstream of society.

An eligible agency is defined in section 726 of the Act as a consumer-controlled, community-based, cross-disability, nonresidential, private nonprofit agency.

A CIL is defined in section 702(1) of the Act as a consumer-controlled, community-based, cross-disability, nonresidential private nonprofit agency that is designed and operated within a local community by individuals with disabilities and that provides an array of IL services.

A SILC is described in section 705 of the Act. A majority of a SILC's members are individuals with disabilities, and other members include CIL representatives and State agency representatives, as well as other appropriate individuals. The SILC jointly develops and signs the State Plan for Independent Living with the Designated State Unit (DSU) and monitors, reviews, and evaluates the implementation of the State plan.

**Priorities:** In accordance with 34 CFR 75.105(b)(2)(iv) and section 721(b)(3) of the Act, these priorities have been identified by the Rehabilitation Services Administration Commissioner through a survey based on the annual performance reports of CILs and SILCs.

**Absolute Priorities:** For FY 2005 these priorities are absolute priorities. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) we consider only applications that meet one or more of these priorities.

These priorities are:

#### *Absolute Priority 1*

Applications must demonstrate how the project will encourage community-based alternatives to institutionalization. Applications must address how the project will help CILs meet the training needs of individuals with disabilities moving from an institutional setting to community-based living with respect to housing, transportation, assistive technology, and independent living skills.

#### *Absolute Priority 2*

Applications must demonstrate how the project will help CILs provide outreach and services to consumers from rural settings.

#### *Absolute Priority 3*

Applications must demonstrate how the project will assist CILs, SILCs, and eligible agencies in the development of the Statewide Network of Centers.

#### *Absolute Priority 4*

Applications must demonstrate how the project will encourage CILs, SILCs, and other eligible agencies to coordinate services and develop cooperative working relationships with the DSU, other State agencies, other councils that address the needs of specific disability populations and issues, and other appropriate public and private entities.

Under this competition we are particularly interested in applications that address the following priority.

**Invitational Priority:** For FY 2005 this priority is an invitational priority. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1) we do not give an application that meets this invitational priority a competitive or

absolute preference over other applications.

This priority is:

The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research, working in a joint venture with the National Council on Independent Living to form IL-Net, currently has a cooperative agreement with the Rehabilitation Services Administration to develop and provide training and technical assistance to eligible agencies, CILs, and SILCs for planning, developing, conducting, administering, and evaluating CILs. Applications should demonstrate how the project would coordinate with IL-NET's efforts.

**Program Authority:** 29 U.S.C. 796f.

**Applicable Regulations:** (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, and 97. (b) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 366.

**Note:** The regulations in 34 CFR part 79 apply to all applicants except federally recognized Indian tribes.

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

## II. Award Information

**Type of Award:** Cooperative agreement.

**Estimated Available Funds:** \$153,699.  
**Estimated Range of Awards:** \$70,000–\$153,699.

**Estimated Average Size of Awards:** \$76,849.

**Estimated Number of Awards:** 1 to 2.

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

**Project Period:** Up to 60 months.

## III. Eligibility Information

1. **Eligible Applicants:** Entities that have experience in the operation of centers for independent living and submit a proposal to provide training and technical assistance to eligible agencies, centers for independent living, and Statewide Independent Living Councils.

2. **Cost Sharing or Matching:** This program does not involve cost sharing or matching.

## IV. Application and Submission Information

1. **Address to Request Application Package:** Education Publications Center (ED Pubs), 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: <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html> or you may contact ED Pubs at its e-mail address: [edpubs@inet.ed.gov](mailto:edpubs@inet.ed.gov).

If you request an application from ED Pubs, be sure to identify this competition as follows: CFDA number 84.132B.

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 Grants and Contracts Services Team, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5075, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202–2550. Telephone: (202) 245–7363. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1–800–877–8339.

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 program.

3. **Submission Dates and Times:** Applications Available: August 8, 2005.

**Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:** September 7, 2005.

Applications for grants under this competition must be submitted electronically using the Grants.gov Apply site (Grants.gov). For information (including dates and times) about how to submit your application electronically or by mail or hand delivery if you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, 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.

**Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:** September 19, 2005.

4. **Intergovernmental Review:** This program is subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. Information about Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs under Executive Order 12372 is in the application package for this competition.

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 must be submitted electronically unless you qualify for an exception to this requirement in accordance with the instructions in this section.

a. *Electronic Submission of Applications.*

Applications for grants under Centers for Independent Living—Training and Technical Assistance—CFDA Number 132B must be submitted electronically using the 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.

We will reject your application if you submit it in paper format unless, as described elsewhere in this section, you 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. Further information regarding calculation of the date that is two weeks before the application deadline date is provided later in this section under *Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement*.

You may access the electronic grant application for Centers for Independent Living—Training and Technical Assistance at: <http://www.grants.gov>. You must search for the downloadable application package for this program by the CFDA number. Do not include the CFDA number's alpha suffix in your search.

Please note the following:

- 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 time and date stamped. Your application must be fully uploaded and submitted, and must be date/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/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/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 the steps in the Grants.gov registration process (see <http://www.grants.gov/GetStarted>) and 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.

- You will not receive additional point value because you submit your application in electronic format, nor will we penalize you if you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, as described elsewhere in this section, and submit your application in paper format.

- You must submit all documents electronically, including all information typically included on the Application for Federal Education Assistance (ED 424), Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs (ED 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications. 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 above 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 an automatic acknowledgment from Grants.gov that contains a Grants.gov tracking number. The Department will retrieve your application from Grants.gov and send you a second confirmation by e-mail that will include 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 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 as described elsewhere in this notice. If you submit an application after 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the 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 (if available). 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:** Extensions referred to 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 deadline date and time or if the technical problem you experienced is unrelated to the Grants.gov system.

*Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement:* You qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, and may submit your application in paper format, if you are unable to submit an application through the Grants.gov system because—

- You do not have access to the Internet; or
- You do not have the capacity to upload large documents to the Grants.gov system; and
- No later than two weeks before the application deadline date (14 calendar days or, if the fourteenth calendar day before the application deadline date falls on a Federal holiday, the next business day following the Federal holiday), you mail or fax a written statement to the Department, explaining which of the two grounds for an exception prevent you from using the Internet to submit your application. If you mail your written statement to the Department, it must be postmarked no later than two weeks before the application deadline date. If you fax your written statement to the Department, we must receive the faxed

statement no later than two weeks before the application deadline date.

Address and mail or fax your statement to: Thomas Kelley, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5042, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-2800. FAX: (202) 245-7593.

Your paper application must be submitted in accordance with the mail or hand delivery instructions described in this notice.

*b. Submission of Paper Applications By Mail.*

If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you may mail (through the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial carrier), your application to the Department. 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 84.132B), 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 84.132B), 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, or
- (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, or
- (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 qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you (or a courier service) may deliver your

paper application to the Department by hand. You 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 84.132B), 550 12th Street, SW., Room 7041, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-4260.

The Application Control Center accepts hand deliveries daily between 8 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 4 of the ED 424 the CFDA number—and suffix letter, if any—of the competition under which you are submitting your application.

(2) The Application Control Center will mail a grant application receipt acknowledgment to you. If you do not receive the grant application receipt acknowledgment 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 in 34 CFR 366.15 and are 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.

*4. Performance Measures:* The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA) directs Federal departments and agencies to improve the effectiveness of their programs by engaging in strategic planning, setting outcome-related goals for programs, and measuring program results against those goals.

The goal of these grants is to provide training and technical assistance with respect to planning, developing, conducting, administering, and evaluating CILs to the following eligible entities authorized under title VII of the Act: eligible agencies, CILs, and SILCs.

In annual performance reports, grantees are required to provide specific information on the number of training activities, the topics of each training program, the number and types (CILs, SILCs, or eligible agencies) of participants served, and summary data from participant evaluations.

**VII. Agency Contact**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thomas Kelley, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5042, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-2800. Telephone: (202) 245-7404.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call 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: <http://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: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html>.

Dated: August 3, 2005.

**John H. Hager,**

*Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.*

[FR Doc. 05-15636 Filed 8-5-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services; Overview Information; Technical Assistance and Dissemination To Improve Services and Results for Children With Disabilities—National Technical Assistance Center on Assessment for Children With Disabilities; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2005

*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.326G.*

*Dates:* Applications Available: August 8, 2005.

*Deadline for Transmittal of*

*Applications:* September 7, 2005.

*Deadline for Intergovernmental*

*Review:* September 19, 2005.

*Eligible Applicants:* State educational agencies (SEAs), local educational agencies (LEAs), public charter schools that are LEAs under State law, institutions of higher education (IHEs), other public agencies, private nonprofit organizations, outlying areas, freely associated States, Indian tribes or tribal organizations, and for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Available Funds:* \$1,000,000.

*Maximum Award:* The Secretary does not intend to fund an application that proposes a budget exceeding \$1,000,000 for a single budget period of 12 months.

*Number of Awards:* 1.

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

*Project Period:* Up to 60 months.

#### Full Text of Announcement

##### I. Funding Opportunity Description

*Purpose of Program:* This program promotes academic achievement and improves results for children with disabilities by supporting technical assistance, model demonstration projects, dissemination of useful information, and implementation activities that are supported by scientifically based research.

*Priority:* In accordance with 34 CFR 75.105(b)(2)(v), this priority is from allowable activities specified in the

statute (see sections 663 and 681(d) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

*Absolute Priority:* For FY 2005 this priority is an absolute priority. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), we consider only applications that meet this priority.

This priority is:

*National Technical Assistance Center on Assessment for Children With Disabilities*

*Background of Priority:* Federal and State education policies, including those based on the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), call for the inclusion of students with disabilities in assessment and accountability programs in order to improve educational results for these students. A series of recent Federal policies and initiatives are expected to enhance the inclusion of students with disabilities in assessments and accountability. Among these are the Department's regulations in 34 CFR part 200 permitting alternate assessments based on alternate achievement standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. In addition, on April 7, 2005, the Secretary announced the intent to provide additional flexibility that will allow States to develop modified academic achievement standards and use alternate achievement standards for students served under the IDEA who do not have the most significant cognitive disabilities, but who are not able to participate in the regular assessment, even with accommodations. The Department is also preparing a "Tool Kit" with information to help States improve instruction and assessments for students with disabilities. On June 3, 2005, the Department announced in the **Federal Register** (70 FR 32583) a competition to support Comprehensive Regional and Content Centers that will focus on helping States to implement NCLB and to build their capacity to assist LEAs and schools in implementing NCLB. The Content Centers, one of which will focus specifically on assessments and accountability, are intended to work primarily through the Regional Centers in providing technical assistance.

*Statement of Priority:* This priority supports one cooperative agreement for a Center to provide technical assistance on improving results for students with disabilities by increasing their participation rates in high quality assessment and accountability systems, improving the quality of assessments in which they participate, improving the capacity of States to meet data collection requirements, and

strengthening accountability for results. The Center must accomplish this mission through a combination of activities in the following areas: (1) Needs assessments and information gathering, (2) technical assistance and dissemination to improve the participation of students with disabilities in assessments and accountability systems, (3) technical assistance to improve the capacity of States to meet data collection requirements, (4) collaboration and leadership, and (5) other functions.

Activity Area (1): The Center's needs assessments and information gathering activities must include, but are not limited to:

(a) Conducting surveys of States and other entities to determine the status of the implementation of assessment and accountability policies related to students with disabilities;

(b) Analyzing State-reported assessment data to track the participation and performance of students with disabilities in large-scale assessments;

(c) Analyzing State and local policies and practices to determine the best approaches to improve the participation of students with disabilities in assessment and accountability systems;

(d) Synthesizing research information on relevant topics such as assessment accommodations, alternate assessments, data analysis and reporting, and other related areas; and

(e) Collecting research and technical information from the Technical Workgroup on Large Scale Assessment for Children with Disabilities, the National Alternate Assessment Center, the Research Institute on Progress Monitoring, research projects funded under the Research on Accessible Reading Assessments competition, and other federally funded projects as appropriate.

Activity Area (2): The Center's technical assistance and dissemination activities to improve the participation of students with disabilities in high-quality assessments and accountability systems must include, but are not limited to:

(a) Preparing and disseminating reports and documents on research findings and related topics;

(b) Maintaining a Web site with relevant information and documents in a format that meets a government or industry-recognized standard for accessibility;

(c) Conducting national and regional meetings and teleconferences, in collaboration with other centers such as the Federal and Regional Resource Centers and the Comprehensive