

(2) The Secretary determines the extent to which—

(i) The technical assistance objectives are designed to meet the purpose of the priority and are clearly defined, measurable, and achievable; and

(ii) The proposed technical assistance addresses the needs of a range of postsecondary institutions, including academic, vocational, technical, continuing, and adult education programs.

(3) The Secretary determines the extent to which each application provides for—

(i) Use of current research findings and information on model practices;

(ii) Methods for linking postsecondary institutions in need of technical assistance;

(iii) Innovative procedures for disseminating information and imparting skills to postsecondary institutions, staff of these institutions, and postsecondary students and potential postsecondary students who are deaf and hard of hearing; and

(iv) Innovative procedures for collaborating and coordinating with other entities that are involved with broader technical assistance efforts.

(b) *Plan of operation.* (20 points)

(1) The Secretary reviews each application to determine the quality of the plan of operation for the project.

(2) The Secretary considers—

(i) The extent to which the management plan will ensure proper and efficient administration of the project;

(ii) The quality of the activities proposed to accomplish the goals and objectives;

(iii) The adequacy of proposed timelines for accomplishing those activities; and

(iv) Effectiveness in the ways in which the applicant plans to use the resources and personnel to accomplish the program's goals and objectives.

(3) How the applicant will ensure that project participants who are otherwise eligible to participate are selected without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.

(c) *Quality of key personnel.* (15 points)

(1) The Secretary reviews each application to determine the qualifications of the key personnel the applicant plans to use.

(2) The Secretary considers—

(i) The qualifications of the project director and project coordinator (if one is used);

(ii) The qualifications of each of the other key project personnel;

(iii) The time that each person referred in paragraphs (b)(2) (i) and (ii) plans to commit to the project; and

(iv) How the applicant will ensure that personnel are selected for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.

(3) To determine personnel qualifications under (b)(2) (i) and (ii), the Secretary considers—

(i) Experience and training in fields related to the objectives of the project; and

(ii) Any other qualifications that pertain to the quality of the project.

(d) *Budget and cost effectiveness.* (10 points)

(1) The Secretary reviews each application to determine whether the project has an adequate budget and is cost-effective.

(2) The Secretary considers the extent to which—

(i) The budget for the project is adequate to support project activities; and

(ii) Costs are reasonable in relation to the objectives of the project.

(e) *Evaluation plan.* (10 points)

(1) The Secretary reviews each application to determine the quality of the evaluation plan for the project.

(2) The Secretary considers—

(i) The extent to which the applicant's methods of evaluation are appropriate to the project; and

(ii) To the degree possible, the extent to which the applicant's methods of evaluation are objective and produce data that are quantifiable.

(f) *Adequacy of resources.* (5 points)

(1) The Secretary reviews each application to determine whether the applicant plans to devote adequate resources to the project.

(2) The Secretary considers the adequacy of the facilities and the technology, equipment, and supplies the applicant plans to use.

Intergovernmental Review

This notice is subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR Part 79. The objective of the Executive Order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism by relying on processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance. In accordance with the order, this document is intended to provide early notification of the Department's specific plans and actions for this program.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1424a. (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: Regional Postsecondary Centers for Individuals Who are Deaf, 84.078A)

Dated: June 25, 1996.

Judith E. Heumann,

Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No.: 84.078A]

Postsecondary Education Programs for Individuals with Disabilities; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 1996

Purpose of Program: To support projects that assist educational institutions to implement proven models, components of models, and other exemplary practices, including innovative technology, to increase and improve postsecondary opportunities for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing.

This program supports the National Education Goal of every adult American being literate and possessing the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global economy by helping students who are deaf and hard of hearing to reach higher levels of academic achievement.

Eligible Applicants: Eligible applicants are State educational agencies, institutions of higher education, junior and community colleges, vocational and technical institutions, and other nonprofit educational agencies.

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

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

Applications Available: July 2, 1996.

Priority:

(a) The priority in the notice of final funding priority for this program, as published elsewhere in this issue of the Federal Register, applies to this competition.

(b) Within this priority, the Secretary particularly invites applications for projects from consortia or partnerships with expertise in accommodating students who are deaf and hard of hearing in a variety of academic, vocational, technical, continuing, and adult education environments.

However, in accordance with EDGAR at 34 CFR 75.105 (c)(1), an application that meets this invitational priority receives no competitive or absolute preference

over applications that otherwise meet the priority.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: August 2, 1996.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: September 5, 1996.

Estimated Number of Awards: 4.

Project Period: Up to 60 months.

Available Funds: In fiscal year 1996, the Department proposes to allocate approximately \$4,000,000 to support an estimated 4 projects, with a range of awards of approximately \$800,000–\$1,200,000 for the first twelve months of the project. Multi-year projects will be level funded unless there are increases in costs attributable to significant changes in activity level.

Average Award: \$1,000,000.

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

For Applications and General Information Contact: Requests for applications and general information should be addressed to: Ramon F. Rodriguez, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.W., Switzer Building, Room 3125, Washington, D.C. 20202–2526. Telephone: (202) 205–8555. FAX: (202) 205–9252. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the TDD number at (202) 205–9156. Internet: Ramon_Rodriguez@ed.gov

For Technical Information Contact: Michael Ward, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.W., Switzer Building, Room 4624, Washington, D.C. 20202–2732. Telephone: (202) 205–8163. FAX: (202) 205–8971.

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.ED.GOV (under Announcements, Bulletins, and Press Releases); or on the World Wide Web at (<http://www.ed.gov/money.html>). However, the official application notice for a discretionary grant competition is the notice published in the Federal Register.

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

Dated: June 25, 1996.

Judith E. Heumann,

Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitation Services.

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