

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research; Meeting**

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of Public Meeting and Request for Comments.

SUMMARY: The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) is interested in gathering information from consumers, families, service providers, advocacy organizations, community groups, State agencies, and other stakeholders on existing and future needs for assistive technology services and devices, systemic barriers to meeting those needs, and successful approaches that have been used to remove barriers to the acquisition of assistive technology services and devices for individuals with disabilities.

NIDRR invites interested parties to submit written comments or present oral comments at a public meeting on current assistive technology needs and issues, as well as future directions for meeting those needs. The purpose of the meeting is to help formulate future policy related to assistive technology for persons with disabilities.

DATE AND TIME: The public meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, January 15, 1998 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at the Crystal Gateway Marriott at 1700 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia.

COMMENTS: Persons desiring to provide oral comments at the public meeting should telephone Ms. Nell Bailey on (703) 524-6686, ext. 305. Individuals

who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call 703-524-6639. Requests to provide oral comments may also be sent through the Internet: nbailey@resna.org.

NIDRR invites written comments from those who will be unable to provide oral comments at the public meetings. Written comments should be received by April 30, 1998. Written comments should be addressed to Ms. Nell Bailey, RESNA Technical Assistance Project, 1700 N. Moore St., Suite 1540, Arlington, VA 22209. Written comments may also be sent through the Internet: nbailey@resna.org.

The meeting site is accessible to individuals with disabilities. An individual with a disability who will need an auxiliary aid or service to participate in the meeting (e.g. interpreting service, assistive listening device, or materials in an alternate format) should notify the contact person listed in this notice at least two weeks before the scheduled meeting date. Although the Department will attempt to meet a request received after that date, the requested auxiliary aid or service may not be available because of insufficient time to arrange it.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nell Bailey. Telephone: (703) 524-6686, ext. 305. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call (703) 524-6639.

Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend the meeting and require reasonable accommodations should submit the request two week in advance of the meeting to Nell Bailey. Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternate format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or

computer diskette) on request to Nell Bailey.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: There will be additional public meetings in other regions of the country during the months of February, March and April, 1998. The dates and locations of these meetings will be announced in a separate **Federal Register** notice.

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Note: The official version of a document is the document published in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: December 18, 1997.

Judith E. Heumann,

Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

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