

that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. 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, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. 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. OMB invites public comment.

Dated: October 10, 2003.

**Angela C. Arrington,**

*Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

#### Office of Postsecondary Education

*Type of Review:* Revision.

*Title:* Application for Grants Under the Strengthening Institutions Program, American Indian Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Program, and Alaska Native and Hawaiian Serving Institutions Program.

*Frequency:* Annually.

*Affected Public:* Not-for-profit institutions; State, local or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

*Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:*

Responses: 415.

Burden Hours: 19,250.

*Abstract:* The information is required of institutions of higher education that apply for grants under the Strengthening Institutions Program, the American Indian Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Program, and the Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions Program, authorized under Title III, Part A of the Higher Education Act of 1995, as amended. This information will be used in the peer review and in making funding recommendations.

This collection is being submitted under the Streamlined Clearance Process for Discretionary Grant Information Collections (1890-0001).

Therefore, the 30-day public comment period notice will be the only public comment notice published for this information collection.

Requests for copies of the submission for OMB review; comment request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 2362. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651 or to the e-mail address [vivan.reese@ed.gov](mailto:vivan.reese@ed.gov). Requests may also be electronically mailed to the internet address [OCIO\\_RIMG@ed.gov](mailto:OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov) or faxed to (202) 708-9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to 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.

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#### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

##### Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**SUMMARY:** The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before December 15, 2003.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. 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, Regulatory Information Management

Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. 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. OMB 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 the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: October 10, 2003.

**Angela C. Arrington,**

*Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

#### Institute of Education Sciences

*Type of Review:* New.

*Title:* American Indian Supplement to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), Field Test 2004.

*Frequency:* One time.

*Affected Public:* State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs; Individuals or household.

*Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:*

Responses: 1,300.

Burden Hours: 325.

*Abstract:* This study is a field test for a planned supplement to the National Assessment of Educational Progress. The study will determine the feasibility of oversampling the American Indian and Alaska Native student population. In addition to a standard assessment and it includes special background questionnaires for student, teacher, and school components. A 3-year clearance is requested.

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 2363. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should

be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651 or to the e-mail address [vivian\\_reese@ed.gov](mailto:vivian_reese@ed.gov). Requests may also be electronically mailed to the internet address [OCIO\\_RIMG@ed.gov](mailto:OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov) or faxed to 202-708-9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Katrina Ingalls at her e-mail address [Katrina.Ingalls@ed.gov](mailto:Katrina.Ingalls@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.

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

[CFDA No.: 84.133F]

#### National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research—Research Fellowships Program; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

**Purpose of Program:** The purpose of the Research Fellowships Program is to build research capacity by providing support to highly qualified individuals, including those who are individuals with disabilities, to conduct research about the rehabilitation of individuals with disabilities. Fellows may conduct original research in an area authorized by section 204 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Fellows must address problems encountered by individuals in their daily lives that are due to the presence of a disabling condition, problems associated with the provision of rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities, and problems connected with the conduct of disability research.

The program provides two categories of Fellowships: Merit Fellowships and Distinguished Fellowships.

(a) To be eligible for a Distinguished Fellowship, an individual must have seven or more years of research experience in subject areas, methods, or techniques relevant to rehabilitation research and must have a doctorate, other terminal degree, or comparable academic qualifications.

(b) To be eligible for a Merit Fellowship, an individual must have either advanced professional training or

independent study experience in an area that is directly pertinent to disability and rehabilitation. In the most recent competitions, recipients of a Merit Fellowship had research experience at the doctoral level.

Applicants are not required to submit a budget with their proposal. These are one Full Time Equivalent (FTE) awards. The Fellow must work principally on the fellowship during the year. We define one FTE as equal to 40 hours per week. The Fellow cannot receive support through any other Federal Government grants during this period.

**Eligible applicants:** Only individuals who have advanced rehabilitation research training and experience in conducting scientific research related to the solution of rehabilitation problems of individuals with disabilities are eligible.

**Note:** Institutions are not eligible to be recipients of Fellowships.

**Applications available:** October 16, 2003.

**Deadline for transmittal of applications:** December 15, 2003.

**Estimated available funds:** The Administration has requested \$500,000 for this program for FY 2004. The actual level of funding, if any, depends on final congressional action. However, we are inviting applications to allow enough time to complete the grant process if Congress appropriates funds for this program.

**Maximum Award:** Merit: \$45,000; Distinguished: \$55,000.

**Note:** Applicants must indicate whether they are applying for the Merit Fellowship: \$45,000, or the Distinguished Fellowship: \$55,000.

**Estimated Number of Awards:** 10.

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

**Project Period:** 12 months.

**Page Limit:** The application narrative (Part III of the application) is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. You must limit Part III to the equivalent of no more than 24 pages using the following standards:

- A "page" is 8.5" x 11", on one side only, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides.

- Double space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.

- Use a font that is either 12 point or larger or no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch).

The page limit does not apply to Part I, the cover sheet; Part IV, the assurances and certifications; or the one-page abstract, the resumes, the bibliography, or the letters of support. However, you must include all of the application narrative in Part III.

We will reject your application if you apply these standards and exceed the page limit.

**Note:** Applicants must place their Social Security Number in Block #2 on the ED 424 form in place of the D-U-N-S Number.

**Applicable Regulations:** The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), 34 CFR parts 75, 77, 81, 82, 85, and 97; and 34 CFR part 356, Disability and Rehabilitation Research Fellowships.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Note:** NIDRR supports the goals of President Bush's New Freedom Initiative (NFI). The NFI can be accessed on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/freedominitiative/freedominitiative.html>.

The Research Fellowships Program is in concert with NIDRR's Long-Range Plan (Plan). The Plan is comprehensive and integrates many issues relating to disability and rehabilitation research topics. The Plan can be accessed on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/index.html>.

**Selection Criteria:** In evaluating an application for a Fellowship under this competition, we use selection criteria chosen from the selection criteria in 34 CFR 356.30-32. The selection criteria to be used for this competition will be provided in the application package for this competition.

#### Application Procedures:

**Note:** Some of the procedures in these instructions for transmitting applications differ from those in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) (34 CFR 75.102). Under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553) the Department generally offers interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed regulations. However, these amendments make procedural changes only and do not establish new substantive policy. Therefore, under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(A), the Secretary has determined that proposed rulemaking is not required.

#### Pilot Project for Electronic Submission of Applications

In FY 2004, the U.S. Department of Education is continuing to expand its pilot project of electronic submission of applications to include additional formula grant programs and additional discretionary grant competitions. The Research Fellowships Program—CFDA