

Dated: March 11, 2003.

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.128J]

### Recreational Program; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

*Purpose of Program:* To provide grants for recreational programs providing individuals with disabilities recreational activities and related experiences to aid in their employment, mobility, socialization, independence, and community integration.

*Eligible Applicants:* States, public agencies, and nonprofit private organizations.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Funds under this competition will be used to support projects in FY 2003. The Assistant Secretary may consider funding approved applications submitted in FY 2003 in later years.

*Applications Available:* March 17, 2003.

*Deadline for Transmittal of*

*Applications:* May 1, 2003.

*Deadline for Intergovernmental*

*Review:* July 1, 2003.

*Estimated Available Funds:* \$985,779.

*Estimated Range of Awards:*

\$130,000–\$140,000.

*Estimated Average Size of Awards:*

\$130,000.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 8.

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

*Project Period:* Up to 36 months.

*Applicable Regulations:* 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 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.

### Priority

This competition focuses on projects designed to meet the absolute priority and the statutory requirements in the notice of final priority for this program, published in the **Federal Register** on April 19, 2001 (66 FR 20176). Under 34

CFR 75.105(c)(3) we consider only applications that meet the priority.

Projects must provide recreational services to individuals with disabilities. Recreational services include, but are not limited to, vocational skills development, leisure education, leisure networking, leisure resource development, physical education and sports, scouting and camping, 4-H activities, music, dancing, handicrafts, art, and homemaking. Recreational services do not include the construction of facilities for aquatic rehabilitation therapy.

Projects must provide recreational services to individuals with disabilities in settings with peers who are not individuals with disabilities.

### 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 2003, the U.S. Department of Education is continuing to expand its pilot project for electronic submission of applications to include additional formula grant programs and additional discretionary grant competitions. The Recreational Program—CFDA No. 84.128J is one of the programs included in the pilot project. If you are an applicant under the Recreational Program, you may submit your application to us in either electronic or paper format.

The pilot project involves the use of the Electronic Grant Application System (e-Application) portion of the Grant Administration and Payment System (GAPS). Users of e-Application will be entering data on-line while completing their applications. You may not e-mail a soft copy of a grant application to us. If you participate in this voluntary pilot project by submitting an application electronically, the data you enter on-line will be saved into a database. We request your participation in e-Application. We shall continue to evaluate its success and solicit suggestions for improvement.

*If you participate in e-Application, please note the following:*

- Your participation is voluntary.
- You will not receive any additional point value because you submit a grant application in electronic format, nor will we penalize you if you submit an application in paper format. When you enter the e-Application system, you will find information about its hours of operation.

- You may submit all documents electronically, including the Application for Federal Education Assistance (ED 424), Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs (ED 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications.

- After you electronically submit your application, you will receive an automatic acknowledgement, which will include a PR/Award number (an identifying number unique to your application).

- Within 3 working days after submitting your electronic application, fax a signed copy of the Application for Federal Education Assistance (ED 424) to the Application Control Center after following these steps:

- (1) Print ED 424 from the e-Application system.

- (2) The institution's Authorizing Representative must sign this form.

- (3) Place the PR/Award number in the upper right hand corner of the hard copy signature page of the ED 424.

- (4) Fax the signed ED 424 to the Application Control Center at (202) 260-1349.

- We may request that you give us original signatures on all other forms at a later date.

- *Closing Date Extension in Case of System Unavailability:* If you elect to participate in the e-Application pilot for the Recreational Program and you are prevented from submitting your application on the closing date because the e-Application system is unavailable, we will grant you an extension of 1 business day in order to transmit your application electronically, by mail, or by hand delivery. For us to grant this extension—

- (1) You must be a registered user of e-Application and have initiated an e-Application for this competition; and

- (2)(a) The e-Application system must be unavailable for 60 minutes or more between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the deadline date; or

- (b) The e-Application system must be unavailable for any period of time during the last hour of operation (that is, for any period of time between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time) on the deadline date. The Department must acknowledge and confirm these periods of unavailability before granting you an