

Dated: January 7, 2003.

**John D. Tressler,**

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

### Federal Student Aid

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Title:* Guaranty Agency Financial Report (JS).

*Frequency:* Monthly, annually.

*Affected Public:* State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs (primary), Businesses or other for-profit.

*Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:*

Responses: 612;

Burden Hours: 33660.

*Abstract:* The Guaranty Agency Financial Report is used to request payments from and make payments to the Department of Education under the FFEL program authorized by Title IV, Part B of the HEA of 1965, as amended. The report is also used to monitor the agency's financial activities, including activities concerning its federal fund; operating fund and the agency's restricted account.

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 directed to her e-mail address [Vivian.Reese@ed.gov](mailto:Vivian.Reese@ed.gov). Requests may also be 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 Lew Oleinick at (202) 205-3516 or at his e-mail address [lew.oleinick@ed.gov](mailto:lew.oleinick@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

### National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research

**AGENCY:** Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed priorities.

**SUMMARY:** The Assistant Secretary proposes funding priorities under the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (RERC) program for up to nine Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers under the National Institute on

Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) for Fiscal Years (FYs) 2003-2005. We take this action to focus research attention on areas of national need. We intend these priorities to improve the rehabilitation services and outcomes for individuals with disabilities.

**DATES:** We must receive your comments on or before February 10, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Address all comments about these proposed priorities to Donna Nangle, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 3412, Switzer Building, Washington, DC 20202-2645. If you prefer to send your comments through the Internet, use the following address: [donna.nangle@ed.gov](mailto:donna.nangle@ed.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Donna Nangle. Telephone: (202) 205-5880.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the TDD number at (202) 205-4475 or via the Internet: [donna.nangle@ed.gov](mailto:donna.nangle@ed.gov).

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Invitation to Comment:* We invite you to submit comments regarding these proposed priorities.

We invite you to assist us in complying with the specific requirements of Executive Order 12866 and its overall requirement of reducing regulatory burden that might result from these proposed priorities. Please let us know of any further opportunities we should take to reduce potential costs or increase potential benefits while preserving the effective and efficient administration of the program.

During and after the comment period, you may inspect all public comments about these priorities in Room 3412, Switzer Building, 330 C Street, SW., Washington, DC, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., eastern time, Monday through Friday of each week except Federal holidays.

### Assistance to Individuals With Disabilities in Reviewing the Rulemaking Record

On request, we will supply an appropriate aid, such as a reader or print magnifier, to an individual with a disability who needs assistance to review the comments or other documents in the public rulemaking record for these proposed priorities. If

you want to schedule an appointment for this type of aid, please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

We will announce the final priorities in a notice in the **Federal Register**. We will determine the final priorities after considering responses to this notice and other information available to the Department. This notice does not preclude us from proposing or funding additional priorities, subject to meeting applicable rulemaking requirements.

**Note:** This notice does not solicit applications. In any year in which we choose to use these proposed priorities, we invite applications through a notice published in the **Federal Register**. When inviting applications we designate each priority as absolute, competitive preference, or invitational. The effect of each type of priority follows:

*Absolute priority:* Under an absolute priority, we consider only applications that meet the priority (34 CFR 75.105(c)(3)).

*Competitive preference priority:* Under a competitive preference priority, we give competitive preference to an application by either (1) awarding additional points, depending on how well or the extent to which the application meets the priority (34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i)); or (2) selecting an application that meets the competitive priority over an application of comparable merit that does not meet the competitive priority (34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(ii)).

*Invitational priority:* Under an invitational priority, we are particularly interested in applications that meet the invitational priority. However, we do not give an application that meets the priority a competitive or absolute preference over other applications (34 CFR 75.105(c)(1)).

**Note:** The proposed priorities support 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 proposed priorities are also in concert with NIDRR's Long-Range Plan, which can be accessed on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/NIDRR/#LRP>.

### Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers Program

We may make awards for up to 60 months through grants or cooperative agreements to public and private agencies and organizations, including institutions of higher education, Indian tribes, and tribal organizations, to conduct research, demonstration, and