

associated with the job or jobs a person performs or will be performing. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of the proposal. However, NIDRR has no basis for requiring all applicants to propose these activities.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested that the RERC on Technology Transfer be required to provide technical and financial resources to assist persons with disabilities who have developed assistive technology devices with bringing them to market.

Discussion: An applicant could propose activities to assist persons with disabilities who have developed assistive technology devices with bringing the devices to market. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of the proposal. However, NIDRR has no basis for requiring all applicants to propose these activities.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested that the RERC on Technology Transfer be required to encourage large companies to incorporate the concept of universal design within their products, both current and future, so that persons with disabilities could use them.

Discussion: An applicant could propose activities to encourage large companies to incorporate the concept of universal design within their products. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of the proposal. However, NIDRR has no basis for requiring all applicants to propose these activities.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested that the RERC on Technology Transfer be required to develop partnerships with venture capitalists to generate resources that could be used to assist small businesses in marketing their products.

Discussion: An applicant could propose activities to develop partnerships with venture capitalists to generate resources that could be used to assist small businesses in marketing their products. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of the proposal. However, NIDRR has no basis for requiring all applicants to propose these activities.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested that the RERC on Technology Transfer be required to support other RERCs by providing small product development grants for products developed within the RERC family.

Discussion: There is no authority under the Rehabilitation Act for RERCs to provide subgrants. Therefore the activity suggested by the commenter is not an allowable activity.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested that the RERC on Technology Transfer be required to involve underrepresented, minority high school, and undergraduate engineering and business students in the product evaluation process.

Discussion: NIDRR requires all RERCs funded under this priority to develop a plan that describes how the center will include, as appropriate, individuals with disabilities or their representatives in all phases of center

activities including research, development, training, dissemination, and evaluation. An applicant could propose activities that go beyond these requirements to include minority high school students and undergraduate engineering and business students. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of the proposal. However, NIDRR has no basis for requiring all applicants to propose these activities.

Changes: None.

Comment: Two commenters suggested that the Cognitive Technologies topic area be expanded to include research and development activities pertinent to cognitive disabilities across the lifespan.

Discussion: An applicant could propose research and development activities pertinent to cognitive disabilities across the lifespan. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of the proposal. However, NIDRR has no basis for requiring these activities.

Changes: None.

Comment: Two commenters suggested that the RERC on Cognitive Technologies be required to seek additional financial support from outside foundations, such as the Coleman Colorado Foundation, that specifically focus on funding technology research pertinent to cognitive disability.

Discussion: An applicant could propose activities to seek additional financial support from outside foundations. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of the proposal. However, NIDRR has no basis for requiring all applicants to propose these activities.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested that the RERC on Cognitive Technologies be required to include a research and development activity to develop "smart" residential living environments designed to augment the effectiveness of developmental disabilities direct support/personal assistance services.

Discussion: An applicant could propose activities to develop "smart" residential living environments designed to augment the effectiveness of developmental disabilities direct support/personal assistance services. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of the proposal. However, NIDRR has no basis for requiring all applicants to propose these activities.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested that the RERC on Accessible Public Transportation be required to include activities that focus on technology to improve accessibility to bus and other public and private ground transportation systems, and integrating those technologies with residential and community living environments for people with cognitive disabilities.

Discussion: An applicant could propose research and development activities to improve accessibility to bus and other public and private ground transportation systems, and integrating those technologies with residential and community living environments for people with cognitive disabilities. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of the proposal. However,

NIDRR has no basis for requiring all applicants to include these activities.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested that the very nature of the RERC on Telerehabilitation requires it to focus on care providers and their patients rather than a more general consumer base.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that care providers and their patients play an important role for this RERC. Others, including family members, allied health professionals, and points of service (e.g., hospitals, clinics, one's home, etc.) also play integral roles with respect to this topic area. This RERC will also need to stay in contact with representatives from the telecommunications industry, healthcare insurers, and healthcare policy makers.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested that the Technology Access for Land Mine Survivors topic area and the Prosthetics and Orthotics topic area be combined so that the additional resources could be used for other topic areas not included in this priority.

Discussion: NIDRR believes the mission and intended target populations of these two topic areas are distinctly different even though both of them include the need to research and develop prosthetics and orthotics (P&O). One is expected to focus on improving the state of the science in the field of P&O while the other is expected to work within developing countries to improve the lives of land mine survivors using indigenous materials and expertise from respective countries. If the two were combined the RERC would be spread too thin thereby negatively affecting the center's ability to conduct quality research and development activities. If funded, the two centers will be expected to coordinate on research projects of mutual interest.

Changes: None.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No.: 84.133E]

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services; National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research—Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs) Program; Notice Inviting Applications for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

Note to Applicants: The notice of final funding priorities is published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**.

Purpose of the Program: RERCs conduct research, development, and training activities regarding rehabilitation technology—including rehabilitation engineering, assistive technology devices, and assistive technology services, in order to enhance opportunities for meeting the needs of,