

priorities to improve rehabilitation services and outcomes for individuals with disabilities.

In order to provide applicants with a 60-day application period and to ensure that these grants are awarded before the end of FY 2003, the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) is inviting applications based on the proposed priorities. NIDRR will publish the final priorities as soon as possible after the comment period closes on June 9, 2003.

Depending upon the comments that NIDRR receives, the final priorities may include revisions to the proposed priorities. It is generally the policy of

the Department of Education not to solicit applications before the publication of a final priority. However, in this case, it is essential to solicit applications on the basis of these proposed priorities in order to allow applicants sufficient time to prepare applications of appropriate quality to be funded. Applicants are advised to begin to develop their applications based on the proposed priorities. If changes are made in the final priorities, applicants will be given an opportunity to revise or resubmit their applications.

Eligible Applicants: Parties eligible to apply for grants under this program are

States; public or private agencies, including for-profit agencies; public or private organizations, including for-profit organizations; institutions of higher education; and Indian tribes and tribal organizations.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, 85, 86, and 97, and (b) The program regulations 34 CFR part 350.

Letter of Intent: The due date for the Letter of Intent has been extended to June 18, 2003.

DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH PROJECTS (84.133A)

[Applications for FY 2003]

CFDA No./Program name	Application available	Deadline for transmittal of applications	Estimated available funds	Maximum award amount (per year) ¹	Estimated number of awards ²	Project period (months)
84.133A-1 Research Projects	May 29, 2003	July 28, 2003	\$600,000	\$300,000	2	60
84.133A-4 Research Infrastructure Capacity Building.	May 29, 2003	July 28, 2003	600,000	600,000	1	60
84.133A-5 Technical Assistance Resource Center on Parenting with a Disability.	May 29, 2003	July 28, 2003	500,000	500,000	1	60
84.133A-7 Development Projects.	May 29, 2003	July 28, 2003	300,000	300,000	1	60

¹ **Note:** We will reject without consideration any application that proposes a budget exceeding the stated maximum award amount in any year (See 34 CFR 75.104(b)).

² The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Priorities

This competition focuses on projects designed to meet the priorities in the notice of proposed priorities for the programs published in the **Federal Register** on May 9, 2003. (**Note:** See individual priority for **Federal Register** cite.) Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) we consider only applications that meet one or more of the following priorities. A separate application is required for each priority area.

Absolute Priority 1—Research Projects (84.133A-1) (68 FR 25014).

Absolute Priority 2—Research Infrastructure Capacity Building (84.133A-4) (68 FR 25009).

Absolute Priority 3—Technical Assistance Resource Center on Parenting with a Disability (84.133A-5) (68 FR 25017).

Absolute Priority 4—Development Projects (84.133A-7) (68 FR 25006).

Selection Criteria

The selection criteria to evaluate applications under these priorities are found in the application package.

For Applications Contact: Education Publications Center (ED Pubs), PO Box 1398, Jessup, MD 20794-1398. Telephone (toll free): 1-877-433-7827.

FAX: (301) 470-1244. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call (toll free): 1-877-576-7734.

You may also contact ED Pubs at its Web site: <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html>. Or you may contact ED Pubs at its e-mail address: edpubs@inet.ed.gov.

If you request an application from ED Pubs, be sure to identify these competitions as follows: CFDA number 84.133A-1, 84.133A-4, 84.133A-5, and 84.133A-7.

Application Procedures

Note: Some of the procedures in these instructions for transmitting applications differ from those in the 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 Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) program—CFDA #84.133A is one of the programs included in the pilot project. If you are an applicant under the DRRP, 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