

grant initiatives from DOL, the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Social Security Administration (SSA), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and other Federal partners.

- **Section III. Project Narrative** (The Project Narrative plus attachments are limited to no more than forty (40) 8½ x 11 pages, double-spaced with standard one-inch margins (top, bottom, and sides), and be presented on single-sided, numbered pages. **Note:** The Financial Plan, the Executive Summary, and the Appendices are not included in the forty (40)—page limit.) The substantive requirements for the project narrative are described below under part VII—Statement of Work.

All text in the application narrative, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs must be double-spaced (no more than three lines per vertical inch); and, if using a proportional computer font, use no smaller than a 12-point font, and an average character density no greater than 18 characters per inch (if using a non-proportional font or a typewriter, do not use more than 12 characters per inch). Applications that fail to meet these requirements will be considered non-responsive.

Part VII. Government Requirements/Statement of Work (Project Narrative)

The *Project Narrative*, or *Section III of the grant application*, should provide complete information on how the applicant will address the following Department of Labor strategic goal priorities to ensure a Prepared Workforce:

(1) Increasing the availability of skills training, employment opportunities, and career advancement for persons with disabilities.

(2) Increasing the number of youth making a successful transition to work or who enter further training or educational programs.

Proposals will be rated based upon the quality of the applicant's response in addressing the four criteria described below in terms of a comprehensive strategic approach that incorporates the Department's priorities noted above. The four criteria (Statement of Need, Comprehensive Service Strategy, Sustainability, and Management and Outcomes) must be addressed and the applicant's accomplishments or status with regard to each item provided.

The Department, however, does not expect the applicant to incorporate every item listed as part of their strategy and proposal design. The Department

recognizes that the needs and requirements of each state may be different, and therefore, some of the options identified may be more relevant than others in a particular state.

1. Statement of Need (10 points)

The purpose of the Statement of Need criteria is to establish the overall status of disability issues relating to youth in the applicant's state; to identify strengths and deficiencies to be addressed by the applicant's proposal; to identify the overall scope of proposal objectives and design; and to present the applicant's need for grant resources. These criteria will be rated based upon the applicant's identified needs and proposed approaches to addressing these needs in the context of the Department's priorities.

For proposals targeted to a specific Indian community or covering multiple tribal entities which may cut across multiple states and/or local areas, describe the overall approach of the project, and identify the inadequacies and deficiencies of the service delivery to the applicable community, and how the project expects to address these.

The narrative in this section should:

(1) Describe the potential contribution of the proposed project to increasing the quality and coordination of transition services available in the state;

(2) Describe the overall status and actions taken to date within the state related to addressing the transition needs of youth with disabilities;

(3) Describe how intermediary organizations are currently being used in the youth service delivery infrastructure and provide an overview of the youth service provider organizations operative within the state;

(4) Describe any significant deficiencies in the state or local workforce investment system, in the educational system, in the vocational rehabilitation system and in the provision of employment-related supports such as housing, health care, and transportation that present barriers to employment for young people with disabilities and explain what will be accomplished under this grant to address them;

(5) Identify the percentage of young people with disabilities in the state overall; the percentage receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Social Security Income (SSI), and Medicaid and Medicare benefits; and the percentage receiving special education, vocational rehabilitation, mental health, and WIA-funded services;

(6) Identify the most recent state graduation rates for young people with

disabilities in the state, as well as the overall graduation rate;

(7) Describe the number of young people with disabilities expected to be served within the state, and the importance or magnitude of the results that are likely to be attained by the proposed project; and

(8) Identify additional state and/or local funds and resources that will be used to support and sustain the overall objectives of the grant;

(9) Identify networks of faith-based and community organizations that will be utilized in the service delivery system.

In *evaluating* the quality of the proposal narrative, ODEP will consider the applicant's needs identified and proposed approaches to addressing the needs in the context of ODEP's priorities.

2. Comprehensive Service Strategy (35 points)

The purpose of the Comprehensive Service Strategy criterion is to identify the approach the applicant is proposing to:

- Conduct resource mapping to assess the state's current youth service infrastructure in light of the evidence-based transition operating principles and the categories outlined in the Pro-Bank framework;

- Develop, implement, and evaluate a cross-agency multi-year state plan to improve transition outcomes for youth with disabilities through blending and/or braiding of Federal, state, and community resources and the use of local intermediary organizations;

- Conduct pilot demonstrations to determine:

- How intermediary organizations can best be used to ensure, through cross-agency partnerships, that youth with disabilities obtain transition services consistent with the evidence-based operating principles, and
- The impact those intermediaries have on improving transition outcomes for youth with disabilities.

In general, this requires extensive linkages, knowledge and understanding of the Pro-Bank framework and resource mapping, as well as applicable resources that address multiple disability issues and barriers to education and employment that are commonly experienced by young persons with disabilities.

A. Staff Capacity—The applicant must identify how it will ensure that trained staff knowledgeable about the state's youth serving infrastructure and of the complexities of coordinating the services and supports needed for youth with disabilities to transition