

Services for Individuals with Disabilities Program, or the Training and Information for Parents of Children with Disabilities 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 one 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 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 extension. To request this extension you must contact either (1) the person listed elsewhere in this notice under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** or (2) the e-GRANTS help desk at 1-888-336-8930.

You may access the electronic grant application for the Technical Assistance and Dissemination to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities Program, the Technology and Media Services for Individuals with Disabilities Program, or the Training and Information for Parents of Children with Disabilities Program at: <http://e-grants.ed.gov>.

We have included additional information about the e-Application pilot project (see Parity Guidelines between Paper and Electronic Applications) in the application packages.

Special Education—Technical Assistance and Dissemination to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities [CFDA Number 84.326]

Purpose of Program: The purpose of this program is to provide technical assistance and information—through such mechanisms as institutes, regional resource centers, clearinghouses, and programs that support States and local entities in building capacity—to (1) improve early intervention, educational, and transitional services and results for children with disabilities and their families; and (2) address systemic-change goals and priorities.

Eligible Applicants: State educational agencies, local educational agencies, institutions of higher education, other public agencies, nonprofit private organizations, for-profit organizations, outlying areas, freely associated States, and Indian tribes or tribal organizations.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, 86, 97, 98, and 99; and (b) The selection criteria, chosen from the general selection criteria in 34 CFR 75.210. The specific selection criteria for these competitions are included in the application package for these competitions.

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.

Priorities

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) we consider only applications that meet one of the following priorities:

Absolute Priority 1—Absolute Priority 1—The IDEA Partnership Project (84.326A)

Background

In 1998 the Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), funded four projects to support partnerships among national associations and membership organizations so that they could contribute to the successful implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Amendments of 1997 by making available accurate information on the statute, as well as research-based practices for implementing the statute, to their grass-roots constituencies. Partnerships were funded to meet the needs of four audiences: (1) Families and advocates, (2) policymakers, (3) service providers, and (4) local-level administrators.

Over the last four and a half years, these four projects have made considerable progress building trust between the participating organizations and creating an infrastructure by which member organizations within individual projects could collaborate, share information, and develop activities and products to meet the needs of their constituencies. In addition, through the Partnership Projects' Coordinating Committee, cross-partnership collaborations were initiated that allowed the various constituency groups

to share their perspectives and to gain insights on the perspectives of others. This cross-stakeholder communication is essential to successfully address the complex challenges associated with the implementation of both IDEA and No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

Priority

The purpose of this priority is to continue, and further focus, the work of the four Partnership Projects by supporting one partnership among national associations and membership organizations representing all four audiences: (1) Families, (2) policymakers, (3) service providers, and (4) local-level administrators. This partnership project must build upon the relationships and infrastructures created by the four previous partnerships, but must focus its work primarily on activities that are relevant across all four audiences. In addition, activities conducted by this project must be designed to move national-level collaborations down to State and local levels.

Like the previous four projects, this single partnership will be funded as a cooperative agreement, and must inform and provide support to its members in understanding IDEA, including Part C, and NCLB. The project must focus on the effect these two statutes have on the respective roles of its members in improving results for children with disabilities. The project must also provide opportunities for members to engage in meaningful dialogue and problem solving designed to improve the integration of regular and special education.

Applicants may not make financial commitments to any associations or membership organizations in designing this application. These commitments will be negotiated during the first month of the award with final approval by OSEP. The project must:

(a) Form a single partnership among national associations and membership organizations from both regular and special education to meet the collective needs of four audiences:

(1) Policymakers (e.g., associations of chief State school officers, State boards of education, local school boards, State directors of special education, mental health, and children with special health care needs programs, deans of education and special education, department chairs at institutions of higher education, superintendents, governors, State legislators);

(2) Service providers, (e.g., associations of regular and special education teachers, community-based