

weaknesses, and major weaknesses correctable.

*Good:* Reasonable, may be strengths and/or weaknesses, weaknesses do not significantly detract from the proposal's viability, any major weaknesses are correctable.

*Fair:* One or more major weaknesses, weaknesses outweigh strengths, major weaknesses may possibly be corrected or minimized.

*Poor:* One or more major weaknesses, which will be difficult to correct or may not be correctable.

#### C. Selection Process

The Selecting Official (the OE Director) in consultation with the OE Chief Scientist will select proposals after considering the peer reviews and the selection factors listed below. In making the final selections, the Selecting Official will endeavor to award in rank order unless the proposal is justifiably selected out of rank order based upon one or more of the selection factors below. The OE Director will have the final authority and responsibility for decisions regarding proposal selection.

The selection factors include the following: (1) The availability of program funding (*i.e.*, feasibility for OE to meet applicants requests given projects costs and logistics); (2) the extent to which the proposal contributes to a balanced national program in terms of distribution of funds by geography/ institution/partners/study areas/ and project; (3) the avoidance of duplication with other projects funded or considered for funding by NOAA or other Federal Agencies; (4) the responsiveness to overall program priorities (section III.C.) and policy factors (see section III.D., Funding Considerations); (5) applicant's prior award performance; and (6) partnerships with participation of targeted groups.

High proposal peer review ratings may not result in funding for a given proposal. Investigators may be asked to modify objectives, work plans, or budgets prior to approval of the award. Subsequent administrative processing will be in accordance with current NOAA financial administrative procedures.

The National Science Foundation, the federal agencies of the National Ocean Partnership Program, and other NOAA programs have mission objectives which involve ocean research and technology development. Examples of NOAA agencies and programs are: the National Undersea Research Program, the National Sea Grant College Program, the Arctic Research Office, NOAA Fisheries, and the National Ocean Service. OE

anticipates and encourages investigators to seek complementary funding for their proposed projects through linked proposals to these agencies. OE will work with program managers at other agencies to facilitate such projects. OE places a high priority on proposed co-funded projects that receive high ratings through each agency's respective evaluation process. For additional details about these other programs, *see: <http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov>*.

#### D. Notification of Award

Successful applicants will receive an email or letter notifying the applicant that his/her proposal has been recommended for funding. It is the applicant's responsibility to notify all collaborators of the award.

#### E. Disposition of Unsuccessful Applications

Those proposals not ultimately selected for OE funding will be destroyed.

### VIII. Federal Policies and Procedures Applicable to OE

#### A. Environmental Impact

Applicants whose proposed projects may have an environmental impact should furnish sufficient information to assist proposal reviewers in assessing the potential environmental consequences of supporting the project.

#### B. Permits and Authorizations

Applicants are responsible for obtaining relevant permits and authorizations required under the laws of the jurisdiction in which the work is to be performed and under U.S. law.

For further information about permits, authorizations or viewing marine mammals and other protected species in the wild please visit the following NOAA Fisheries Web site: [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot\\_res/overview/permits.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot_res/overview/permits.html), [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot\\_res/MMWatch/MMViewing.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot_res/MMWatch/MMViewing.html).

### IX. Other Requirements

The Department of Commerce Pre-award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the **Federal Register** Notice of October 1, 2001 [66 FR 49917], as amended by the **Federal Register** Notice published on October 30, 2002 [67 FR 66109], is applicable to this solicitation.

#### Classification

Prior notice and an opportunity for public comments are not required by the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2)) or any other law for this notice concerning grants, benefits, and

contracts. Because notice and comment are not required, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) are inapplicable. Therefore, a regulatory flexibility analysis is not required and has not been prepared. This action has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

This notice contains collection-of-information requirements, which are subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. The use of Standard Forms 424, 424A, 424B, SF-LLL, and CD-346 have been approved by OMB under the respective control numbers 0348-0043, 0348-0044, 0348-0040, 0348-0046, and 0605-0001. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Dated: July 22, 2003.

**Julie Scanlon,**

*Director, Management and Organizational Development, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

### Submission of OMB Review; Comment Request

#### ACTION: Notice.

The Department of Defense has submitted to OMB for clearance, the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

**DATES:** Consideration will be given to all comments received by August 25, 2003.

**Title and OMB Number:** Application for Department of Defense Impact Aid for Children with Severe Disabilities; SD Form 816 and SD Form 816C; OMB Number 0704-0425.

**Type of Request:** Extension.

**Number of Respondents:** 50.

**Responses Per Respondent:** 1.

**Annual Responses:** 50.

**Average Burden Per Response:** 8 hours.

**Annual Burden Hours:** 400.

**Needs and Uses:** Department of Defense funds are authorized for local educational agencies (LEAs) that educate military dependent students with severe disabilities and meet certain