

not a suggestion (or requirement) that the applicant address issues of both. Rather, it was intended to allow flexibility for applicants in selecting their target populations. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of the proposal.

Changes: None.

Substance Abuse

Comment: Several commenters urged NIDRR to co-fund research activities with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SMHSA), National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), and National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) in the area of substance abuse and co-existing disabilities.

Discussion: While co-funding of research in the area of substance abuse may have merit, this is not a subject for comment relative to the priority.

Changes: None.

Comment: Many commenters suggested that the unique needs of persons with disabilities who have co-occurring substance abuse disorders be addressed exclusively.

Discussion: The priority is clear that the target population is people with disabilities who are recovering from substance abuse problems. The priority also states that the applicants may or may not focus on individuals with co-occurring disorders such as mental illness. However, NIDRR has no basis to determine that all applicants should be required to focus on the unique needs of persons with disabilities who have co-occurring disorders such as mental illness. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of the proposal.

Changes: None.

Comment: Several commenters encouraged substance abuse research that is policy oriented at Federal and State levels.

Discussion: Nothing in the priority precludes an applicant from focusing on policy issues at the Federal and State level. However, NIDRR has no basis to determine that all applicants should be required to focus on policy issues. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of the proposal.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested that the substance abuse priority require research on approaches for modifying treatment modalities to support the integration of patients with co-existing disabilities into community-based treatment programs rather than emphasize specialized programs. The commenter further suggested that the priority focus on employment outcomes, including retention.

Discussion: The priority does not preclude research focusing on either treatment modalities or employment outcomes for persons with disabilities who have substance abuse disorders. However, NIDRR has no basis to require that all applicants focus on these topics. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of the proposal.

Changes: None.

Comment: Two commenters suggested the priority require research in cross-training of program staff and community-based staff involved in providing services to individuals with disabilities who have substance abuse problems.

Discussion: The priority requires an applicant to provide training that improves community-integration outcomes for person with disabilities who are recovering from substance abuse problems. The applicant has the discretion to identify the specific target populations to be trained and the manner in which they will be trained. However, NIDRR has no basis to require all applicants to conduct cross-training of staff. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of the proposal.

Changes: None.

Health and Function

General

Comment: One commenter expressed concern that the Health and Function priorities do not specifically target the health needs of individuals with disabilities who are American Indian or Alaskan Native.

Discussion: NIDRR is aware of the critical health care issues facing American Indians and Alaskan Natives with disabilities. Nothing in the priority precludes an applicant from including these populations in proposed research. However, NIDRR has no basis for requiring that all applicants focus on these populations in responding to these priorities. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of the proposal.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested adding Parkinson's Disease to the list of possible RRTC topics or expanding the neuromuscular disease priority to include Parkinson's Disease.

Discussion: Parkinson's Disease is often categorized as a neuromuscular disease. Nothing in the priority precludes an applicant from proposing Parkinson's Disease as a topic under the neuromuscular disease category. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of the proposal.

Changes: None.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Notice 03-24: High Energy Physics Outstanding Junior Investigator Program

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice inviting grant applications.

SUMMARY: The Office of High Energy Physics of the Office of Science (SC), U.S. Department of Energy, hereby announces its interest in receiving grant applications for support under its Outstanding Junior Investigator (OJI) Program. Applications should be from tenure-track faculty investigators who are currently involved in experimental or theoretical high energy physics or accelerator physics research, and should be submitted through a U.S. academic

institution. The purpose of this program is to support the development of individual research programs by outstanding scientists early in their careers. Awards made under this program will help to maintain the vitality of university research and assure continued excellence in the teaching of physics.

DATES: To permit timely consideration for award in Fiscal Year 2004, formal applications submitted in response to this notice should be received before November 4, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Applications for OJI Awards referencing Program Notice DE-FG01-03ER03-24 must be submitted electronically by an authorized institutional business official through the DOE Industry Interactive Procurement System (IIPS) Web site at: <http://pr.doe.gov> (see also <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>). IIPS provides for the posting of solicitations and receipt of applications in a paperless environment via the Internet. In order to submit applications through IIPS your business official will need to register at the IIPS website. The Office of Science will include attachments as part of this notice that provide the appropriate forms in PDF fillable format that are to be submitted through IIPS. IIPS offers the option of submitting multiple files—please limit submissions to only one file within the volume if possible, with a maximum of no more than four files. Color images should be submitted in IIPS as a separate file in PDF format and identified as such. These images should be kept to a minimum due to the limitations of reproducing them. They should be numbered and referred to in the body of the technical scientific application as Color image 1, Color image 2, etc. Questions regarding the operation of IIPS may be E-mailed to the IIPS Help Desk at: HelpDesk@pr.doe.gov, or you may call the help desk at: (800) 683-0751. Further information on the use of IIPS by the Office of Science is available at: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Jeffrey Mandula, Office of High Energy Physics, SC-221/Germantown Building, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, Washington, DC 20585-1290. Telephone: (301) 903-4829. E-mail: jeffrey.mandula@science.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Outstanding Junior Investigator program was started in 1978 by the Department of Energy's Office of Science. A