

Fourth and Fifth Years of Project

In deciding whether to continue this project for the fourth and fifth years, the Secretary will consider the requirements of 34 CFR 75.253(a), and in addition—

(a) The recommendation of a review team consisting of experts selected by the Secretary which review will be conducted during the last half of the project's second year in Washington, DC. Projects must budget for the travel associated with this one-day intensive review;

(b) The timeliness and effectiveness with which all requirements of the negotiated cooperative agreement have been or are being met by the Center; and

(c) Evidence of the degree to which the Center's activities have contributed to a changed practice and improved student outcomes.

Special Education—Technology and Media Services for Individuals With Disabilities [CFDA Number 84.327]

Purpose of Program

To: (1) Improve results for children with disabilities by promoting the development, demonstration, and use of technology; (2) support educational media activities designed to be of educational value to children with disabilities; and (3) provide support for some captioning, video description, and cultural activities.

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 for this priority are chosen from the EDGAR general selection criteria in 34 CFR 75.210. The specific selection criteria for these competitions will be provided in the application package for these competitions.

Note: The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to IHEs only.

Note: The regulations in 34 CFR part 79 apply to all applicants except federally recognized Indian tribes.

Eligible Applicants

State and local educational agencies; IHEs; other public agencies; nonprofit private organizations; outlying areas; freely associated States; Indian tribes or tribal organizations; and for-profit organizations.

Priority

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

Absolute Priority 1—Family Center on Technology and Disability (84.327F)

Background

Parents and families play a critical role in obtaining the benefits of assistive technology for students with disabilities. Parents must often advocate for making assistive technology available to their children and can help in selecting, planning, and implementing assistive technology. Family support is often an important determinant of the success or failure of assistive technology.

To fulfill these functions, parents and families must have up-to-date information about various forms of assistive technology and the processes for obtaining assistive technology devices and services. Parents and families may need to learn skills in using technology and helping students with disabilities in its use.

There is a national infrastructure of programs and organizations that can potentially address the assistive technology-related needs of parents and families. These include the Parent Training and Information Centers and the Community Parent Resource Centers funded by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), disability and advocacy groups, professional associations, community groups, etc. However, these programs and organizations are often not adequately prepared to provide information and services related to assistive technology.

Since 1998, OSEP has funded a center called the Family Center on Technology and Disability (FCTD) not to work directly with parents but instead to work with other relevant programs and organizations to improve the availability and quality of technology-related information and support to families of children with disabilities. Information about FCTD is available at the Center's Web site at: <http://www.fctd.info>. The contract supporting FCTD is currently scheduled to end in September 2003.

Priority

The purpose of this priority is to support a cooperative agreement for a Center to improve the availability and quality of technology-related information and support to families of children with disabilities. The Center's activities must include, but are not limited to:

(a) *Developing a strategic plan.* The Center must review existing data and literature and develop a strategic plan for increasing the capacity of projects and organizations such as the Parent Training and Information Centers and the Community Parent Resource Centers

funded by OSEP, disability and advocacy groups, professional associations, and community groups to meet the assistive technology needs of parents and families within the parameters of this priority. The purpose of this strategic plan is to integrate the Center's various activities, as described below, into a cohesive process for improving the capacity of projects and organizations to meet the assistive technology needs of parents and families.

(b) *Maintaining and expanding a broad-based network.* The Center must retrieve all available information on network members from the current FCTD contractor and establish a database and communication system for maintaining the network. The Center must also establish and carry out a plan for identifying and recruiting as network members other relevant programs and organizations that can help to address the technology-related needs of parents and families of children with disabilities.

(c) *Providing information and support to the network.* The Center must develop and carry out plans for providing network members with information and resources that will enable them to better meet the assistive technology needs of the parents and families with whom they work. The Center must develop and carry out plans for fostering communication and collaboration with and among the programs and organizations in the network to better meet the assistive technology needs of the parents and families. The Center must provide for information exchange through a newsletter.

(d) *Developing strategic responses to direct inquiries from parents and families.* It is likely that the Center will receive inquiries about assistive technology directly from parents and families of children with disabilities, even though it is not intended to provide this type of direct assistance. The Center must develop a plan for referring these contacts to the appropriate members of the network, and for using them as an opportunity for developing the capacity of projects and organizations to respond to the needs expressed.

(e) *Collecting, revising, developing, and disseminating materials.* The Center must retrieve the resource review database and materials collected by the current FCTD contractor and establish a searchable online database to continue making these reviews available to the public. The Center must continue to update and expand the resource review database by removing outdated