

materials and adding new materials. The Center must, to the maximum extent possible, include high quality resources that are available free of charge and downloadable from the Internet. The Center must focus on materials that are useful in meeting the assistive technology needs of parents and families, and must avoid, to the maximum extent possible, duplicating the functions of other online resources such as *assitivetech.net* and *abledata.com*.

(f) *Participating in meetings, conferences, and events.* The Center must participate in meetings, conferences, and other events to improve the capacity of other projects and organizations to meet assistive technology needs of parents and families. The Center's participation may include, but is not limited to, delivering presentations, exhibiting and demonstrating materials, conducting discussions, and participating in work groups.

(g) *Maintaining an accessible Web site.* The Center must maintain an accessible site on the Web with information about the Center, the searchable resource review database, topical online discussions, links to other relevant sites, newsletters, and other resources.

(h) *Conducting evaluations.* The Center must conduct evaluations of its activities to determine if it is meeting needs effectively and efficiently. The Center must report its evaluation findings annually to the Federal project officer.

(i) *Maintaining communication with the Federal project officer.* The Center must conduct monthly phone conversations with the Federal project officer and must maintain e-mail communication as needed. The Center must submit annual performance reports and provide additional written materials as needed for the Federal project officer to monitor the Center's work.

#### 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.

#### Absolute Priority 2—Television Access (84.327J)

This priority supports cooperative agreements to provide (1) Captioning of local news and public information television programs, and (2) captioning, description, or captioning and description of children's television programs. Only programs not previously captioned are eligible for funds for captioning under this activity. In awarding funds the Secretary will consider the extent to which the applicant or a third party shares in the cost of the project. Program hours or the costs of captioning associated with those programs that are funded by promotional billboards will not be considered as an in-kind cost, or a private sector match, for Federal funds.

A project must do the following:

(a) Include criteria for selecting programs that take into account the preference of educators, students, and parents; the diversity of the type of programming available; and the contribution of the programming to the general educational experience of students who have disabilities in the areas of vision or hearing.

(b) Identify and support a consumer advisory group, including parents and educators, that would meet at least annually.

(c) Use the expertise of this consumer advisory group to certify that each program captioned or described with project funds is educational, news, or informational programming.

(d) Identify the extent to which the programming is widely available.

(e) Identify the total number of program hours the project will make accessible and the cost per hour for description or captioning or both.

(f) For each program to be described or captioned or both, identify the source of any private or other public support, and the projected dollar amount of that support, if any.

(g) Demonstrate the willingness of program providers or owners of programs to permit and facilitate the description or captioning or both of their programs.

(h) Provide assurances from program providers or owners of programs stating that programs made accessible under this project will air, and will continue to air, with descriptions or captions or both.

(i) Implement procedures for monitoring the extent to which full accessibility is provided, and use this information to make refinements in project operations.

(j) Identify the anticipated shelf-life and range of distribution of the captioned or described programs that is possible without further costs to the project beyond the initial captioning costs.

An application may address only one type of the following programs—

(1) *Local News and Public Information Programs.* The Secretary intends to fund projects that will increase the capacity of the television captioning industry to respond to demands for accurate real-time captioning. To be funded a project must caption local news and public information programs using the real-time stenographic method preferred by consumers who are deaf or hard of hearing.

(2) *Accessible Children's Television Programs.* The Secretary intends to fund projects that will describe and caption widely available educational, news, and informational programs for children shown on broadcast, satellite, or cable systems.

#### Competitive Preference Priority

Within the Local News and Public Information Programs segment of this absolute priority, we award under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i) an additional 20 points to an application from an applicant that—

(a) During fiscal year 2002, was not a grantee or a subcontractor of a grantee under the Technology and Media Services for Individuals with Disabilities program; and

(b) Won't use a subcontractor who was a grantee or a subcontractor of a grantee under this program during fiscal year 2002.

Thus, an applicant meeting this competitive preference could receive a maximum possible score of 120 points.

#### Fiscal Information

Under this priority, we intend to make one or more awards in each of the two areas of activity identified.

#### Absolute Priority 3—Center on Technology and Standards-Based Reform for Students With Disabilities (84.327R)

Standards-based reform is premised on a "theory of action" in which standards, assessments, and accountability lead to improved curriculum and clear expectations for students and schools, which in turn lead to professional development and