

General Requirements

(a) The projects funded under this competition must make positive efforts to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities (see section 606 of IDEA).

(b) Applicants and grant recipients under this competition must involve qualified individuals with disabilities or parents of individuals with disabilities in planning, implementing, and evaluating the projects (see section 661(f)(1)(A) of IDEA).

(c) If a project maintains a Web site, it must include relevant information and documents in an accessible form on the Web site.

Priority

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

Background

Since the early 1980s, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has funded a national clearinghouse to provide individuals and organizations throughout the Nation with information, referral, and technical assistance regarding children with disabilities and disability-related issues. Disseminating information is intended to support States and local entities in building capacity to improve early intervention, educational, and transitional services, and results for children with disabilities and their families, and to address systemic-change goals and priorities. As additional parents and professionals address issues related to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, as amended (IDEA), and the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), the need for information will intensify and existing materials will have to be updated, revised, and improved upon.

Given the prominence and complexity of technology within our current information age and the increased demand for timely and accurate information, a central repository of information is critical to the success of a national dissemination effort. This priority will support a national center to serve as a central repository of products developed by OSEP-funded technical assistance and dissemination (TA & D) projects. The chief aim of the center, however, would be to disseminate information about IDEA and NCLB to all interested parties.

Priority

This priority will support a cooperative agreement for a national dissemination center that will (1) serve as a repository for products developed by OSEP's TA & D network, (2) maintain

a database of products developed by OSEP's TA & D network, as well as scientifically-based products not developed by the TA & D network, and (3) disseminate products. This Center must be named the National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities.

The Center must—

(a) Conduct a semi-annual survey of all OSEP-funded TA & D centers to determine the current status of products developed and in development. The Center must report its findings to the Federal project officer.

(b) Collect and disseminate information on the programs and services affecting infants, toddlers, and children with disabilities under IDEA, NCLB, and other Federal education laws.

(c) Collect information related to research on the provision of special education and early intervention services and disseminate that information to teachers and related services professionals, early intervention personnel, teacher trainers, administrators, policy makers, and researchers through a variety of publications and conferences.

(d) Participate in programs and activities to collect and disseminate information on issues related to children with disabilities and promote networking among appropriate national, State, and local agencies and organizations that deal with issues under IDEA. The Center must coordinate its activities with Parent Training and Information Centers, Community Parent Resource Centers, the National and Regional Parent Technical Assistance Centers projects, Regional Resource Centers, and other centers supported under Part D, including research institutes and training centers, age-specific technical assistance centers, and content-specific technical assistance centers. Evidence of collaboration and proposed outcomes of the collaboration must be reported to the Federal project officer.

(e) Develop informational exchanges among the Center and other OSEP TA & D centers, and other federally-supported TA & D centers as appropriate.

(f) In addition to the above networking activities, collaborate and communicate with other OSEP-funded projects such as the State Improvement grantees, General Supervision Enhancement grantees, and the National Center for Special Education Accountability Monitoring. Evidence of collaboration and proposed outcomes of the collaboration must be reported to the Federal project officer.

(g) Establish a coordinated network and conduct outreach activities with relevant Federal, State, and local organizations aimed at disseminating relevant information on research, programs, and services.

(h) Maintain a database of all products developed by OSEP's TA & D network and other related products as appropriate. This database must include information on practices, including interventions, techniques, programs, and models. This information must be in a standard format that includes, at a minimum, the following:

(1) The specific practice and the intended audience.

(2) The extent to which clear guidelines for successful implementation of the practice are available.

(3) The extent to which the practice includes:

(i) Appropriate training for all implementers;

(ii) Systemic implementation utilizing appropriate organizational structures and processes; and

(iii) High expectations and effective assessment of student progress.

(4) Where interested individuals can see the practice in operation, producing the intended level of results.

(5) The cost to implement the practice.

(i) Develop and implement strategies to disseminate information to underrepresented groups such as those with limited English proficiency.

(j) Create and maintain a Web site that (1) links electronically to all OSEP-funded TA & D project Web sites, (2) contains a database of all OSEP-funded TA & D products, (3) contains a searchable database that includes all active OSEP discretionary projects, (4) keeps information and documents in an accessible form, and (5) is available in both English and Spanish.

The Center's product development activities must include but are not limited to the following:

(a) Developing products on IDEA legislation and NCLB as it relates to students with disabilities, as requested and approved by OSEP.

(b) Establishing a mechanism for synthesizing and disseminating research information to all interested parties. For topics that the What Works Clearinghouse does not plan to address the Center will use the What Works Clearinghouse protocols to carry out synthesis work. This process must include the involvement of researchers who will assist the Center in the synthesis of research. Topics must be approved by OSEP prior to synthesis. This activity must include but is not