

allowable indirect cost rate, which may not exceed 10 percent of the amount of funds in the permanent and separate account and any outstanding loans from that account.

(8) *Administrative Policies and Procedures*: An assurance that the State or Indian tribe will submit to the Secretary the following policies and procedures for administration of Telework: (1) A procedure to review and process in a timely manner requests for financial assistance for immediate and potential needs, including consideration of methods to reduce paperwork and duplication of effort, particularly relating to need, eligibility, and determination of the specific device or service to be financed through the program; (2) A policy and procedure to ensure that access to Telework shall be given to consumers regardless of type of disability, age, income level, location of residence in the State or Indian tribe, or type of device or service for which financing is requested through the program; and (3) A procedure to ensure consumer-controlled oversight of the program.

Grantees must submit the administrative policies and procedures required in this assurance within six months of the start of the grant.

(9) *Data Collection*: An assurance that the State or Indian tribe will collect the following: (A) Information on whether the program is achieving its short-term goal of increasing access to technology for disabled individuals through the provision of loans that must be used to purchase computers and other equipment, including adaptive equipment, so that individuals with disabilities can telework from home and other remote sites; and (B) Information on whether the program is achieving its long-term goal of increasing employment opportunities and competitive employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities.

Grantees must enter the data requested in this assurance, and other data the Secretary may require, in the system developed by the Secretary.

Through the analysis of data collected under the following reporting requirements, the Secretary will assess grantee success in meeting the program's overall goals of: (1) Increasing access to technology for disabled individuals; and (2) Increasing employment opportunities and competitive employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities.

Performance measures used to determine whether the goals have been accomplished will include: (1) Number of loan applications; (2) number of loans; (3) amount and terms of each

loan; (4) number of loan applications denied and the reasons for the denials; (5) the types of equipment financed, including the total number of each type of equipment financed; (6) number of individuals who obtained telework employment as a result of Telework loans; (7) default rate and net losses; and (8) the total financial contribution to the project, including the Federal share and non-Federal matching contributions, and the source of the non-Federal share.

Grantee evaluation systems must be capable of collecting and analyzing this and any additional information as required by the Secretary.

In addition, each State applicant must provide the following assurance:

Contract with a Community-based Organization: an assurance that the State (note: Indian tribes are exempt from this requirement) will enter into a contract with a community-based organization (including a group of such organizations) that has individuals with disabilities involved in organizational decision making at all organizational levels, to administer Telework. The contract will: (1) Include a provision requiring that the program funds, including the Federal and non-Federal shares of the cost of the program, be administered in a manner consistent with the provisions of this priority; (2) include any provision the Secretary requires concerning oversight and evaluation necessary to protect Federal financial interests; and (3) require the community-based organization to enter into a contract, to expand opportunities under this priority and facilitate administration of Telework, with commercial lending institutions or organizations or State financing agencies.

During the first 12-month budget period, a grantee must enter into the contract with a CBO and ensure that the CBO has entered into the contract with the commercial lending institutions or organizations or State financing agencies.

Applicability of Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) to AFP and Telework

In general, EDGAR applies to these two grants except to the extent it is inconsistent with the purpose and intent of title III of the AT Act, section 303(b) of the Rehab Act, or the requirements in this notice. Specifically, grantees are exempt from section 80.21(i) regarding interest earned on advances and the addition method in section 80.25(g)(2) applies to program income rather than the deduction

method in section 80.25(g)(1). Also, sections 75.560–75.564 do not apply to the extent that these sections of EDGAR are inconsistent with the AFP and Telework requirement that indirect costs cannot exceed 10 percent. Finally, section 75.125, which requires applicants to submit a separate application for each program, does not apply to this competition.

Changes in NIDRR's and RSA's Application Processes for AFP and Telework Awards

Based upon public comments made in response to the earlier **Federal Register** notices for the AFP and Telework, NIDRR and RSA are planning on making changes to the application process for the grant awards. These revised application procedures will assist applicants to prepare fundable proposals, simplify the information that is required in the application, and streamline the application review process. NIDRR and RSA expect to fund all applications that meet the requirements set forth in the proposed priorities.

In order to promote fundable applications, NIDRR and RSA will provide applicants with technical assistance on their proposals beginning with the publication of this notice and up until the deadline for submission of applications. Prior to the application deadline, NIDRR and RSA will answer questions, review draft proposals, and provide applicants with feedback in order to assist them to submit a fundable application. In addition, NIDRR's AFP Technical Assistance project will provide assistance to all entities that are interested in applying for an AFP or Telework award.

The application process will be simplified by requiring applicants to submit a number of assurances, and a limited amount of information related to those assurances. NIDRR and RSA will not require applicants to provide details in their applications concerning the policies and procedures they will use to administer their AFP or Telework grant. These policies and procedures will be submitted by grantees to NIDRR or RSA within the first year of the grant.

NIDRR and RSA will use an internal application review process to determine whether all the necessary assurances and required program information have been submitted. This will ensure that the same standards that are used to provide applicants with information and feedback during the application period will be applied to evaluate applications for funding.

The Notice Inviting Applications that accompanies the final priorities will ask