

Under the terms of the order, we have assessed the potential costs and benefits of this regulatory action.

The potential costs associated with this notice are those resulting from requirements we have determined as necessary for administering this program effectively and efficiently.

In assessing the potential costs and benefits—both quantitative and qualitative—of this notice, we have determined that the benefits of the proposed priority, definitions, and application requirements justify the costs.

We have also determined that this regulatory action does not unduly interfere with State, local, and tribal governments in the exercise of their governmental functions.

Summary of Potential Costs and Benefits

The Assistant Secretary has determined that the cost to the Federal Government associated with this program will not exceed \$1,200,000 in FY 2003. No other costs will result from the announcement of this proposed priority, definitions, and application requirements.

The benefit of this proposed priority, definitions, and application requirements will be the establishment of model demonstration projects that will lead to increases in meaningful postsecondary education and quality employment outcomes through a mentoring system within State VR agencies.

Intergovernmental Review

This program is subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. One of the objectives of the Executive order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism. The Executive order relies on processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

This document provides early notification of our specific plans and actions for this program.

Applicable Program Regulations

34 CFR part 373.

Electronic Access to This Document

You may review this document, as well as all other Department of Education documents published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister>.

To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free

at this site. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free, at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC, area at (202) 512-1530.

Note: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html>.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 84.235Q, Special Demonstration Programs—Model Demonstration Projects—Mentoring for Transition-Age Youth and Young Adults With Disabilities)

Program Authority: 29 U.S.C. 773(b).

Dated: July 31, 2003.

Robert H. Pasternack,
Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

[FR Doc. 03-19876 Filed 8-4-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No.: 84.235Q]

Special Demonstration Programs— Model Demonstration Projects— Mentoring for Transition-Age Youth and Young Adults With Disabilities; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

Purpose of Program: To provide financial assistance to projects that expand and improve the provision of rehabilitation and other services for individuals with disabilities. These model demonstration projects will focus on mentoring models that provide appropriate supports for transition-age youth and young adults with disabilities. The mentoring models developed under this program must incorporate effective, research-based mentoring methods. The model demonstration projects will test whether increases in meaningful postsecondary education and quality employment outcomes can be achieved through the use of mentors by State vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies.

Eligible Applicants: State VR agencies.

Supplementary Information: Funds under this competition will be used to support projects in FY 2003. Along with other authorized activities, funds may be used for the payment of mentors. In FY 2004, the Assistant Secretary may consider funding high-quality applications submitted in FY 2003, but not funded in FY 2003.

Applications Available: August 5, 2003.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: September 4, 2003.

Estimated Available Funds: \$750,000.
Estimated Range of Awards: \$150,000–\$200,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$185,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 4.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: 60 months.

Page Limit: The application narrative (Part III of the application) is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. It is suggested that you limit Part III to 35 pages.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, 97, and 99. (b) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 373.

Selection Criteria: In evaluating an application for a new grant under this competition, we use selection criteria developed in accordance with 34 CFR 75.209 or chosen from the general selection criteria in 34 CFR 75.210 or a combination of both. The selection criteria to be used for this competition will be provided in the application package for this competition.

Priorities

**Model Demonstration Projects—
Mentoring for Transition-Age Youth and
Young Adults With Disabilities**

It is the policy of the Department of Education not to solicit applications before the publication of final priorities. However, in this case it is essential to solicit applications on the basis of the notice of proposed priority, definitions, and application requirements published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**, because the Department's authority to obligate these funds will expire on September 30, 2003.

Applicants should base their applications on the proposed priority, definitions, and application requirements. If changes are made in the final notice in response to public comments or other considerations, applicants will be given an opportunity to revise or resubmit their applications.

For FY 2003, this priority is an absolute priority. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) we consider only applications that meet the priority, definitions, and application requirements.

Invitational Priority

We are particularly interested in applications that meet the following invitational priority.