

an invitational priority does not receive competitive or absolute preference over other applications. The invitational priorities are: (a) Projects that improve the exit of individuals with disabilities from buildings, vehicles, and other settings in emergencies; (b) projects that study use of the new "International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health" (ICFDH-2) systems in promoting the independence and quality of life of persons with disabilities; (c) projects that collaborate with international assistive technology and rehabilitation engineering projects including, but not limited to, those that could be carried out under Science and Technology Agreements between the U.S. and other countries; (d) projects that enhance the functioning of people with chronic fatigue (CF); (e) projects that study chronic pain and pain management strategies to enhance the functioning of individuals with disabilities; and (f) projects that study mental health interventions related to traumatic stress of individuals with disabilities.

Eligible Applicants: States; public or private agencies, including for-profit agencies; public or private organizations, including for-profit organizations; institutions of higher education; and Indian tribes and tribal organizations.

Indirect Cost Rate: Applicants should limit indirect charges to the organization's federally approved indirect cost rate. If the organization does not have an approved indirect cost rate, the application should include an estimated actual rate.

Letters of Intent

Due to the open nature of the FI Projects competition, and to assist with the selection of reviewers for this competition, NIDRR is requiring all potential applicants to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI). This LOI will not be used to screen out potential applicants. Therefore, LOIs are neither approved nor disapproved. You will not be contacted about the status of your LOI.

Each LOI must be limited to a maximum of four pages and must include the following information: (1) The title of the proposed project, if it is research or development, the name of the host institution, the name of the Principal Investigator (PI), and the names of partner institutions and entities; (2) a brief statement of the vision, goals, and objectives of the proposed project and a description of its research and development activities at a sufficient level of detail to allow NIDRR to select potential peer reviewers; (3) a list of proposed project staff including

the Director and key personnel; (4) a list of individuals whose selection as a peer reviewer might constitute a conflict of interest due to involvement in proposal development, selection as an advisory board member, co-PI relationships, etc.; and (5) contact information for the PI. Submission of a LOI is a prerequisite for eligibility to submit an application.

NIDRR will accept a LOI via surface mail, e-mail, or facsimile by November 10, 2003. If a LOI is submitted via e-mail or facsimile, the applicant must also provide NIDRR with the original signed LOI within seven days after the date the e-mail or facsimile is submitted. The LOI must be sent to: Surface mail: David Keer, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 3431, Switzer Building, Washington, DC 20202-2645; or fax (202) 205-8515; or e-mail: david.keer@ed.gov.

For further information regarding the LOI requirement contact David Keer at (202) 205-5633.

Program Authority: 29 U.S.C. 764.

Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Projects (CFDA Number 84.133P)

Purpose of Program: ARRT projects must provide research training and experience at an advanced level to individuals *with doctorates or similar advanced degrees* who have clinical or other relevant experience. ARRT projects train rehabilitation researchers, including individuals with disabilities, with particular attention to research areas that support the implementation and objectives of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Act), and that improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Act.

ARRT projects must carry out all of the following activities: (1) Recruit and select candidates for advanced research training; (2) provide a training program that includes didactic and classroom instruction, is multidisciplinary, and emphasizes scientific methodology, and may involve collaboration among institutions; (3) provide research experience, laboratory experience, or its equivalent in a community-based research setting, and a practicum that involves each individual in clinical research and in practical activities with organizations representing individuals with disabilities; (4) provide academic mentorship or guidance, and opportunities for scientific collaboration with qualified researchers at the host university and other appropriate institutions; and (5) provide opportunities for participation in the development of professional presentations and publications, and for attendance at professional conferences

and meetings as appropriate for the individual's field of study and level of experience.

Eligible Applicants: Institutions of higher education.

Indirect Cost Rate: Indirect cost reimbursement on a training grant is limited to eight percent of a modified total direct cost base, defined as total direct less stipends, tuition, and related fees.

Program Authority: 29 U.S.C. 762(k).

Application Procedures

Note: Some of the procedures in these instructions for transmitting applications differ from those in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) (34 CFR 75.102). Under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553) the Department generally offers interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed regulations. However, these amendments make procedural changes only and do not establish new substantive policy. Therefore, under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(A), the Secretary has determined that proposed rulemaking is not required.

Pilot Project for Electronic Submission of Applications

In FY 2004, the Department is continuing to expand its pilot project for electronic submission of applications to include additional formula grant programs and additional discretionary grant competitions. The Field-Initiated Projects program—CFDA 84.133G and the Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Projects program—CFDA 84.133P are two of the programs included in the pilot project. If you are an applicant under the Field-Initiated Projects program—CFDA 84.133G or the Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Projects program—CFDA 84.133P, you may submit your application to us in either electronic or paper format.

The pilot project involves the use of the Electronic Grant Application System (e-Application). Users of e-Application will be entering data on-line while completing their applications. You may not e-mail a soft copy of a grant application to us. If you participate in this voluntary pilot project by submitting an application electronically, the data you enter on-line will be saved into a database. We request your participation in e-Application. We shall continue to evaluate its success and solicit suggestions for its improvement.

If you participate in e-Application, please note the following:

- Your participation is voluntary.
- When you enter the e-Application system, you will find information about its hours of operation. We strongly