

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.

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(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 84.224C, Alternative Financing Program and 84.235T, Access to Telework Fund Program.)

**Program Authority:** 29 U.S.C. 773(b) and 29 U.S.C. 3051–3056.

Dated: September 25, 2003.

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

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## **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

### **National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR); Notice of Extension**

**AGENCY:** Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of extension of project period and waiver.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary waives the requirements in Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), at 34 CFR 75.250 and 75.261(a) and (c)(2), respectively, that generally prohibit project periods exceeding 5 years and project period extensions involving the obligation of additional Federal funds to enable six Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers that conduct research on issues relating to the employment of individuals with disabilities to receive funding from October 1, 2003 until April 30, 2004.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This notice is effective September 30, 2003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Donna Nangle, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 3412, Switzer Building, Washington, DC 20202–2645. Telephone: (202) 205–5880 or via Internet: [Donna.Nangle@ed.gov](mailto:Donna.Nangle@ed.gov).

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the TDD number at (202) 205–4475.