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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No.: 84.129W]

Rehabilitation Training: Rehabilitation Long-Term Training—Comprehensive System of Personnel Development; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

Purpose of Program: The Rehabilitation Long-Term Training program provides financial assistance for projects that provide basic or advanced training leading to an academic degree, provide a specified series of courses or program of study leading to award of a certificate, or provide support for medical residents enrolled in residency training programs in the specialty of physical medicine and rehabilitation. The Rehabilitation Long-Term Training program is designed to provide academic training in identified areas of personnel shortages.

For FY 2004 the competition for new awards focuses on projects designed to meet the priority we describe in the PRIORITY section of this application notice.

Eligible Applicants: States and public or nonprofit agencies and organizations, including Indian tribes and institutions of higher education, are eligible for assistance under the Rehabilitation Training: Rehabilitation Long-Term Training program.

Applications Available: October 31, 2003.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: January 6, 2004.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: March 6, 2004.

Estimated Available Funds: \$1,600,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$100,000–\$200,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$150,000.

Maximum Award: We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding \$200,000 for a single budget period of 12 months. The Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services may change the maximum amount through a notice published in the **Federal Register**.

Estimated Number of Awards: 8.

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

Project Period: Up to 60 months.

Page Limit: Part III of the application, the application narrative, is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. You must limit Part III to the equivalent of no more than 45 pages, using the following standards:

- A page is 8.5" × 11", on one side only, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides.
- Double space (no more than three lines per vertical inch all text in the application narrative, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.

- Use a font that is either 12-point or larger or no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch).

The page limit does not apply to Part I, the cover sheet; Part II, the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; Part IV, the assurances and certifications; or the one-page abstract, the resumes, the bibliography, or the letters of support. However, you must include all of the application narrative in Part III.

We will reject your application if—

- You apply these standards and exceed the page limit; or
- You apply other standards and exceed the equivalent of the page limit.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, and 86. (b) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR parts 385 and 386.

Note: The regulations in 34 CFR part 79 apply to all applicants except federally recognized Indian tribes.

Note: The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to institutions of higher education only.

Priority

This competition focuses on projects designed to meet the priority in the notice of final priority for this program, published in the **Federal Register** on October 16, 1998 (63 FR 55764).

For FY 2004 this priority is an absolute priority. Under 34 CFR 75.105 (c)(3) we consider only applications that meet the priority:

Projects must—

- (1) Provide training leading to academic degrees or academic certificates to current vocational rehabilitation counselors, including counselors with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and those from diverse backgrounds, toward meeting designated State unit (DSU) personnel standards required under section 101(a)(7) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, commonly referred to as the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD);
- (2) Address the academic degree and academic certificate needs specified in the CSPD plans of those States with which the project will be working; and
- (3) Develop innovative approaches (e.g., distance learning, competency-based programs, and other methods) that would maximize participation in, and the effectiveness of, project training.

Multi-State projects and projects that involve consortia of institutions and agencies are also authorized, although other projects will be considered.

The regulations in 34 CFR 386.31(b) require that a minimum of 75 percent of project funds be used to support student scholarships and stipends. The regulations also provide that the Secretary may waive this requirement under certain circumstances, including new training programs.

Finally, the Secretary intends to approve a wide range of approaches for providing training and different levels of funding, based on the quality of individual projects. The Secretary takes these factors into account in making grants under this priority.

Performance Measures: The Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993 directs Federal departments and agencies to improve the effectiveness of their programs by engaging in strategic planning, setting outcome-related goals for programs, and measuring program results against those goals. Program officials must develop performance measures for all of their grant programs to assess their performance and effectiveness. The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) has established a set of indicators to assess the effectiveness of the Rehabilitation Training program and