

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services****Postsecondary Education Programs for Individuals With Disabilities and Regional Centers for Deaf Individuals**

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Accept Applications.

SUMMARY: This notice is to inform potential applicants that the Department of Education intends to accept applications in fiscal year 1996 for the four regional centers for deaf individuals authorized under section 625 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 625(a)(6) of the Individuals with

Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) required the Secretary to continue to provide assistance to the current grantees operating the four regional centers for the deaf through September 30, 1995. The Department's bill to reauthorize programs under the IDEA would provide authority to continue to provide assistance to current grantees under this program in fiscal year 1996, and the Congress is currently working on reauthorization legislation for the IDEA. However, since current law does not provide authority for continuation of current grantees, and it is unclear what specific provisions may be included in the reauthorization legislation, the Department must proceed with plans to conduct a competition for fiscal year 1996 funds for this activity. The Department plans to publish a notice of proposed priority

governing the competition subsequent to this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ramon Rodriguez, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 3125, Switzer Building, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 205-8555. Fax: (202) 205-9252. Internet: Ramon—Rodriguez@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the TDD number at (202) 205-9156.

Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1424a.

Dated: January 18, 1996.

Judith E. Heumann,

Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

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