

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No.: 84.133A]

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services; National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research; Notice Inviting Applications for New Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI); Model Systems Projects Under the Disability and Rehabilitation; Research Projects and Centers Program for Fiscal Year 1998

Purpose of Program: Authority for Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRPs) is contained in section 202 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 761a). DRRPs carry out one or more of the following types of activities, as specified in 34 CFR 350.13–350.19: research, development, demonstration, training, dissemination, utilization, and technical assistance. Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities.

This notice supports the National Education Goal that calls for all Americans to possess the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global economy and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Deadline for Transmittal of

Applications: March 23, 1998.

Application Available: January 20, 1998.

Maximum Award Amount per Year: \$345,000.

Note: The Secretary will reject without consideration or evaluation any application that proposes a project funding level that exceeds the stated maximum award amount per year (See 34 CFR 75.104(b)).

Estimated Number of Awards: 10.

Note: The estimates of funding level and awards in this notice do not bind the Department of Education to a specific level of funding or number of grants.

Project Period: 48 months.

Eligible Applicants: Parties eligible to apply for grants under this program are 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.

Applicable Regulations: The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, 85, 86, and 34 CFR part 350.

Priority: This notice invites applications for TBI Model Systems Projects. On May 9, 1997 a notice of final priority was published in the **Federal Register** establishing the required activities for TBI Model System Projects in fiscal year 1997 and fiscal year 1998.

The conference agreement accompanying NIDRR's FY 1998 appropriation included \$5 million to permit NIDRR to establish additional TBI Model System projects and a national data center.

This notice invites applications for additional TBI Model Systems Projects in FY 1998. In addition to establishing the TBI Model Systems Project in FY 1998, NIDRR plans to invite applications for collaborative research involving the TBI Model Systems.

On February 6, 1997 NIDRR published in the **Federal Register** regulations consolidating a number of regulations governing NIDRR's existing programs, including, but not limited to, Parts 350 (General Provisions) and 351 (Research and Demonstration Projects). These new regulations took effect on October 1, 1997 and apply to this competition. The new regulations include a new menu of selection criteria (34 CFR 350.54) for use in evaluating all applications. NIDRR has drawn from this menu of selection criteria to establish the specific selection criteria (contained in the application package) that will be used to evaluate applications for the TBI Model Systems Projects priority referenced in this notice inviting applications. The final priorities established for the TBI Model Systems R&D Projects in FY 1997 will be used for equivalent projects in FY 1998.

For Applications Contact: The Grants and Contracts Service Team (GCST), Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue S.W., Switzer Building, 3317, Washington, D.C. 20202, or call (202) 205-8207. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the TDD number at (202) 205-9860. The preferred method

for requesting information is to FAX your request to (202) 205-8717.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain a copy of the application package in an alternate format by contacting the GCST. However, the Department is not able to reproduce in an alternate format the standard forms included in the application package.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Donna Nangle, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Maryland Avenue, S.W., room 3418, Switzer Building, Washington, D.C. 20202-2645. Telephone: (202) 205-5880. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the TDD number at (202) 205-2742. Internet: Donna_Nangle@ed.gov

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternate format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed in the preceding paragraph.

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Note: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**.

Program Authority: 29 U.S.C. 760-762.

Dated: January 15, 1998.

Howard R. Moses,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

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