

points); (2) The relationship of the research to the literature on the topic and to major theoretical issues in the field, and the project's originality and importance in terms of the concerns of the discipline (10 points); (3) The preliminary research already completed in the United States and overseas or plans for such research prior to going overseas, and the kinds, quality and availability of data for the research in the host country or countries (10 points); (4) The justification for overseas field research and preparations to establish appropriate and sufficient research contacts and affiliations abroad (10 points); (5) The applicant's plans to share the results of the research in progress and a copy of the dissertation with scholars and officials of the host country or countries (10 points); and (6) The guidance and supervision of the dissertation advisor or committee at all stages of the project, including guidance in developing the project, understanding research conditions abroad, and acquainting the applicant with research in the field (10 points).

Qualifications of the applicant (40 points): In determining the qualifications of the applicant, the Secretary considers (1) The overall strength of the applicant's graduate academic record (10 points); (2) The extent to which the applicant's academic record demonstrates a strength in area studies relevant to the proposed project (10 points); (3) The applicant's proficiency in one or more of the languages (other than English and the applicant's native language) of the country or countries of research, and the specific measures to be taken to overcome any anticipated language barriers (15 points); and (4) The applicant's ability to conduct research in a foreign cultural context, as evidenced by the applicant's references or previous overseas experience, or both (5 points).

VI. Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices: If a student application is successful, we notify the IHE's U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators and send the IHE a Grant Award Notification (GAN). We may also notify the IHE informally.

If a student application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we notify the IHE.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements: We identify administrative and national policy requirements in the application package and reference these and other requirements in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice.

We reference the regulations outlining the terms and conditions of an award in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice and include these and other specific conditions in the GAN. The GAN also incorporates its approved application as part of its binding commitments under the grant.

3. Reporting: At the end of the project period, the IHE must submit a final performance report, including the final reports of all of the IHE's fellows, and financial information, as directed by the Secretary. The IHE and fellows are required to use the electronic reporting system Evaluation of Exchange, Language, International and Area Studies (EELIAS) to complete the final report.

4. Performance Measures: The objective of the Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship Program is to maintain a U.S. higher education system able to produce experts in less commonly taught languages and area studies who are capable of contributing to the needs of the U.S. government, academic, and business institutions.

The following performance measure has been developed to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the DDRA program—The improvement of language proficiency of fellows. All grantees will be expected to provide documentation of the improved language proficiency of the fellows through the EELIAS system. Reporting screens for institutions and fellows may be viewed at: <http://www.eelias.org/pdfs/ddra/ddradirectorcombined.pdf>, <http://www.eelias.org/pdfs/ddra/ddrafellowcombined.pdf>.

VII. Agency Contact

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Carla White, International Education Programs Service, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., suite 6000, Washington, DC 20006-8521. Telephone: (202) 502-7700 or via the Internet: ddra@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the program contact person listed in this section.

VIII. Other Information

Electronic Access to This Document: You may view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document

Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/news/fedregister>.

To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free, at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC, area at (202) 512-1530.

Note: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html>.

Dated: September 20, 2006.

James F. Manning,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

[FR Doc. E6-15758 Filed 9-25-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Overview Information; Training and Information for Parents of Children With Disabilities—Parent Training and Information Centers; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.328M.

Dates: Applications Available: September 26, 2006.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: November 13, 2006.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: January 9, 2007.

Eligible Applicants: Parent organizations, as defined in section III. Eligibility Information in this notice.

Estimated Available Funds: The Administration has requested \$25,704,000 for the Training and Information for Parents of Children with Disabilities program for FY 2007, of which we intend to use an estimated \$8,957,406 for the Parent Training and Information Centers competition. The actual level of funding, if any, depends on final congressional action. However, we are inviting applications to allow enough time to complete the grant process if Congress appropriates funds for this program.

Information concerning funding amounts for individual States is provided in a chart elsewhere in this notice under section II. Award Information.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$319,907.

Estimated Number of Awards: 28.

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

Project Period: With the exception of projects in the States of Alabama, Oklahoma, and Region 3 of Florida, projects will be funded for a period up to 60 months. Projects in Alabama and Florida—Region 3 will be funded for a period up to 48 months; projects in Oklahoma will be funded for a period up to 36 months.

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose of Program: The purpose of this program is to ensure that parents of children with disabilities receive training and information to help improve results for their children.

Priority: In accordance with 34 CFR 75.105(b)(2)(iv) and (v), this priority is from allowable activities specified in the statute, or otherwise authorized in the statute (see sections 671 and 681(d) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)).

Absolute Priority: For FY 2007 this priority is an absolute priority. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), we consider only applications that meet this priority.

This priority is:

Parent Training and Information Centers (PTI Centers) Background: This priority supports parent training and information centers that will provide parents of children with disabilities, including low-income parents, parents of limited English proficient children, and parents with disabilities, with the training and information they need to enable them to participate effectively in helping their children with disabilities to—

(a) Meet developmental and functional goals, and challenging academic achievement goals that have been established for all children; and

(b) Be prepared to lead productive, independent adult lives, to the maximum extent possible.

In addition, a purpose of this priority is to ensure that children with disabilities and their parents receive training and information on their rights, responsibilities, and protections under IDEA in order to develop the skills necessary to cooperatively and effectively participate in planning and decision making relating to early intervention, educational, and transitional services.

Text of Priority: Each Parent Training and Information Center (PTI Center) assisted under this program shall—

(a) Provide training and information that meets the needs of parents of children with disabilities living in the

area served by the PTI Center, particularly underserved parents and parents of children who may be inappropriately identified as having a disability when they may not have one, to enable their children with disabilities to—

(1) Meet developmental and functional goals and challenging academic achievement goals established for all children; and

(2) Be prepared to lead productive independent adult lives, to the maximum extent possible;

(b) Serve the parents of infants, toddlers, and children, from ages birth through 26, with the full range of disabilities described in section 602(3) of IDEA;

(c) Familiarize themselves with the provision of special education, related services, and early intervention services in the areas they serve to help ensure that children with disabilities are receiving appropriate services;

(d) Ensure that the training and information provided meets the needs of low-income parents and parents of limited English proficient children;

(e) Assist parents to—

(1) Better understand the nature of their children's disabilities and their educational, developmental, and transitional needs;

(2) Communicate effectively and work collaboratively with personnel responsible for providing special education, early intervention services, transition services, and related services;

(3) Participate in decision making processes, including those regarding participation in State and local assessments, and the development of individualized education programs under part B of IDEA and individualized family service plans under part C of IDEA;

(4) Obtain appropriate information about the range, type and quality of—

(A) options, programs, services, technologies, practices and interventions that are based on scientifically based research, to the extent practicable; and

(B) resources available to assist children with disabilities and their families in school and at home, including information available through the Office of Special Education Programs' (OSEP) technical assistance network and Communities of Practice;

(5) Understand the provisions of IDEA for the education of, and the provision of early intervention services to, children with disabilities;

(6) Participate in activities at the school level that benefit their children; and

(7) Participate in school reform activities.

(f) In States where the State elects to contract with the PTI Center, contract with the State educational agencies to provide, consistent with paragraphs (B) and (D) of section 615(e)(2) of IDEA, individuals to meet with parents in order to explain the mediation process;

(g) Assist parents in resolving disputes in the most expeditious and effective way possible, including encouraging the use, and explaining the benefits, of alternative methods of dispute resolution, such as the mediation process described in section 615(e) of IDEA;

(h) Assist parents and students with disabilities to understand their rights and responsibilities under IDEA, including those under section 615(m) of IDEA upon the student's reaching the age of majority (as appropriate under State law);

(i) Assist parents to understand the availability of, and how to effectively use, procedural safeguards under IDEA, including the resolution session described in section 615(e) of IDEA;

(j) Assist parents in understanding, preparing for, and participating in, the resolution session described in section 615(f)(1)(B) of IDEA;

(k) If there is more than one PTI Center or one or more Community Parent Resource Centers (CPRCs) in a particular State funded under section 672 of IDEA, demonstrate in the application how it will coordinate its services and supports with the other center or centers to ensure the most effective assistance to parents in that State;

(l) Network with appropriate clearinghouses, including organizations conducting national dissemination activities under section 663 of IDEA and the Institute of Education Sciences, and with other national, State, and local organizations and agencies, such as protection and advocacy agencies, that serve parents and families of children with the full range of disabilities described in section 602(3) of IDEA;

(m) Annually report to the Assistant Secretary on—

(1) The number and demographics of parents to whom the PTI Center provided information and training in the most recently concluded fiscal year, including additional information regarding their unique needs and levels of service provided to them;

(2) The effectiveness of strategies used to reach and serve parents, including underserved parents of children with disabilities by providing evidence of how those parents were served effectively; and

(3) The number of parents served who have resolved disputes through alternative methods of dispute resolution.

(n) Respond to requests from the National Technical Assistance Center (NTAC) and Regional Parent Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs) and use the technical assistance services of the NTAC and PTACs in order to serve the families of infants, toddlers, and children with disabilities as efficiently as possible. PTACs are charged with assisting parent centers with administrative and programmatic issues;

(o) Budget for a two-day Project Directors' meeting in Washington, DC during each year of the project. In addition, a project's budget must include funds for the center's project director to attend a Regional Project Directors' meeting to be held each year of the project;

(p) If the PTI Center maintains a Web site, include relevant information and documents in a format that meets a government or industry-recognized standard for accessibility;

(q) Prior to developing any new product, whether paper or electronic, submit for approval a proposal describing the content and purpose of the product to the document review board of OSEP's Dissemination Center;

(r) In collaboration with OSEP and the NTAC, participate in an annual collection of program data for PTI Centers and CPRCs; and

(s) Identify with specificity in its application the special efforts it will make to—

(1) Ensure that the needs for training and information of underserved parents of children with disabilities in the area to be served are effectively met; and

(2) Work with community based organizations, including those that work with low-income parents and parents of limited English proficient children.

Waiver of Proposed Rulemaking: Under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (5 U.S.C. 553) the Department generally offers interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed priorities. However, section 681(d) of IDEA makes the public comment requirements in the APA inapplicable to the priority in this notice.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1471.

Applicable Regulations: The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 81, 82, 84, 85, 97, 98, and 99.

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

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Discretionary grants.

Estimated Available Funds: The Administration has requested \$25,704,000 for the Training and Information for Parents of Children with Disabilities program for FY 2007, of which we intend to use an estimated \$8,957,406 for the Parent Training and Information Centers competition. The actual level of funding, if any, depends on final congressional action. However, we are inviting applications to allow enough time to complete the grant process if Congress appropriates funds for this program.

Information concerning funding amounts for individual States is provided elsewhere in this section of this notice.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$319,907.

Estimated Number of Awards: 28.

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

Project Period: With the exception of projects in the States of Alabama, Oklahoma, and Region 3 of Florida, projects will be funded for a period up to 60 months. Projects in Alabama and Florida—Region 3 will be funded for a period up to 48 months; projects in Oklahoma will be funded for a period up to 36 months. As explained elsewhere in this notice, the Assistant Secretary makes awards to groups of States in five-year cycles. We are proposing shorter project periods for Alabama, Oklahoma, and Florida—Region 3 in order to align the funding cycle for these areas with those of other States in their groups. Alabama, Oklahoma, and Florida—Region 3 did not receive awards with their groups in previous competitions.

In order to allocate resources equitably, create a unified system of service delivery, and provide the broadest coverage for the parents and families in every State, the Assistant Secretary is making awards in five-year cycles for each State. In FY 2007, applications for 5-year awards will be accepted for the following States: Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, and Utah. Exceptions to the 5-year awards will be in the States of Alabama, Oklahoma and Region 3 of Florida. Applications for projects in Alabama and Florida—Region 3 will be accepted for 4-year awards and applications for projects in Oklahoma will be accepted for a 3-year award. Awards also may be made to eligible applicants in Guam, the

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the freely associated States.

Estimated Project Awards: Project award amounts are for a single budget period of 12 months. To ensure maximum coverage for this competition, the Assistant Secretary has adopted regional designations established by California, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, and Texas and has identified corresponding maximum award amounts for each region. Any applicant that applies for grants for more than one region must complete a separate application for each region.

The Assistant Secretary took into consideration current funding levels and population distribution when determining the award amounts for grants under this competition.

In the following States, one award may be made for up to the amounts listed in the chart to a qualified applicant for a PTI Center to serve the entire State:

Alabama	\$273,959
Arkansas	258,634
Connecticut	276,016
Georgia	469,482
Kansas	292,033
Montana	227,965
New Jersey	454,176
New Mexico	277,918
Oregon	283,548
South Carolina	288,215
Utah	246,148
Oklahoma	249,215

(These figures represent the maximum amounts the Assistant Secretary will award. In addition, the Assistant Secretary has not specified maximum amounts for Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Freely Associated States).

In the following States with the exception of Illinois, one award will be made in the following amounts to a qualified applicant for a PTI Center to serve each identified region. In Illinois, the Assistant Secretary will make up to two awards for Region 1. The total of these two awards for Illinois' Region 1 will not exceed the maximum amount listed for that region in the chart below. A list of the counties that are included in each region also follows.

California:	
Region 1	\$633,165
Region 2	519,072
Region 3	176,732
Region 4	462,011
Region 5	176,732
Florida:	
Region 3	190,154
Illinois:	
Region 1	548,708
Region 2	281,878
Michigan:	
Region 1	239,170
Region 2	403,970
Ohio:	

Region 1	220,569
Region 2	427,224
Texas:	
Region 1	421,347
Region 2	421,347
Region 3	238,015

Consistent with 34 CFR 75.104(b), we will reject any application that proposes a project funding level for any year that exceeds the stated maximum award amount for that year.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT APPLICATION NOTICE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

CFDA number and name	Maximum award (per year)**
84.328M Parent Training and Information Centers:*	
Alabama	\$273,959
Arkansas	258,634
Connecticut	276,016
Georgia	469,482
Kansas	292,033
Montana	227,965
New Jersey	454,176
New Mexico	277,918
Oregon	283,548
South Carolina	288,215
Utah	246,148
Oklahoma	249,215
California:	
Region 1	633,165
Region 2	519,072
Region 3	176,732
Region 4	462,011
Region 5	176,732
Florida:	
Region 3	190,154
Illinois:	
Region 1	548,708
Region 2	281,878
Michigan:	
Region 1	239,170
Region 2	403,970
Ohio:	
Region 1	220,569
Region 2	427,224
Texas:	
Region 1	421,347
Region 2	421,347
Region 3	238,015

Listing of States/Regions/Countries

California Regions

Region 1 includes the following counties: Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo.

Region 2 includes the following counties: Mono, Inyo, San Bernadino, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, Imperial.

Region 3 includes the following counties: Madera, Stanislaus, Mercer, Mariposa, San Benito, Monterey, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Kern.

Region 4 includes the following counties: Sonoma, Napa, Yolo, Solano, Marin, Contra Costa, San Joaquin,

Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Francisco.

Region 5 includes the following counties: Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Sisklyou, Trinity, Shasta, Modoc, Lassen, Tehama, Lake, Glenn, Colusa, Butte, Sutter, Yuba, Sacramento, Nevada, Plumas, Sierra, Placer, El Dorado, Amador, Calavaras, Alpine, Tuolumne.

Florida Region

Region 3 includes the following counties: Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Monroe, Collier, Lee, Hendry, Martin, Glades.

Illinois Regions

Region 1 includes the following counties: Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, Will.

Region 2 includes the remainder of the State.

Ohio Regions

Region 1 includes the following counties: Darke, Preble, Butler, Hamilton, Clermont, Brown, Adams, Scioto, Lawrence, Jackson, Pike, Ross, Fayette, Greene, Clark, Champaign, Logan, Shelby, Miami, Montgomery, Warren, Clinton, Highland.

Region 2 includes the remainder of the State.

Michigan Regions

Region 1 includes the following counties: Oakland, Macomb, Wayne.

Region 2 includes the remainder of the State.

Texas Regions

Region 1 includes the following counties: Hardeman, Foard, Knox, Wilbarger, Baylor, Throckmorton, Wichita, Archer, Young, Clay, Jack, Montague, Cooke, Wise, Palo Pinto, Eralh, Parker, Hood, Somervell, Denton, Tarrant, Johnson, Grayson, Collin, Dallas, Ellis, Fannin, Hunt, Rockwall, Kaufman, Lamar, Delta, Hopkins, Red River, Franklin, Titus, Camp, Morris, Bowie, Casa, Cass, Marion, Bosque, Hamilton, Mills, Lampasas, Coryell, Hill, McLennan, Bell, Navarro, Freestone, Limestone, Falls, Burnet, Llano, Gillespie, Kendall, Comal, Blanco, Williamson, Travis, Hays, Lee, Bastrop, Caldwell, Guadalupe, Fayette, Gonzales, Leon, Robertson, Millam, Burlestone, Washington, Austin, Brazos, Madison, Grimes, Houston, Trinity, Walker, Montgomery, Polk, San Jacinto, Tyler, Hardin, Jefferson, Orange, Jasper, Newton, Raine, Van Zandt, Henderson, Anderson, Wood, Smith, Cherokee, Upshur, Gregg, Rusk, Nacogdoches, Angelina, Harrison, Panola, Shelby, San Augustine, Sabine.

Region 2 includes the following counties: Kerr, Real, Kinney, Maverik, Uvalde, Zavala, Dimmit, Bandera, Medina, Frio, La Salle, Boxer, Atascosa, Wilson, Webb, Zapata, Jim Hogg, Staarr, Hidalgo, Willsoy, Cameron, McMullen, Duval, Live Oak, Jim Wells, Brooke, Nueces, Kisberg, Kenedy, San Patricio, Aransas, Bee, Karnes, Gollad, Dewitt, Lavaca, Colorado, Wharton, Malagorda, Jackson, Victoria, Refugio, Calhoun, Waller, Fort Bond, Brezoria, Harris, Galveston, Liberty, Chambers.

Region 3 includes the following counties: El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio, Reeves, Brewster, Pecos, Terrell, Dallam, Hartley, Oldham, Deaf Smith, Parmer, Bailey, Cochran, Yoakum, Gaines, Andrews, Loving, Winkler, Ward, Sharman, Moore, Potter, Randall, Castro, Swisher, Lamb, Hockley, Terry, Ector, Crane, Upton, Reagan, Midland, Glasscook, Dawson, Martin, Borden, Howard, Hansford, Hutchinson, Carson, Armstrong, Briscoe, Ochiltree, Roberts, Gray, Donley, Hall, Lipscomb, Hemphill, Wheeler, Collingsworth, Childress, Hale, Lubbock, Lynn, Floyd, Crosby, Garza, Motley, Dickens, Kent, Cottle, King, Scurry, Mitchell, Stonewall, Fisher, Nolan, Haskall, Jones, Taylor, Shackelford, Callahan, Stephens, Eastland, Sterling, Irion, Crockett, Val Verde, Coke, Tom Green, Schelcher, Sutton, Edwards, Runnels, Concho, Menard, Kimble, Coleman, McCulloch, Mason, Brown, San Sabe.

III. Eligibility Information

1. *Eligible Applicants:* Parent organizations, as defined in section 671(a)(2) of IDEA. A parent organization is a private nonprofit organization (other than an institution of higher education) that—

- (a) Has a board of directors—
 - (1) The majority of whom are parents of children with disabilities ages birth through 26;
 - (2) That includes—
 - (i) Individuals working in the fields of special education, related services, and early intervention; and
 - (ii) Individuals with disabilities; and
 - (iii) The parent and professional members of which are broadly representative of the population to be served including low-income parents and parents of limited English proficient children; and
- (b) Has as its mission serving families of children with disabilities who are ages birth through 26, and have the full range of disabilities described in section 602(3) of IDEA.

2. *Cost Sharing or Matching:* This competition does not involve cost sharing or matching.

3. *Other: General Requirements*—(a) The projects funded under this competition must make positive efforts to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities (see section 606 of IDEA).

(b) Applicants and grant recipients funded under this competition must involve individuals with disabilities or parents of individuals with disabilities ages birth through 26 in planning, implementing, and evaluating the projects (see section 682(a)(1)(A) of IDEA).

IV. Application and Submission Information

1. *Address to Request Application Package*: Education Publications Center (ED Pubs), P.O. Box 1398, Jessup, MD 20794–1398. Telephone (toll free): 1–877–433–7827. FAX: (301) 470–1244. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call (toll free): 1–877–576–7734.

You may also contact ED Pubs at its Web site: <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html> or you may contact ED Pubs at its e-mail address: edpubs@inet.ed.gov.

If you request an application from ED Pubs, be sure to identify this competition as follows: CFDA number 84.328M.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain a copy of the application package in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) by contacting the Grants and Contracts Services Team listed under *For Further Information Contact* in section VII of this notice.

2. *Content and Form of Application Submission*: Requirements concerning the content of an application, together with the forms you must submit, are in the application package for this competition.

Page Limit: The application narrative (Part III of the application) 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 60 pages, using the following standards:

- A “page” is 8.5” x 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; the one-page abstract, the resumes, the bibliography, the references, 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.

3. *Submission Dates and Times*: Applications Available: September 26, 2006. Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: November 13, 2006.

Applications for grants under this competition may be submitted electronically using the Grants.gov Apply site (Grants.gov), or in paper format by mail or hand delivery. For information (including dates and times) about how to submit your application electronically, or by mail or hand delivery, please refer to section IV.6. *Other Submission Requirements* in this notice.

We do not consider an application that does not comply with the deadline requirements.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: January 9, 2007.

4. *Intergovernmental Review*: This program is subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. Information about Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs under Executive Order 12372 is in the application package for this competition.

5. *Funding Restrictions*: We reference regulations outlining funding restrictions in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice.

6. *Other Submission Requirements*: Applications for grants under this competition may be submitted electronically or in paper format by mail or hand delivery.

a. *Electronic Submission of Applications*.

We have been accepting applications electronically through the Department’s e-Application system since FY 2000. In order to expand on those efforts and comply with the President’s Management Agenda, we are continuing to participate as a partner in the new government wide Grants.gov Apply site in FY 2007. Parent Training and Information Centers—CFDA Number 84.328M is one of the competitions included in this project. We request your participation in Grants.gov.

If you choose to submit your application electronically, you must use the Grants.gov Apply site at <http://www.Grants.gov>.

Through this site, you will be able to download a copy of the application package, complete it offline, and then upload and submit your application. You may not e-mail an electronic copy of a grant application to us.

You may access the electronic grant application for Parent Training and Information Centers—CFDA Number 84.328M competition at: <http://www.grants.gov>. You must search for the downloadable application package for this program by the CFDA number. Do not include the CFDA number’s alpha suffix in your search.

Please note the following:

- Your participation in Grants.gov is voluntary.
- When you enter the Grants.gov site, you will find information about submitting an application electronically through the site, as well as the hours of operation.
- Applications received by Grants.gov are time and date stamped. Your application must be fully uploaded and submitted, and must be date/time stamped by the Grants.gov system no later than 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. Except as otherwise noted in this section, we will not consider your application if it is date/time stamped by the Grants.gov system later than 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. When we retrieve your application from Grants.gov, we will notify you if we are rejecting your application because it was date/time stamped by the Grants.gov system after 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date.
- The amount of time it can take to upload an application will vary depending on a variety of factors including the size of the application and the speed of your Internet connection. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you do not wait until the application deadline date to begin the application process through Grants.gov.
- You should review and follow the Education Submission Procedures for submitting an application through Grants.gov that are included in the application package for this competition to ensure that you submit your application in a timely manner to the Grants.gov system. You can also find the Education Submission Procedures pertaining to Grants.gov at <http://e-Grants.ed.gov/help/GrantsgovSubmissionProcedures.pdf>.
- To submit your application via Grants.gov, you must complete all of the steps in the Grants.gov registration

process (see http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). These steps include (1) Registering your organization, (2) registering yourself as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR), and (3) getting authorized as an AOR by your organization. Details on these steps are outlined in the Grants.gov 3-Step Registration Guide (see <http://www.grants.gov/section910/Grants.govRegistrationBrochure.pdf>). You also must provide on your application the same D-U-N-S Number used with this registration. Please note that the registration process may take five or more business days to complete, and you must have completed all registration steps to allow you to successfully submit an application via Grants.gov.

- You will not receive additional point value because you submit your application in electronic format, nor will we penalize you if you submit your application in paper format.

- You may submit all documents electronically, including all information typically included on the following forms: Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424), the Department of Education Supplemental Information for SF 424, Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs (ED 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications. Please note that two of these forms—the SF 424 and the Department of Education Supplemental Information for SF 424—have replaced the ED 424 (Application for Federal Education Assistance). If you choose to submit your application electronically, you must attach any narrative sections of your application as files in a .DOC (document), .RTF (rich text), or .PDF (portable document) format. If you upload a file type other than the three file types specified above or submit a password protected file, we will not review that material.

- Your electronic application must comply with any page limit requirements described in this notice.

- After you electronically submit your application, you will receive an automatic acknowledgment from Grants.gov that contains a Grants.gov tracking number. The Department will retrieve your application from Grants.gov and send you a second confirmation by e-mail that will include a PR/Award number (an ED-specified identifying number unique to your application).

- We may request that you provide us original signatures on forms at a later date.

Application Deadline Date Extension in Case of System Unavailability

If you are prevented from electronically submitting your application on the application deadline date because of technical problems with the Grants.gov system, we will grant you an extension until 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, the following business day to enable you to transmit your application electronically, or by hand delivery. You also may mail your application by following the mailing instructions as described elsewhere in this notice. If you submit an application after 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the deadline date, please contact the person listed elsewhere in this notice under *For Further Information Contact*, and provide an explanation of the technical problem you experienced with Grants.gov, along with the Grants.gov Support Desk Case Number (if available). We will accept your application if we can confirm that a technical problem occurred with the Grants.gov system and that that problem affected your ability to submit your application by 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. The Department will contact you after a determination is made on whether your application will be accepted.

Note: Extensions referred to in this section apply only to the unavailability of or technical problems with the Grants.gov system. We will not grant you an extension if you failed to fully register to submit your application to Grants.gov before the deadline date and time or if the technical problem you experienced is unrelated to the *grants.gov* system.

b. Submission of Paper Applications by Mail.

If you submit your application in paper format by mail (through the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial carrier), you must mail the original and two copies of your application, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the applicable following address: By mail through the U.S. Postal Service: U.S. Department of Education, Application Control Center, Attention: (CFDA Number 84.328M), 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20202–4260, or

By mail through a commercial carrier: U.S. Department of Education, Application Control Center—Stop 4260, Attention: (CFDA Number 84.328M), 7100 Old Landover Road, Landover, MD 20785–1506.

Regardless of which address you use, you must show proof of mailing consisting of one of the following:

- (1) A legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark,

- (2) A legible mail receipt with the date of mailing stamped by the U.S. Postal Service,

- (3) A dated shipping label, invoice, or receipt from a commercial carrier, or

- (4) Any other proof of mailing acceptable to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

If you mail your application through the U.S. Postal Service, we do not accept either of the following as proof of mailing:

- (1) A private metered postmark, or
- (2) A mail receipt that is not dated by the U.S. Postal Service.

If your application is postmarked after the application deadline date, we will not consider your application.

Note: The U.S. Postal Service does not uniformly provide a dated postmark. Before relying on this method, you should check with your local post office.

c. Submission of Paper Applications by Hand Delivery.

If you submit your application in paper format by hand delivery, you (or a courier service) must deliver the original and two copies of your application by hand, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address: U.S. Department of Education, Application Control Center, Attention: (CFDA Number 84.328M), 550 12th Street, SW., Room 7041, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202–4260.

The Application Control Center accepts hand deliveries daily between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, except Saturdays, Sundays and Federal holidays.

Note for Mail or Hand Delivery of Paper Applications: If you mail or hand deliver your application to the Department:

- (1) You must indicate on the envelope and—if not provided by the Department—in Item 11 of the SF 424 the CFDA number—and suffix letter, if any—of the competition under which you are submitting your application.

- (2) The Application Control Center will mail a grant application receipt acknowledgment to you. If you do not receive the grant application receipt acknowledgment within 15 business days from the application deadline date, you should call the U.S. Department of Education Application Control Center at (202) 245–6288.

V. Application Review Information

Selection Criteria: The selection criteria for this competition are from 34 CFR 75.210 and are listed in the application package.

VI. Award Administration Information

1. *Award Notices:* If your application is successful, we notify your U.S.

Representative and U.S. Senators and send you a Grant Award Notification (GAN). We may also notify you informally.

If your application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we notify you.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements: We identify administrative and national policy requirements in the application package and reference these and other requirements in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice.

We reference the regulations outlining the terms and conditions of an award in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice and include these and other specific conditions in the GAN. The GAN also incorporates your approved application as part of your binding commitments under the grant.

3. Reporting: At the end of your project period, you must submit a final performance report, including financial information, as directed by the Secretary. If you receive a multi-year award, you must submit an annual performance report that provides the most current performance and financial expenditure information as specified by the Secretary in 34 CFR 75.118.

4. Performance Measures: Under the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA), the Department has developed measures that will yield information on various aspects of the quality of the Training and Information for Parents of Children with Disabilities program. The measures will focus on: the extent to which projects provide high quality materials, the relevance of project products and services to educational and early intervention policy and practice, and the usefulness of products and services to improve educational and early intervention policy and practice.

Grantees will be required to provide information related to these measures.

Grantees also will be required to report information on their projects' performance in annual reports to the Department (34 CFR 75.590).

VII. Agency Contact

For Further Information Contact: Lisa Gorove, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 4056, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-2550. Telephone: (202) 245-7357.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on

request by contacting the following office: The Grants and Contracts Services Team, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-2550. Telephone: (202) 245-7363.

VIII. Other Information

Electronic Access to This Document: You may view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/news/fedregister>.

To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free, at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC, area at (202) 512-1530.

Note: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html>.

Dated: September 20, 2006.

John H. Hager,

Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

[FR Doc. E6-15762 Filed 9-25-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services; Overview Information; National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR)—Research Fellowships Program Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.133F.

Dates: Applications Available:

September 26, 2006.

Deadline for Transmittal of

Applications: November 27, 2006.

Eligible Applicants: Only individuals who have training and experience that indicate a potential for engaging in scientific research related to the solution of rehabilitation problems of individuals with disabilities are eligible. The program provides two categories of Research Fellowships: Merit Fellowships and Distinguished Fellowships.

(a) To be eligible for a Distinguished Fellowship, an individual must have seven or more years of research

experience in subject areas, methods, or techniques relevant to rehabilitation research and must have a doctorate, other terminal degree, or comparable academic qualifications.

(b) To be eligible for a Merit Fellowship, an individual must have either advanced professional training or independent study experience in an area that is directly pertinent to disability and rehabilitation. In the most recent competitions, Merit Fellowship recipients had research experience at the doctoral level.

Note: Institutions are not eligible to be recipients of Research Fellowships.

Estimated Available Funds: The Administration has requested \$106,705,000 for NIDRR for FY 2007, of which we intend to use an estimated \$500,000 for the Research Fellowships competition. The actual level of funding, if any, depends on final congressional action. However, we are inviting applications to allow enough time to complete the grant process if Congress appropriates funds for this program.

Maximum Awards: Merit Fellowships: \$65,000; Distinguished Fellowships: \$75,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 7 including both Merit and Distinguished Fellowships.

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

Project Period: 12 months.

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose of Program: The purpose of the Research Fellowships Program is to build research capacity by providing support to enable highly qualified individuals, including those who are individuals with disabilities, to conduct research about the rehabilitation of individuals with disabilities.

Note: This program is in concert with President George W. Bush's New Freedom Initiative (NFI) and NIDRR's Final Long-Range Plan for FY 2005-2009 (Plan). The NFI can be accessed on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/newfreedom>.

The Plan is comprehensive and integrates many issues relating to disability and rehabilitation research topics. The Plan, which was published in the **Federal Register** on February 15, 2006 (71 FR 8165), can be accessed on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/opers/nidrr/policy.html>.

Through the implementation of the Plan, NIDRR seeks to—(1) Improve the quality and utility of disability and