

Education Denise Koscielniak, clarifying issues surrounding State and LEA implementation of the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard.

*Section 614—Evaluations, Eligibility Determinations, Individualized Education Programs, and Educational Placements*

*Topic Addressed:* Individualized Education Programs.

○ Letter dated March 31, 2008 to individual (personally identifiable information redacted), clarifying that Part B of IDEA does not require that public agencies obtain parental consent within a specific time period when a child is referred for an evaluation.

○ Letter dated March 31, 2008 to individuals (personally identifiable information redacted), regarding how public agencies meet the requirements for notifying parents of the individuals who will be attending meetings of their child's IEP Team.

○ Letter dated March 17, 2008 to Howard County, Maryland Public School System Facilitator Ronald Caplan, regarding when it is appropriate to invite a representative of any participating agency likely to be responsible for providing or paying for transition services to an IEP Team meeting involving the consideration of the child's postsecondary goals and the transition services needed to assist the child in reaching those goals.

○ Letter dated March 17, 2008 to Utah At Risk and Special Education Services Director Nan Gray, regarding the requirement to obtain the consent of the parents or a child who has reached the age of majority prior to inviting a representative of any participating agency that is likely to be responsible for providing or paying for transition services to an IEP Team meeting involving the consideration of the child's postsecondary goals and the transition services needed to assist the child in reaching those goals.

*Section 615—Procedural Safeguards*

*Topic Addressed:* Impartial Due Process Hearing.

○ Letter dated March 17, 2008 to Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center Director John Copenhaver, regarding electronic mail filings of State complaints and due process complaints.

○ Letter dated March 17, 2008 to New Jersey Office of the State Board of Appeals Acting Director John Worthington, clarifying when the due process hearing timeline would begin under specific circumstances after the 30-day resolution process has expired.

*Section 618—Program Information*

*Topic Addressed:* Disproportionality.

○ Letter dated February 1, 2008 to Nevada Office of Special Education and Diversity Programs Director Frankie McCabe, clarifying that OSEP continues to believe that the position set out in the April 24, 2007 memorandum, requiring States to reserve funds for comprehensive coordinated early intervening services when there is a finding of significant disproportionality based on race and ethnicity in disciplinary actions, is correct.

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(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 84.027, Assistance to States for Education of Children with Disabilities)

Dated: May 30, 2008.

**Tracy R. Justesen,**

*Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.*

[FR Doc. E8-12639 Filed 6-4-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services: Overview Information; Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program (RCEP)—Regional Technical Assistance and Continuing Education (TACE) Centers; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008**

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.264A.

*Dates: Applications Available:* June 5, 2008.

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* July 31, 2008.

*Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:* September 3, 2008.

**Full Text of Announcement**

**I. Funding Opportunity Description**

*Purpose of Program:* The purpose of the Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program is to support training centers that serve either a Federal region or another geographical area and provide for a broad integrated sequence of training activities that focus on meeting recurrent and common training needs of employed rehabilitation personnel throughout a multi-State geographical area.

*Priority:* This priority is from the notice of final priority and definitions for this program, published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**.

*Absolute Priority:* For FY 2008, this priority is an absolute priority. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), we consider only applications that meet this priority.

*This priority is:* Regional Technical Assistance and Continuing Education (TACE) Centers.

*Program Authority:* 29 U.S.C. 772.

*Applicable Regulations:* (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, 97, 98, and 99. (b) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR parts 385 and 389. (c) The notice of final priority and definitions, published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**.

**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.

**II. Award Information**

*Type of Award:* Cooperative agreement.

*Estimated Available Funds:* \$7,900,000.

*Maximum Award:* We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding the maximum amount for a single budget period of 12 months, as follows:

*Region I:* \$727,185.  
*Region II:* \$802,710.  
*Region III:* \$796,122.  
*Region IV:* \$969,100.  
*Region V:* \$821,579.  
*Region VI:* \$832,684.  
*Region VII:* \$728,738.  
*Region VIII:* \$711,421.  
*Region IX:* \$792,405.  
*Region X:* \$718,056.

The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services may change the maximum amount through a notice published in the **Federal Register**.

*Estimated Number of Awards: 10.*

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

*Project Period:* Up to 60 months.

### III. Eligibility Information

1. *Eligible Applicants:* States and public or nonprofit agencies and organizations, including Indian tribes and institutions of higher education.

2. *Cost Sharing or Matching:* The Secretary has determined that a grantee must provide a match of at least 10 percent of the total cost of the project (34 CFR 389.40).

**Note:** Under 34 CFR 75.562(c), an indirect cost reimbursement on a training grant is limited to the recipient's actual indirect costs, as determined by its negotiated indirect cost rate agreement, or 8 percent of a modified total direct cost base, whichever amount is less. Indirect costs in excess of the 8 percent limit may not be charged directly, used to satisfy matching or cost-sharing requirements, or charged to another Federal award.

### 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), call, toll free: 1–877–576–7734.

You can contact ED Pubs at its Web site, also: [www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html](http://www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html) or at its e-mail address: [edpubs@inet.ed.gov](mailto:edpubs@inet.ed.gov).

If you request an application package from ED Pubs, be sure to identify this program or competition as follows: CFDA number 84.264A.

Individuals with disabilities can obtain a copy of the application package in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) by contacting the person or team listed under *Alternative Format* in section VIII 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 the application narrative [Part III] to the equivalent of no more than 45 pages, using the following standards:

- A page is 8.5" by 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).

- Use one of the following fonts: Times New Roman, Courier, Courier New, or Arial. An application submitted in any other font (including Times Roman or Arial Narrow) will not be accepted.

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, the page limit does apply to all of the application narrative [Part III].

We will reject your application if you exceed the page limit; or if you apply other standards and exceed the equivalent of the page limit.

3. *Submission Dates and Times:*  
*Applications Available:* June 5, 2008.  
*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* July 31, 2008.

Applications for grants under this competition must be submitted electronically using the Grants.gov Apply site (Grants.gov). For information (including dates and times) about how to submit your application electronically, or in paper format by mail or hand delivery if you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, 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.

Individuals with disabilities who need an accommodation or auxiliary aid in connection with the application process should contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** in section VII in this notice. If the Department provides an accommodation or auxiliary aid to an individual with a disability in connection with the application process, the individual's application remains subject to all other requirements and limitations in this notice.

*Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:* September 3, 2008.

4. *Intergovernmental Review:* This competition 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 in this notice.

6. *Other Submission Requirements:* Applications for grants under this competition must be submitted electronically unless you qualify for an exception to this requirement in accordance with the instructions in this section.

a. *Electronic Submission of Applications.* Applications for grants under the Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program—Regional Technical Assistance and Continuing Education (TACE) Centers, CFDA Number 84.264A, must be submitted electronically using the Governmentwide 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.

We will reject your application if you submit it in paper format unless, as described elsewhere in this section, you qualify for one of the exceptions to the electronic submission requirement and submit, no later than two weeks before the application deadline date, a written statement to the Department that you qualify for one of these exceptions. Further information regarding calculation of the date that is two weeks before the application deadline date is provided later in this section under *Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement*.

You may access the electronic grant application for Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program—Regional Technical Assistance and Continuing Education (TACE) Centers 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 (e.g., search for 84.264, not 84.264A).

Please note the following:

- 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 date and time stamped. Your application must be fully uploaded and submitted and must be date and 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 accept your application if it is received—that is, date and time stamped by the Grants.gov system—after 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. We do not consider an application that does not comply with the deadline requirements. When we retrieve your application from Grants.gov, we will notify you if we are rejecting your application because it was date and 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 submission 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 steps in the Grants.gov registration process (see [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp)). These steps include (1) registering your organization, a multi-part process that includes registration with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR); (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 submit successfully an application via Grants.gov. In addition you will need to update your CCR registration on an annual basis. This may take three or more business days to complete.

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

an exception to the electronic submission requirement, as described elsewhere in this section, and submit your application in paper format.

- You must submit all documents electronically, including all information you typically provide 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).

- 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 in this paragraph 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 from Grants.gov an automatic notification of receipt that contains a Grants.gov tracking number. (This notification indicates receipt by Grants.gov only, not receipt by the Department.) The Department then will retrieve your application from Grants.gov and send a second notification to you by e-mail. This second notification indicates that the Department has received your application and has assigned your application 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 Technical Issues with the Grants.gov System:* If you are experiencing problems submitting your application through Grants.gov, please contact the Grants.gov Support Desk, toll free, at 1-800-518-4726. You must obtain a Grants.gov Support Desk Case Number and must keep a record of it.

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 described elsewhere in this notice.

If you submit an application after 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date, please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** in section VII in this notice and provide an explanation of the technical problem you experienced with Grants.gov, along with the Grants.gov Support Desk Case Number. 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:** The extensions to which we refer 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 register fully to submit your application to Grants.gov before the application deadline date and time or if the technical problem you experienced is unrelated to the Grants.gov system.

*Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement:* You qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, and may submit your application in paper format, if you are unable to submit an application through the Grants.gov system because—

- You do not have access to the Internet; or

- You do not have the capacity to upload large documents to the Grants.gov system; and

- No later than two weeks before the application deadline date (14 calendar days or, if the fourteenth calendar day before the application deadline date falls on a Federal holiday, the next business day following the Federal holiday), you mail or fax a written statement to the Department, explaining which of the two grounds for an exception prevent you from using the Internet to submit your application.

If you mail your written statement to the Department, it must be postmarked no later than two weeks before the application deadline date. If you fax your written statement to the Department, we must receive the faxed statement no later than two weeks before the application deadline date.

Address and mail or fax your statement to: Christine Marschall, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5053, PCP, Washington, DC 20202-2800. FAX: (202) 245-6824.

Your paper application must be submitted in accordance with the mail or hand delivery instructions described in this notice.

**b. Submission of Paper Applications by Mail.**

If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you may mail (through the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial carrier) your application to the Department. 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 84.264A)  
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  
84.264A) 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.

(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.

(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 qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you (or a courier service) may deliver your paper application to the Department by hand. You 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 84.264A) 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, including suffix letter, if any, of the competition under which you are submitting your application; and

(2) The Application Control Center will mail to you a notification of receipt of your grant application. If you do not receive this notification 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 34 CFR 389.30(a), 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 Notice (GAN). We may notify you informally, also.

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 in this notice.

We reference the regulations outlining the terms and conditions of an award in the *Applicable Regulations* section in 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 directed by the Secretary under 34 CFR 75.118. The Secretary may also require more frequent performance reports under 34

CFR 75.720(c). For specific requirements on reporting, please go to <http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html>.

**4. Performance Measures:** The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA) 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. Performance measures established for the RCEP are the percentage of participants who report an increase in their knowledge, skills, and abilities. RSA will use these data to assess the performance of the projects funded under this competition. RSA also will convene an independent review panel to evaluate the work of the grantees. The independent review panel will use the following performance measures: (a) The percentage of technical assistance and continuing education services provided by the grantee that are deemed to be of high quality; (b) the percentage of technical assistance and continuing education services provided by the grantee that are deemed to be of high relevance to State VR policies or practices; and (c) the percentage of technical assistance and continuing education services provided by the grantee that are deemed to be useful in improving State VR agency policies or practices.

**VII. Agency Contact**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Christine Marschall, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5053, PCP, Washington, DC 20202-2800. Telephone: (202) 245-7429 or by e-mail: [Christine.Marschall@ed.gov](mailto:Christine.Marschall@ed.gov).

If you use a TDD, call the FRS, toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

**VIII. Other Information**

**Alternative Format:** Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document and 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, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5075, PCP, Washington, DC 20202-2550. Telephone: (202) 245-7363. If you use a TDD, call the FRS, toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

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Dated: June 2, 2008.

**Tracy R. Justesen,**

*Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.*

[FR Doc. E8-12633 Filed 6-4-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Rehabilitation Training—Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program

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

**ACTION:** Notice of final priority.

**SUMMARY:** The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services announces a priority under the Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program (RCEP) to fund regional Technical Assistance and Continuing Education (TACE) centers. The Assistant Secretary may use this priority for competitions in fiscal year (FY) 2008 and later years. We take this action to improve the quantity and quality of employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities through enhanced technical assistance (TA) and continuing education (CE) for State vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies and agency partners that cooperate with State VR agencies in providing VR and other rehabilitation services (e.g., Centers for Independent Living (CILs), Client Assistance Programs (CAPs), and Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRPs)).

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* This priority is effective July 7, 2008.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christine Marschall, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW., Room 5053, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-2800. Telephone: (202) 245-7429 or via Internet: [Christine.Marschall@ed.gov](mailto:Christine.Marschall@ed.gov).

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), call the

Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Through this priority, the Department revises the current structure of the RCEP, which includes 21 regional RCEP centers—11 centers that serve primarily State VR agencies and 10 centers that serve primarily CRPs. Instead of funding these two separate sets of centers, this priority supports 10 regional Technical Assistance and Continuing Education (TACE) centers to serve State VR agencies and agency partners that cooperate with State VR agencies in providing VR and other rehabilitation services. CRPs are among the agency partners that the TACE centers are expected to serve. While the current RCEP centers provide CE and limited TA to entities, TACE centers will provide both TA and CE as necessary to respond to the needs of the State VR agencies and agency partners served by the TACE centers.

We published a notice of proposed priority (NPP) for this program in the **Federal Register** on January 29, 2008 (73 FR 5179). The NPP included a discussion of the issues associated with modifying the RCEP structure. The background section of the NPP explained that the results of the Department's Rehabilitation Services Administration's (RSA) program monitoring required by section 107 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the needs assessments conducted by current RCEP grantees indicated the need to integrate and coordinate services provided to State VR agencies and agency partners that cooperate with State VR agencies in providing VR and other rehabilitation services, including CRPs. The NPP also explained that the modified RCEP structure would reduce administrative costs by combining the functions of the two sets of centers and that public comments on the Rehabilitation Training Program, solicited through a notice in the **Federal Register** (72 FR 9942), generally supported the role of the RCEP in providing TA and CE and the provision of these services through a regional model. The final priority announced in this notice contains differences from the priority proposed in the NPP.

## Analysis of Comments and Changes

In response to our invitation in the NPP, 79 parties submitted comments on the proposed priority. An analysis of the comments and of any changes in the priority since publication of the NPP follows.

Multiple commenters raised a number of similar issues; therefore, we group major issues by subject area. Generally, we do not address technical and other minor changes and suggested changes the law does not authorize us to make under the applicable statutory authority.

## Agency Partners

**Comment:** Fifty-four commenters requested that specific entities be added to the list of agency partners with whom State VR agencies cooperate to provide VR and other rehabilitative services. Various commenters recommended that the following entities be added: American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Service programs (30 commenters); State Rehabilitation Councils (SRCs) (nine commenters); Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker programs (seven commenters); CILs (six commenters); Statewide Independent Living Councils (one commenter); and State agencies such as developmental disability, mental illness, and substance abuse agencies (one commenter).

**Discussion:** The agency partners included in the priority are examples of agencies with which State VR agencies cooperate to provide VR and other rehabilitative services; the list of agencies provided is not intended to be exhaustive. The entities suggested by the commenters could be agency partners—that is, if a State VR agency cooperates with any one of these entities to provide VR and other rehabilitative services, that entity would be considered an agency partner for purposes of this priority.

**Changes:** None.

## Consolidation of the Regional Centers

**Comment:** Twenty-three commenters stated that CRPs will not be served adequately under the modified RCEP structure, and six commenters stated that the TA and CE needs of CRPs are significantly different from the needs of State VR agencies.

**Discussion:** This priority focuses on the needs of State VR agencies and their agency partners. RSA values the contribution of the CRPs in the VR service system and recognizes that CRPs may have TA and CE needs that are different from those of the State VR agency and its other agency partners. RSA expects that the needs of CRPs, along with the needs of other agency