

other school personnel and leaders. The Department is currently shaping these changes and expects to fund a more strategic competition in FY 2012. However, we also have concluded that it would be contrary to the public interest to have a lapse in the provision of the resources currently provided by the Center. For these reasons, the Secretary proposes to waive the requirements in 34 CFR 75.250, which prohibit project periods exceeding five years, and the requirements in 34 CFR 75.261(a) and (c), which limit the extension of a project period if the extension involves the obligation of additional Federal funds, and issue a continuation award in the amount of \$1,350,000 to Vanderbilt University (H325F060003) for an additional twelve-month period.

Waiving these regulations and issuing this continuation award would ensure that pre-service and professional development programs will continue to receive instructional modules, materials, and resources to improve the overall quality of training for individuals who provide services to students with disabilities.

With this proposed extension of project period and waiver, the Center would conduct the following activities during FY 2012:

(a) Build on the previous work of the project by developing additional materials, and disseminating products to an increased number of institutions of higher education, State educational agencies, LEAs, and any other entities that provide training and professional development to individuals who provide services to students with disabilities.

(b) Develop products and services that are based on the input obtained from the comprehensive needs-assessments, textbook analyses, focus groups, and consumer-input processes previously conducted by the Center that tapped the experiences and expertise of an array of partners, consumers, and advisors, including staff from the Department's Office of Special Education Programs. In addition, the Center must continue to seek recommendations from consumers and the Department to guide the development of enhancements (e.g., interactive modules, case studies, activities, information briefs) and services (e.g., technical assistance to faculty, training of trainers, training sessions, and dissemination activities) provided by the Center.

(c) Continue to disseminate project materials to instructors and their students through a cost-free, dedicated Web site that meets accessibility standards under section 508 of the

Rehabilitation Act (See <http://www.section508.gov> for additional information).

#### Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

The Secretary certifies that this proposed extension of project period and waiver would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The entities that would be affected are the current grantee serving as the Professional Development Enhancement Center and any other potential applicant.

#### Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

This proposed extension of project period and waiver does not contain any information collection requirements.

#### Intergovernmental Review

This program is subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. One of the objectives of the Executive order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism. The Executive order relies on processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance. This document provides early notification of our specific plans and actions for this program.

*Electronic Access to This Document:* 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 via the Federal Digital System at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys>. At this site you can 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). To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site.

You may also access documents of the Department published in the **Federal Register** by using the article search feature at: <http://www.federalregister.gov>. Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.

Dated: June 2, 2011.

**Alexa Posny,**

*Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.*

[FR Doc. 2011-14023 Filed 6-6-11; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.326T]

### National Technical Assistance and Dissemination Center for Children Who Are Deaf-Blind; Proposed Extension of Project Period and Waiver

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

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed extension of project period and waiver for the National Technical Assistance and Dissemination Center for Children Who Are Deaf-Blind.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary proposes to waive the requirements in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), in 34 CFR 75.250 and 75.261(a) and (c), respectively, that generally prohibit project periods exceeding five years and extensions of project periods involving the obligation of additional Federal funds. This extension of project period and waiver would enable the currently funded National Technical Assistance and Dissemination Center for Children Who Are Deaf-Blind to receive funding from October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2013.

**DATES:** We must receive your comments on or before July 7, 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** Address all comments about this proposed extension of project period and waiver to Ingrid Oxaal, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 4154, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-2600.

If you prefer to send your comments by e-mail, use the following address: [ingrid.oxaal@ed.gov](mailto:ingrid.oxaal@ed.gov). You must include the phrase "proposed extension of project period and waiver" in the subject line of your message.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ingrid Oxaal at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. Telephone: (202) 245-7471. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), call the Federal Relay Service (FRS), toll-free, at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotope, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed in this section.

#### Invitation to Comment

We invite you to submit comments regarding this proposed extension of project period and waiver.

During and after the comment period, you may inspect all public comments

about this proposed extension of project period and waiver in room 4154, Potomac Center Plaza, 550 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, Monday through Friday of each week except Federal holidays.

#### **Assistance to Individuals With Disabilities in Reviewing the Rulemaking Record**

On request, we will supply an appropriate aid, such as a reader or print magnifier, to an individual with a disability who needs assistance to review the comments or other documents in the public rulemaking record for this proposed extension of project period and waiver. If you want to schedule an appointment for this type of aid, please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

#### **Background**

On December 22, 2005, the Department published a notice in the **Federal Register** (70 FR 76039) inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2006 for a National Technical Assistance and Dissemination Center for Children Who Are Deaf-Blind (Center). The purpose of the Center, which was funded under the Technical Assistance and Dissemination to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities (TA&D) program, authorized under section 663 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), is to provide specialized technical assistance, training, dissemination, and informational services to States, families, and agencies and organizations that are responsible for the provision of early intervention, special education, and related and transitional services for children through age 21 who are deaf-blind. For purposes of this notice, the term "individuals who are deaf-blind" refers to infants, toddlers, children, youth and young adults through age 21 who are deaf-blind.

Based on the 2005 notice inviting applications, the Department made one award for a period of 60 months to Western Oregon University to establish the Center, which is currently known as the National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness (NCDB). The major goals of the NCDB are three-fold. The first goal is to increase the capacity of State educational agencies (SEAs), local educational agencies (LEAs), early intervention programs, and other agencies to improve policies and practices that will result in appropriate assessment, planning, placement, and services for individuals who are deaf-

blind. The second goal is to increase the capacity of State deaf-blind projects as well as State and local agencies to use evidence-based practices to improve outcomes for individuals who are deaf-blind. The third goal is to collaborate with Parent Training and Information Centers (PTIs) to build the capacity of families of individuals who are deaf-blind to build relationships with family, peers, service providers, employers, and others and develop their knowledge about and skills in self-advocacy and self-empowerment.

The NCDB accomplishes this mission through a combination of activities in the following areas: (1) Technical assistance to SEAs, LEAs, families, and organizations that are responsible for the provision of early intervention, special education, and related and transitional services for individuals who are deaf-blind, (2) collection and dissemination of information related to improving outcomes for individuals who are deaf-blind, and (3) training to address gaps in the knowledge of service providers, including gaps in the knowledge of evidence-based practices, to improve outcomes for individuals who are deaf-blind.

The NCDB's current project period is scheduled to end on September 30, 2011. At this time, we do not believe that it would be in the public interest to run a competition under this program for a new Center. This extension will align the end of the NCDB's project period with the end of the grants funded under the Projects for Children and Young Adults who are Deaf-Blind program (CFDA Number 84.326C). This alignment will enable the Department to develop a technical assistance strategy for individuals who are deaf-blind that maximizes the effectiveness and efficiency of the services provided. We also have concluded that it would be contrary to the public interest to have a lapse in the provision of technical assistance services currently provided by the NCDB pending the development of a coordinated strategy for technical assistance for individuals who are deaf-blind. For these reasons, the Secretary proposes to waive the requirements in 34 CFR 75.250, which prohibit project periods exceeding five years, and the requirements in 34 CFR 75.261(a) and (c), which limit the extension of a project period if the extension involves the obligation of additional Federal funds, and issue a continuation award in the amount of \$4,200,000 to Western Oregon University (H326T060002) for an additional twenty-four-month period.

Waiving these regulations and issuing this continuation award would ensure that technical assistance, training, and

dissemination of information to multiple recipients, including families, individuals who are deaf-blind, State projects for deaf-blind services, SEAs, LEAs, lead agencies under Part C of the IDEA, and other State agencies, will not be interrupted during this period of time.

With this proposed extension of project period and waiver, the NCDB will be required to conduct the following activities:

(a) Continue identifying State project needs in order to provide universal, targeted, and intensive technical assistance and training, as appropriate.

(b) Assist State deaf-blind projects (1) to increase collaboration among State deaf-blind projects, the PTIs, and other OSEP Technical and Assistance projects (2) to improve early intervention, instructional and behavioral practices by providing universal, targeted, and intensive technical assistance and training, as appropriate.

(c) Provide information to SEAs to aid in policy development related to services to individuals who are deaf-blind, as appropriate.

(d) Assist families and individuals who are deaf-blind to increase their capacity to build relationships with family, peers, service providers, employers, and others; and develop their knowledge about and skills in self-advocacy and self-empowerment.

(e) Assist personnel preparation training programs to work collaboratively with each other to increase the number of teachers and paraprofessionals who are prepared to provide effective services and implement evidence-based practices to improve outcomes for individuals who are deaf-blind.

(f) Collaborate with the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, other Federal technical assistance projects, and State agencies to improve practices and services in early intervention, special education, related services, and transitional services by facilitating inclusion of individuals who are deaf-blind in SEA and LEA initiatives, as appropriate.

#### **Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification**

The Secretary certifies that this proposed extension of project period and waiver would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The only entities that would be affected are the current grantee serving as the National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness and any other potential applicant.

**Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995**

This proposed extension of project period and waiver does not contain any information collection requirements.

**Intergovernmental Review**

This program is subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. One of the objectives of the Executive order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism. The Executive order relies on processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance. This document provides early notification of our specific plans and actions for this program.

*Electronic Access to This Document:* 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 via the Federal Digital System at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys>. At this site you can 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). To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site. You may also access documents of the Department published in the **Federal Register** by using the article search feature at: <http://www.federalregister.gov>. Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.

Dated: June 2, 2011.

**Alexa Posny,**

*Assistant Secretary, for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.*

[FR Doc. 2011-14019 Filed 6-6-11; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION****Proposed Priority for the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed priority.

**Overview Information**

[CFDA: 84.133A-13]

Notice of Proposed Priority; National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR)—

Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program—Disability and Rehabilitation Research Project (DRRP)—Center on Knowledge Translation for Disability and Rehabilitation Research (KTDRR Center).

**SUMMARY:** The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services proposes a priority for the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program administered by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). Specifically, this notice proposes a priority for a center on knowledge translation for disability and rehabilitation research (KTDRR Center). The Assistant Secretary may use this priority for a competition in fiscal year (FY) 2011 and later years. We take this action to focus research attention on areas of national need.

**DATES:** We must receive your comments on or before July 7, 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** Address all comments about this notice to Marlene Spencer, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5133, Potomac Center Plaza (PCP), Washington, DC 20202-2700.

If you prefer to send your comments by e-mail, use the following address: [Marlene.Spencer@ed.gov](mailto:Marlene.Spencer@ed.gov). You must include "Proposed Priority for KTDRR Center" in the subject line of your electronic message.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Marlene Spencer. Telephone: (202) 245-7532 or by e-mail: [Marlene.Spencer@ed.gov](mailto:Marlene.Spencer@ed.gov).

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice of proposed priority is in concert with NIDRR's currently approved Long-Range Plan (Plan). 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/osers/nidrr/policy.html>.

Through the implementation of the Plan, NIDRR seeks to: (1) Improve the quality and utility of disability and rehabilitation research; (2) foster an exchange of expertise, information, and training to facilitate the advancement of knowledge and understanding of the unique needs of traditionally underserved populations; (3) determine best strategies and programs to improve rehabilitation outcomes for underserved populations; (4) identify research gaps; (5) identify mechanisms of integrating

research and practice; and (6) disseminate findings.

This notice proposes a priority that NIDRR intends to use for a DRRP competition in FY 2011 and possibly later years. However, nothing precludes NIDRR from publishing additional priorities, if needed. Furthermore, NIDRR is under no obligation to make an award for this priority. The decision to make an award will be based on the quality of applications received and available funding.

*Invitation to Comment:* We invite you to submit comments regarding this notice. To ensure that your comments have maximum effect in developing the notice of final priority, we urge you to identify clearly the specific topic that each comment addresses.

We invite you to assist us in complying with the specific requirements of Executive Order 12866 and its overall requirement of reducing regulatory burden that might result from this proposed priority. Please let us know of any further ways we could reduce potential costs or increase potential benefits while preserving the effective and efficient administration of the program.

During and after the comment period, you may inspect all public comments about this proposed priority in room 5133, 550 12th Street, SW., Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, Monday through Friday of each week except Federal holidays.

*Assistance to Individuals with Disabilities in Reviewing the Rulemaking Record:* On request we will provide an appropriate accommodation or auxiliary aid to an individual with a disability who needs assistance to review the comments or other documents in the public rulemaking record for this notice. If you want to schedule an appointment for this type of accommodation or auxiliary aid, please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

*Purpose of Program:* The purpose of the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program is to plan and conduct research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities, including international activities, to 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, and to improve the effectiveness of services