Summary:

This notice announces priorities for the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRPs) Program administered by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR). Specifically, we announce new priorities for the NIDILRR’s DRRPs Program, which are funded through the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program (Priority 1), and to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act (Priority 2).

Purpose of Program:

The purpose of the DRRPs 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 authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Rehabilitation Act).

Projects for Translating Disability and Rehabilitation Research Into Practice (Priority 2)

Comment: One commenter asked whether NIDILRR intends the grants to be made under this priority to support the translation and use of development-based outputs, as well as research-based knowledge and products. This commenter stated that if NIDILRR does intend to support the translation and use of development-based outputs, we should consistently include such language throughout the priority.

Discussion: We do not agree with the commenter that there is a solid and clear distinction between research-based and development-based outputs. NIDILRR program regulations define “development” in terms of its basis in research. CFR 350.16 defines development as the use of “knowledge and understanding gained from research to create materials, devices, systems, or methods beneficial to the target population, including design and development of prototypes and...
employment of individuals with disabilities. In planning and conducting all activities, the Center must partner with relevant stakeholders such as employment-focused researchers, individual with disabilities, consumer organizations, employers, State and Federal agencies, and others as appropriate.

Priority 2—Projects for Translating Disability and Rehabilitation Research Into Practice

The Administrator of the Administration for Community Living proposes a priority for Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP). These DRRP grants will serve as Projects for Translating Disability and Rehabilitation Research Into Practice. The purpose of these projects is to support the translation of research findings or products of past or present NIDILRR-funded grants into use or adoption by their stakeholders. Under this priority, grantees must successfully move NIDILRR-sponsored research-based findings or products into actual use or adoption in real-life contexts. Grantees under this priority must also document and disseminate the knowledge translation methods that they used to facilitate the adoption or use of findings or products by stakeholders.

Each knowledge translation grant under this priority must be conducted in partnership with relevant stakeholders. These stakeholders must be actively engaged in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of all knowledge translation grant activities. Grantees under this priority must contribute to the following outcomes:

(a) Use or adoption of NIDILRR-sponsored findings or products by relevant stakeholders;
(b) Changes in policy, practice, or systems that are intended to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities as a result of the use or adoption of NIDILRR-sponsored findings or products; and
(c) Increased understanding of promising practices for knowledge translation in disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research.

Grantees under this priority must contribute to these outcomes by—

(a) Identifying research-based findings or products from a NIDILRR-funded grant or grants that are ready for use or adoption in real-world settings, as well as the context or setting in which they will be used or adopted;
(b) Identifying or developing, and then implementing a knowledge translation plan to facilitate the use or adoption of findings or products in (a) by key stakeholders; and
(c) Identifying measures to evaluate the success of the uses or adoptions achieved under (b).

Types of Priorities

When inviting applications for a competition using one or more priorities, we designate the type of each priority as absolute, competitive preference, or invitational through a notice in the Federal Register. The effect of each type of priority follows:

Absolute priority: Under an absolute priority, we consider only applications that meet the priority (45 CFR 75).

Competitive preference priority: Under a competitive preference priority, we give competitive preference to an application by (1) awarding additional points, depending on the extent to which the application meets the priority (45 CFR 75); or (2) selecting an application that meets the priority over an application of comparable merit that does not meet the priority (45 CFR 75).

Invitational priority: Under an invitational priority, we are particularly interested in applications that meet the priority. However, we do not give an application that meets the priority a preference over other applications (45 CFR 75).

This notice does not preclude us from proposing additional priorities, requirements, definitions, or selection criteria, subject to meeting applicable rulemaking requirements.

Note: This notice does not solicit applications. In any year in which we choose to use these priorities, we invite applications through a notice in the Federal Register.

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: 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: www.federalregister.gov. Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Community Living

Applications for New Awards; National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR)—DRRPs—Knowledge Translation for Employment Research and Projects for Translating Disability and Rehabilitation Research Into Practice

AGENCY: Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services.

ACTION: Notice.

Overview Information:
National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR)—Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRPs)—Knowledge Translation for Employment Research (84.133A–5) and Projects for Translating Disability and Rehabilitation Research into Practice (84.133A–6)


John Tschida,
Director, National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research.

Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2015.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Numbers: 84.133A–5 and 84.133A–6.

Note: This notice invites applications for separate competitions. For funding and other key information for each of these competitions, see the chart in the Award Information section of this notice.


Note: On July 22, 2014, President Obama signed the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA). WIOA was effective immediately. One provision of WIOA transferred the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) from the Department of Education to the Administration for Community Living (ACL) in the Department of Health and Human Services. In addition, NIDRR’s name was changed to the Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR). For FY 2015, all NIDILRR priority notices will be published as ACL notices, and ACL will make all NIDILRR awards. During this transition period, however, NIDILRR will continue to review grant applications using Department of Education tools. NIDILRR will post previously-approved application kits to grants.gov, and NIDILRR applications submitted to grants.gov will be forwarded to the Department of Education’s G–5 system for peer review. We are using Department of Education application kits and peer review systems during this transition year in order to provide for a smooth and orderly process for our applicants.

Date of Pre-Application Meeting: May 26, 2015.

Deadline for Notice of Intent to Apply: June 9, 2015.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: July 6, 2015.

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

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. The Program’s activities are designed to 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 authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Rehabilitation Act).

Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRPs)

The purpose of DRRPs, which are under NIDILRR’s Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program, is to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, by developing methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technologies that advance a wide range of independent living and employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities. DRRP carry out one or more of the following types of activities, as specified and defined in 34 CFR 350.13 through 350.19: research, training, demonstration, development, dissemination, utilization, and technical assistance. Additionally information on DRRPs can be found at: http://www2.ed.gov/programs/drrp/index.html.

Priorities: There are three priorities for the grant competition announced in this notice. Two priorities are from the notice of final priorities for this program, published elsewhere in this issue of the Federal Register. One priority is from the notice of final priority for the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program, published in the Federal Register on April 28, 2006 (71 FR 25472).

Absolute Priorities: For FY 2015 and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applicants from this competition, these priorities are absolute priorities. Under 45 CFR part 75 we consider only applications that meet these program priorities.

These priorities are:
Priority 1: Center on Knowledge Translation for Employment Research
Priority 2: Projects for Translating Disability and Rehabilitation Research Into Practice

Note: The full text of these priorities is included in the notice of final priorities and definitions published in the Federal Register on March 13, 2015 (78 FR 13378) and in the application package for these competitions.

Priority 3—General DRRP Requirements

Note: The full text of this priority is included in the notice of final priorities for the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program, published in the Federal Register on April 28, 2006 (71 FR 25472) and in the application package for these competitions.


Applicable Regulations: (a) The Department of Health and Human Services General Administrative Regulations in 45 CFR part 75; (b) Audit Requirements for Federal Awards in 45 CFR part 75 Subpart F; (c) 45 CFR part 75 Non-procurement Debarment and Suspension; (d) 45 CFR part 75 Requirement for Drug-Free Workplace (Financial Assistance); (e) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 350; (f) The notice of final priorities for the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers program published in the Federal Register on April 28, 2006 (71 FR 25472); and (g) The notice of final priority for this program, published elsewhere in this issue of the Federal Register.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Discretionary grants.

Estimated Available Funds: $950,000.

Maximum Award: See chart.

Estimated Number of Awards: See chart.

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

Project Period: See chart.