

#1742

# REGULATION ASSIGNMENT CONTROL SHEET

**LOG CONTROL NUMBER: 136 ANALYST  
ASSIGNED: CAREY**

**TYPE OF ACTION: NPP**

**TITLE: ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE**

**RECEIVED: 5/21/2002**

**DATE ASSIGNED: 5/21/2002**

**DATE DUE: 5/30/02**

**ANALYST SIGNATURE:** *Shel Carey*

**COMPLETION DATE:** *5/23/02*

**FINAL APPROVAL:** *Joseph Schubar* **DATE:** *May 23, 2002*

*Approved*  
**OMB NO:** *1820-0572* *Expiration Date - 2/28/05*

**REG PART:**

## Rudolph, Kim

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**From:** Carey, Sheila  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2002 2:54 PM  
**To:** Rudolph, Kim  
**Subject:** FW: 224C - Alternative Financing Program Technical Assistance

approve  
1820-0572 expires 2/28/05

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Nangle, Donna  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 21, 2002 4:20 PM  
**To:** Rosen, Jeff; Gregory, Wava; Johnson, Janet; Lapointe, Richard; Carey, Sheila; Winters, Deborah; March, Greg; Friday, Melzetta  
**Cc:** Cohen, Carol; Melia, Richard; Pledger, Connie; Brannon, Ruth; Corrigan, Frank; Tingus, Steven; Myklebust, Joel; Fleming, Yvonne; Berland, Betty Jo; Depew, Ken  
**Subject:** 224C - Alternative Financing Program Technical Assistance

This is a proposed priority version of a notice that we had originally sent out as a notice inviting applications that you all have already reviewed and commented on. It was determined because of the additional requirements to the statutory priority that we needed to first go out with a public comment version.

If you could review and send comments back to Carol and myself by May 30th, it would be appreciated.

Please send concurrences to both Janet Johnson and myself.



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4000-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research

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

ACTION: Notice of proposed priority.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services proposes a priority for Alternative Financing Program Technical Assistance (AFPTA) under the Alternative Financing Program (AFP) of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). The Assistant Secretary may use this priority for competitions in fiscal year (FY) 2002 and later years. We take this action to focus attention on an identified national need. We intend this priority to provide information and technical assistance to States and outlying areas participating or interested in participating in the AFP.

DATES: We must receive your comments on or before [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: Address all comments about this proposed priority to Donna Nangle, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 3412, Switzer Building,

Washington, DC 20202-2645. If you prefer to send your comments through the Internet, use the following address:

donna.nangle@ed.gov

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Donna Nangle. Telephone: (202) 205-5880 or via the Internet:

donna.nangle@ed.gov

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the TDD number at (202) 205-4475.

Individuals with disabilities may 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:

Invitation to Comment:

We invite you to submit comments regarding this proposed priority.

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 opportunities we should take to 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 priority in room 3412, Switzer Building, 330 C Street, SW., Washington, DC, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Eastern 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 priority. If you want to schedule an appointment for this type of aid, please contact the person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.

Alternative Financing Program (AFP)

The Alternative Financing Program (AFP) created a Federal program to pay a share of the cost of the establishment or expansion, and administration of, an AFP for assistive technology (AT) for States and outlying areas to establish or maintain alternative financing projects to increase access AT for individuals with disabilities. The purpose of the AFPTA is to award a grant to a public or private agency or organization to provide information and technical assistance to States participating in the AFP.

This priority reflects issues discussed in the New Freedom Initiative (NFI) and NIDRR's Long-Range Plan (the Plan). The NFI can be accessed on the Internet at:  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/freedominitiative/freedominitiative.html>

The Plan can be accessed on the Internet at:

<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/NIDRR/Products>

We will announce the final priority in a notice in the Federal Register. We will determine the final priority after considering responses to this notice and other information available to the Department. This notice does not preclude us from proposing or funding additional priorities, subject to meeting applicable rulemaking requirements.

Note: This notice does not solicit applications. If we choose to use this proposed priority, we invite applications through a notice in the Federal Register. When inviting applications we designate the priority as absolute, competitive preference, or invitational.

Absolute priority: Under an absolute priority, we consider only applications that meet the priority (34 CFR 75.105(c)(3)).

Competitive preference priority: Under a competitive preference priority, we give competitive preference to an

application by either (1) awarding additional points, depending on how well or the extent to which the application meets the priority (34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i)); or (2) selecting an application that meets the priority over an application of comparable merit that does not meet the priority (34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(ii)).

Invitational priority: Under an invitational priority, we are particularly interested in applications that meet the invitational priority. However, we do not give an application that meets the priority a competitive or absolute preference over other applications (34 CFR 75.105(c)(1)).

#### PRIORITY

##### Background:

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) and title III of the Assistive Technology Act, the Assistant Secretary gives preference to applications that meet the statutory priority. We will fund under this competition only one application that meets the statutory priority. We are particularly interested in applications that propose ways to work with States on data collection analyze the data and compile the data.

You may obtain additional information about the background of this priority by contacting the person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.

Statutory Priority

The AFPTA project must:

- (a) Provide assistance to States preparing applications for the AFP;
- (b) Assist States to develop and implement the AFP;  
and
- (c) Provide any other information and TA the Assistant Secretary determines to be appropriate to assist States to achieve the objectives of AFP.

Proposed Priority

In addition to the statutory priority the AFPTA must:

- (1) Describe how they will enhance, expand and maintain data collection activities by the AFPs. AFP's currently report data using an instrument that was developed and implemented to assist the State grantees with their data collection obligations. NIDRR will provide this instrument to the grantee upon receipt of award.
- (2) Propose strategies for reviewing this instrument to determine what modifications should be made to improve the usability, reliability and validity of the data

collection instrument and suggest strategies to facilitate and expedite the collection of uniform annual data.

(3) Describe how they will provide technical assistance to the State grantees on the data collection instrument that will support and improve the data collection efforts of the States and provide technical assistance and training to State grantees on data collection strategies that will improve the quality of the data collected.

(4) Describe how they will compile the data to produce a Technical Assistance Report based on the data that includes an executive summary, description of procedures utilized and an analysis of the aggregated States' data collected during the project period.

Applicable Program Regulations: 34 CFR part 350.

Electronic Access to This Document

You may review this document, as well as all other Department of Education documents published in the Federal Register, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site:

[www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister](http://www.ed.gov/legislation/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.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html>

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 84.224C, Alternative Financing Program.)

PROGRAM AUTHORITY: 29 U.S.C. 3056.

Dated:

Robert H. Pasternack,  
Assistant Secretary for  
Special Education and  
Rehabilitative Services.