NOTICE ASSIGNMENT CONTROL SHEET

LOG CONTROL NUMBER: 133

ANALYST ASSIGNED: SCHUBART

ACTION: AN

TITLE: OSEP – TECHNOLOGY AND MEDIA SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES – INCREASING THE AVAILABILITY OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS IN ACCESSIBLE FORMATS FOR STUDENTS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS INCLUDING BLINDNESS AND STUDENTS WITH PRINT DISABILITIES

RECEIVED: 5/2/07

DATE ASSIGNED: 5/2/07

DATE DUE: 5/9/07

ANALYST SIGNATURE: Joseph Schubart

COMPLETION DATE: May 11, 2007

FINAL APPROVAL: James Hyf on behalf of Angela Arrington **DATE:** 5/10/07

OMB NO:

1/3 /20

REG PART:

1820-0027

Rudolph, Kim

From: Schubart, Joe
Sent: Friday, May 11, 2007 1:13 PM
To: Johnson, Janet; Rudolph, Kim; Arrington, Angela
Subject: FW: Request for Clearance for NIA for OSERS/OSEP--T&M-Ed Materials in Accessible Formats (CFDA No. 84.327K)

Janet,

This is the closing date notice that I thought that I had already approved and sent to you. Most likely I sent you 2 copies of the later closing date notice and notice of final priority, but with different reasoning. Is it Friday yet?

-----Original Message-----
From: Johnson, Janet
Sent: Wednesday, May 02, 2007 4:00 PM
To: Winters, Deborah; Faulkner, Janice; Jeffrey, Scott; Woodsome, James; Snyder, Martha; Wade, Maria; Cubarrubia, Archie; Henderson, Carrie; McFadden, Elizabeth; Higgins, Shannan; Rosen, Jeff; McGrath, Jack; Cogdill, David; Rudolph, Kim; Holloway, Michael; Rodriguez, Blanca; Harding, Natasha; Howard, Khriss
Cc: Tada, Wendy; Arrington, Angela; Hyler, James; Mullan, Kate; Winston, Melanie; Sturdivant, Debra; Hill, Glinda; Frane, Gregory; Snyderman, Mark
Subject: Request for Clearance for NIA for OSERS/OSEP--T&M-Ed Materials in Accessible Formats (CFDA No. 84.327K)

Please review the attached draft Notice Inviting Applications for OSERS/OSEP--Technology and Media Services for Individuals With Disabilities--Increasing the Availability of Educational Materials in Accessible Formats for Students With Visual Impairments Including Blindness and Students With Print Disabilities (**CFDA No. 84.327K**). Send me your comments and/or concurrence by **C.O.B. Wednesday, May 9**. Thank you.

327K-T&M cessible Formats-Dr

327K--Clearance Sheet.doc

Janet Johnson
U.S. Department of Education
Regulatory Services Division/OGC
(202)401-8300 -- (202)260-5093-Fax

REGULATIONS CLEARANCE SHEET
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL
DIVISION OF REGULATORY SERVICES (DRS)

DRAFT NO.: 1 **DATE:** May 2, 2007

Please review the attached document, check the appropriate box below, sign, and return with your comments, if any, or e-mail your response and any comments to *Janet Johnson (Rm.6C124)*. Your response is due by C.O.B. Wednesday, May 9.

Office of the Secretary*
[X] Deborah Winters, Ex. Sec., 7C100
[X] Janice Faulkner, 7W223

Office of the Deputy Secretary*
[X] Scott Jeffrey, 7W316
cc: Wendy Tada

Office of Planning, Evaluation & Policy Development*
[X] James Woodsome, 5E325
[X] Martha Snyder, 5E339
[X] Budget Service, Maria Wade, 5W311

Office of the Under Secretary*
[X] Archie Cubarrubia, 7E319
[X] Carrie Henderson, 7E313

Office of the General Counsel
Deputy General Counsel
[] Jeff Taylor, 6E339

Assistant General Counsel/DRS
[X] E. McFadden, 6E217*

Deputy Assistant General Counsel/DRS
[X] Shannan Higgins, 6C135

Program Attorney/DEER
[X] Jeff Rosen, 6E202

Faith-based and Community Initiative
[] Shayam Menon, 410M CP
[] Richard Boucher, 410D CP

Legislation & Congressional Affairs*
[X] Jack McGrath, 6W332

Office of Management
[X] David Cogdill, 2W225
[X] Kim Rudolph, 9152 PCP
cc: Angela Arrington
cc: James Hyler
cc: Kate Mullan
[] Dianne Novick, RIMS {Send only SORs)

Chief Financial Officer & Chief Information Officer
[X] Michael Holloway, 4E231
[X] Blanca Rodriguez, Charlesetta Griffin
cc: Natasha Harding, GPOS, 3652 ROB-3*
[X] Khriss Howard, 4E320

Special Education & Rehabilitative Services
cc: Melanie J. Winston
cc: Debra Sturdivant
cc: Glinda Hill

Program Contact: Debra Sturdivant Scheduler: Melanie J. Winston

CHECK ONE

[X] Approved
[ ] Approved subject to minor changes
[ ] Not approved—see comments

TYPE AND TITLE OF DOCUMENT: Notice Inviting Applications for OSERS/OSEP—Technology and Media Services for Individuals with Disabilities—Increasing the Availability of Educational Materials in Accessible Formats for Students With Visual Impairments Including Blindness and Students With Print Disabilities (CFDA No. (84.327K)

SIGNATURE: Joseph Schubert **DATE:** May 11, 2007

COMMENTS:

4000-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

Overview Information

Technology and Media Services for Individuals with Disabilities--Increasing the Availability of Educational Materials in Accessible Formats for Students with Visual Impairments including Blindness and Students With Print Disabilities

Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2007.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:

84.327K

Dates:

Applications Available: (INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER).

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: (INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER).

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: (INSERT DATE 90 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER).

Eligible Applicants: Eligible applicants are State educational agencies (SEAs), freely associated States (FAS), and Outlying Areas (OAs), and, if endorsed by the SEA, FAS, or OA to carry out a proposal on its behalf,

institutions of higher education (IHEs), private nonprofit organizations, and for-profit organizations.

Estimated Available Funds: $11,880,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards:

Maximum Award: Information concerning the maximum total amount of funding available for individual States is provided in a chart elsewhere in this notice under section II. Award Information. The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services may supplement awards, including amounts above the maximums indicated, if additional funds become available.

Estimated Number of Awards: 1 or more awards serving up to 60 States, FAS, and OAs.

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

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

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose of Program: The purpose of the program is to: (1) improve results for children with disabilities by promoting the development, demonstration, and use of technology, (2) support educational media services activities designed to be of educational value in the classroom setting to children with disabilities, and (3)

provide support for captioning and video description that is appropriate for use in the classroom setting.

Priority: In accordance with 34 CFR 75.105(b)(2)(v), this priority is from allowable activities specified in the statute (see sections 674 and 681(d) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.).

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:

Technology and Media Services for Individuals with Disabilities--Increasing the Availability of Educational Materials in Accessible Formats for Students With Visual Impairments Including Blindness and Students With Print Disabilities.

Background:

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires States to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to all students with disabilities, including the provision of instructional and educational materials appropriate for addressing their individualneeds.

The IDEA Amendments of 2004 added several new provisions to the statute to improve the production and dissemination

of accessible materials for students who have visual impairments including blindness and students who have print disabilities, including the following:

- Section 612(a)(23) requires States to adopt the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) for the purpose of providing instructional materials, including textbooks, to students with visual impairments including blindness and students with print disabilities and to assure that these materials will be provided in a timely manner. (Section 613(a)(6) contains similar requirements for LEAs).

- Section 674(e) requires the Department to establish a National Instructional Materials Center (NIMAC) to act as a repository for electronic files created in the NIMAS format.

- Sections 612(a)(23) also provides that States that choose to coordinate with the NIMAC, as part of any materials adoption process, procurement contract, or other practice or instrument used for purchase of print instructional materials, must enter into a written contract with the publisher to deposit NIMAS compliant electronic files of print instructional materials with the NIMAC. (Section 613(a)(6) contains similar requirements for LEAs.)

States are experiencing significant challenges as they implement these complex new provisions. The purpose of this priority is to support States and LEAs in meeting their responsibilities related to the provision of accessible materials through grants that (1) provide free instructional and educational materials, including textbooks, in accessible formats for use by students with visual impairments including blindness and students with print disabilities and (2) establish or enhance State systems or mechanisms to address the statutory requirements related to accessible materials.

Priority:

This priority supports grants for providing one or both of the following activities--

(a) Providing free instructional and educational materials for students with visual impairments including blindness and students with print disabilities in accessible formats including digital audio synchronization, electronic text, CD-ROMs, Braille, large print, and audio tapes; or,

(b) Improving the capacity of States to meet their responsibility to provide accessible instructional and educational materials by establishing or enhancing State systems or mechanisms for obtaining and disseminating these

materials to students with visual impairments including blindness and students with print disabilities in accessible formats in a timely manner.

Under Priority Area (a), the educational materials, including textbooks, must be provided free of charge to SEAs, LEAs, schools or students with visual impairments including blindness and to students with print disabilities. The accessible formats of those materials must be appropriate for use by students with visual impairments including blindness and by students with print disabilities who are eligible under Part B of IDEA. Applicants must specify direct recipients of materials and mechanisms to be used to distribute the materials to these recipients. Direct recipients may include SEAs, FAS, OAs, LEAs, students with visual impairments and blindness, and students with print disabilities.

Applicants applying under Priority Area (b) must provide specific plans for how the funds will be used to improve the capacity of States to carry out their responsibility to provide instructional and educational materials in accessible formats to eligible students in a timely manner.

Applicants that are <u>not</u> SEAs, FAS or OAs must include in their applications a letter of endorsement from the SEA,

FAS or OA on whose behalf the applicant is applying. Letters of endorsement must include the maximum funding amount that an applicant is endorsed to apply for on behalf of the SEA, FAS or OA. More than one applicant may apply for a State, but total application amounts for the State should not exceed the maximum State amount.

An applicant may apply for funds to conduct activities under Priority Area (a) or (b) or both (a) and (b). Where it would be a more effective use of resources, States, FAS, and OAs are encouraged to form consortia that meet the requirements in 34 CFR 75.127 to 75.129. A consortium is comprised of more than one eligible entity and could include entities from the same geographic region, with similar demographic characteristics, with similar populations, with similar geographic characteristics or other characteristics. The Secretary views the formation of consortia as an effective and efficient strategy to address the requirements of this priority.

Applicants that have been endorsed by multiple SEAs, FAS or OAs may include all of the entities for which they have been endorsed in a single application.

Once funded the project must meet the following additional requirements--

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

(b) Budget for a three-day Project Directors' meeting and a two-day Technology Innovation meeting, each in Washington, DC, during each year of the project.

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 the IDEA makes the public comment requirements of the APA inapplicable to the priority in this notice.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1474 and 1481.

Applicable Regulations: 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.

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 IHEs only.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Discretionary grant.

Estimated Available Funds: $11,880,000.

Maximum Award: Information concerning the funding amounts for individual States is provided elsewhere in this section of this notice. The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services may supplement awards, including amounts above the maximums indicated, if additional funds become available.

Estimated Number of Awards: Up to 60.

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

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

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT APPLICATION NOTICE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

84.327K- Accessible Educational Materials Priority	Maximum Awards (per year)
Alabama	$156,407
Alaska	100,000
Arizona	218,153
Arkansas	100,000
California	1,353,947
Colorado	165,333
Connecticut	119,931
Delaware	100,000
Florida	576,678
Georgia	329,083
Hawaii	100,000
Idaho	100,000
Illinois	456,094
Indiana	226,795
Iowa	100,000
Kansas	100,000
Kentucky	139,965
Louisiana	165,102
Maine	100,000

Maryland	198,626
Massachusetts	207,700
Michigan	362,434
Minnesota	177,897
Mississippi	106,427
Missouri	198,905
Montana	100,000
Nebraska	100,000
Nevada	100,000
New Hampshire	100,000
New Jersey	302,626
New Mexico	100,000
New York	645,901
North Carolina	300,353
North Dakota	100,000
Ohio	396,311
Oklahoma	122,908
Oregon	122,167
Pennsylvania	408,874
Rhode Island	100,000
South Carolina	165,660
South Dakota	100,000
Tennessee	198,139
Texas	877,790
Utah	102,893
Vermont	100,000
Virginia	260,246
Washington	215,992
West Virginia	100,000
Wisconsin	190,005
Wyoming	100,000
DC	100,000
Puerto Rico	149,660
American Samoa	35,000
Guam	35,000
N Marianas	35,000
Virgin Islands	35,000
Republic of the Marshall Islands	35,000
Federated States of Micronesia	35,000
Republic of Palau	35,000
Total	11,880,000

III. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants: Eligible applicants are SEAs, FAS, and OAs, and, if endorsed by the SEA, FAS, or OA to carry out a proposal on its behalf, IHEs, private nonprofit organizations, and for-profit organizations

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: 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 84.327K.

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: If your proposed project is for a single State application, you must limit Part III to the equivalent of no more than 15 pages. If your proposed project is for a consortium or applicants who apply on behalf of multiple States, you must limit Part III to the equivalent of no more than 25 pages. To determine the number of pages or the equivalent, you must use 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; or the two-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: (INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER).

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: (INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER).

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.

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.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: (INSERT DATE 90 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER).

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.

To comply with the President's Management Agenda, we are participating as a partner in the Governmentwide Grants.gov Apply site. The Increasing the Availability of Educational Materials in Accessible Formats for Students with Visual Impairments including Blindness and for Students With Print Disabilities competition--CFDA number 84.327K is included in this project. We request your participation in Grants.gov.

If you choose to submit your application electronically, you must use 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.

You may access the electronic grant application for the Increasing the Availability of Educational Materials in Accessible Formats for Students with Visual Impairments including Blindness and for Students With Print Disabilities 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 (e.g., search for 84.327, not 84.327K).

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 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 consider your application if it is date and 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 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). 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 submit your application in paper format.

- If you submit your application electronically, 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).

- If you 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 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 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 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. 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 fully register 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.

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 84.327K)
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 84.327K)
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 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 84.327K)

550 12th Street, SW.
Room 7041, Potomac Center Plaza
Washington, DC 20202-4260

The Application Control Center accepts hand deliveries daily between 8:00 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

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

2. Review and Selection Process:

Treating A Priority As Two Separate Competitions: In the past, there have been problems in finding peer reviewers without conflicts of interest for competitions in which many entities throughout the country submit applications. The Standing Panel requirements under IDEA also have placed additional constraints on the availability of reviewers. Therefore, the Department has determined that, for some discretionary competitions, applications may be separated into two or more groups and ranked and selected for funding within the specific group. This procedure will ensure the availability of a much larger group of reviewers without conflicts of interest. It also will increase the quality, independence and fairness of the review process and permit panel members to review applications under discretionary competitions for which they have also submitted applications. However, if the Department decides to select for funding an equal number of applications in each group, this may result in different cut-off points for fundable applications in each group.

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 (GPRA), the Department has developed measures that will yield information on various aspects of the quality of the Technology and Media Services

for Individuals with Disabilities program. These measures focus on the extent to which projects are of high quality, are relevant to the needs of children with disabilities, and contribute to improving the results for children with disabilities. Data on these measures will be collected from the projects funded under this competition.

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: Glinda Hill, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 4063, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-2600. Telephone: (202) 245-7376.

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

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VIII. Other Information

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Dated:

John H. Hager,
Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.