

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION****Rehabilitation Short-Term Training**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed priority for fiscal year (FY) 2000 and subsequent fiscal years

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary proposes a funding priority under the Rehabilitation Short-Term Training program. The Secretary may use this priority for competitions in FY 2000 and in subsequent fiscal years. The Secretary takes this action to support special seminars, institutes, workshops, and other short-term courses in technical matters relating to the vocational, medical, social, and psychological rehabilitation programs, independent living services programs, and client assistance programs.

**DATES:** We must receive your comments on or before November 22, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** All comments concerning this proposed priority should be addressed to Dr. Beverly Brightly, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Mary E. Switzer Building, room 3327, Washington, DC 20202-2649. If you prefer to send your comments through the Internet, use the following address:  
Beverly\_Brightly@ed.gov

You must include the term "Rehabilitation Short-Term Training Program" in the subject line of your electronic message.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Beverly Brightly. Telephone (202) 205-9561. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternate format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed in the preceding paragraph.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Short-Term Training program is authorized under section 302(a) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

**Goals 2000: Educate America Act**

The Goals 2000: Educate America Act (Goals 2000) focuses the Nation's education reform efforts on the eight National Education Goals and provides a framework for meeting them. Goals 2000 promotes new partnerships to strengthen schools and expands the Department's capacities for helping communities to exchange ideas and

obtain information needed to achieve the goals.

This proposed priority would address the National Education Goal that every adult American will be literate and will possess the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global economy and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. The proposed priority furthers the objectives of this Goal by focusing available funds on projects that improve the skills of Client Assistance Program staff, which will improve the responsiveness of the vocational rehabilitation system to adults with disabilities and their vocational pursuits.

The Secretary will announce the final priority in a notice in the **Federal Register**. The final priority will be determined by responses to this notice, available funds, and other considerations of the Department. Funding of particular projects depends on the availability of funds, the nature of the final priority, and the quality of the applications received. The publication of this proposed priority does not preclude the Secretary from proposing additional priorities, nor does it limit the Secretary to funding only this priority, subject to meeting applicable rulemaking requirements.

**Note:** This notice of proposed priority does not solicit applications. In any year in which the Secretary chooses to use this proposed priority, the Secretary invites applications through a notice published in the **Federal Register**. A notice inviting applications under this competition will be published in the **Federal Register** concurrent with or following publication of the notice of final priority.

**Priority**

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), the Secretary proposes to give an absolute preference to applications that meet the following priority. The Secretary proposes to fund under this competition only applications that meet this absolute priority:

A project must—

- Provide training to Client Assistance Program (CAP) personnel on an as-needed basis, including—

- (1) Management training on skills needed for strategic and operational planning and direction of CAP services;
- (2) Advocacy training on skills and knowledge needed by CAP staff to assist persons with disabilities to gain access to and to use the services and benefits available under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, with particular emphasis on new statutory and regulatory requirements;
- (3) Systemic advocacy training on skills and knowledge needed by CAP

staff to address programmatic issues of concern;

- (4) Training and technical assistance on CAP best practices; and

- (5) Training on skills and knowledge needed by CAP staff to perform additional responsibilities required by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as amended.

- Coordinate training efforts with other training supported by the Rehabilitation Services Administration, as well as with the training supported by the Center for Mental Health Services and the Administration on Developmental Disabilities on common areas such as protection and advocacy, financial management, and trial advocacy.

- Include both national and regional training seminars in each project year.

**Intergovernmental Review**

This program is subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. The objective of the Executive order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism by relying on processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

In accordance with the order, this document is intended to provide early notification of the Department's specific plans and actions for this program.

**Invitation To Comment**

We invite you to submit comments and recommendations regarding this proposed priority. During and after the comment period, you may inspect all public comments about this proposed priority in the Mary E. Switzer Building, room 3217, 330 C Street, SW., Washington, DC, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4 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, you may call (202) 205-8113 or (202) 260-9895. If you use a TDD, you may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

*Electronic Access to This Document*

You may view 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 either of the following sites:

<http://ocfo.ed.gov/fedreg.htm>

<http://www.ed.gov/news.html>

To use the PDF you must have the Adobe Acrobat Reader Program with Search, which is available free at either

of the previous sites. If you have questions about using the 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 84.246K Rehabilitation Short-Term Training)

**Program authority:** 29 U.S.C. 721(b) and (e) and 796(e).

Dated: October 19, 1999.

**Judith E. Heumann,**

*Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.*

[FR Doc. 99-27688 Filed 10-21-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-U