

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research**

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of Proposed Competitive Preference Points for Fiscal Years 2001–2002 for Field Initiated competition.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services proposes adding competitive preference points to the Field Initiated Grant competition (84.133G) for the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) for fiscal years 2001–2002. This notice contains proposed language for adding competitive preference points.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before July 26, 2000.

ADDRESSES: All comments concerning the addition of competitive preference points should be addressed to Donna Nangle, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, room 3414, Switzer Building, Washington, DC 20202–2645.

Comments may also be sent through the Internet: donna_nangle@ed.gov

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Donna Nangle. Telephone: (202) 205–5880.

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the TDD number at (202) 205–4475. Internet:

Donna_Nangle@ed.gov

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:**Invitation To Comment**

We invite you to submit comments regarding this proposed notice. 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 notice. 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 notice in Room 3414, Switzer Building, 330 C Street SW., Washington, DC, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4:30 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 the proposed language. 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.

This language supports the National Education Goal that calls for every American to possess the skills necessary to compete in a global economy.

Proposed Additional Selection Criterion

The Assistant Secretary will use the selection criteria in 34 CFR 350.54 to evaluate applications under this program. The maximum score for all the criteria is 100 points; however, the Assistant Secretary will also use the following criterion so that up to an additional ten points may be earned by an applicant for a total possible score of 110 points.

Within this Field Initiated competition, we will give the following competitive preference under 34 CFR

75.105(c)(2)(i) to applications that are otherwise eligible for funding under this competition.

Up to ten (10) points based on the extent to which an application includes effective strategies for employing and advancing in employment qualified individuals with disabilities in projects awarded under this competition. In determining the effectiveness of those strategies, we will consider the applicant's prior success, as described in the application, in employing and advancing in employment qualified individuals with disabilities.

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Applicable Program Regulations: 34 CFR Part 350. *Applicable Program Regulations:* 34 CFR Part 350.

Program Authority: 29 U.S.C. 764.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 84.133G, Field Initiated Research)

Dated: June 20, 2000.

Curtis L. Richards,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

[FR Doc. 00–15992 Filed 6–23–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–P