

waiver and extension. The Secretary has therefore determined to waive the delayed effective date to ensure a timely continuation grant to the current National Center and continuation of the valuable services the National Center provides.

Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

The Secretary certifies that this final waiver and extension of the project period will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The only entity that will be affected is the current grantee receiving Federal funds to serve as the National Center and any other potential applicants.

The Secretary certifies that the final waiver and extension will not have a significant economic impact on this entity because the extension of an existing project period imposes minimal compliance costs, and the activities required to support the additional year of funding will not impose additional regulatory burdens or require unnecessary Federal supervision.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

This final waiver and extension of the project period does not contain any information collection requirements.

Intergovernmental Review

This program is subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. However, under 34 CFR 79.8(a), we waive intergovernmental review in order to make an award by the end of FY 2015.

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Dated: July 27, 2015.

Michael K. Yudin,

Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

34 CFR Part 75

Final Waiver and Extension of the Project Period; Regional Interpreter Education Centers for the Training of Interpreters for Individuals Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and Individuals Who Are Deaf-Blind

AGENCY: Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education.

ACTION: Final waiver and extension of the project period.

[Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.160A]

SUMMARY: The Secretary waives the requirements that generally prohibit project periods exceeding five years and extensions of project periods involving the obligation of additional Federal funds for five 60-month projects initially funded in fiscal year (FY) 2010. The Secretary also extends the project period for these projects for one year. This waiver and extension enables the currently funded Regional Interpreter Education Centers for the training of interpreters for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and individuals who are deaf-blind (Regional Centers) to receive funding through September 30, 2016.

DATES: The waiver and extension of the project period are effective July 30, 2015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kristen Rhinehart-Fernandez, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., Room 5027, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-2800. Telephone: (202) 245-6103 or by email: Kristen.Rhinehart@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf or a text telephone, call the Federal Relay Service, toll-free, at 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 17, 2015, the Department published a notice in the **Federal Register** (80 FR 21195) proposing an extension of the project period and a waiver of 34 CFR 75.250 and 34 CFR 75.261(c)(2)

(proposed waiver and extension) in order to—

(1) Enable the Secretary to provide additional funds to the Regional Centers for an additional 12-month period, from September 30, 2015, through September 30, 2016; and

(2) Invite comments on the proposed waiver and extension.

There are no substantive differences between the proposed waiver and extension and this final waiver and extension.

Public Comment: In response to our invitation in the proposed waiver and extension, two parties submitted comments.

Analysis of Comments and Changes: An analysis of the comments received in response to the proposed waiver and extension and of any changes in the waiver and extension since publication of the proposed waiver and extension follows.

Comment: Two commenters supported extending the Regional Centers' project period for one year to avoid the loss of an essential source of training and training materials tailored to the needs of the five regions served.

Discussion: We appreciate the commenters' support.

Changes: None.

Final Waiver and Extension

In the proposed waiver and extension, we discuss the background and purposes of the Regional Centers and our reasons for proposing the waiver and extension. For the reasons discussed there, we conclude that it would be contrary to the public interest to have a lapse in the provision of the training currently provided by the Regional Centers. Allowing funding to lapse before a new interpreter education delivery system can be implemented would leave individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and individuals who are deaf-blind without necessary supports in the event that critical needs arise.

The Secretary waives the requirements in 34 CFR 75.250, which prohibit project periods exceeding five years, and the requirements in 34 CFR 75.261(c)(2), which limits the extension of a project period if the extension involves the obligation of additional Federal funds. This will allow the five current grantees to request and continue to receive Federal funding through September 30, 2016. With this waiver and extension of the project period, each Regional Center will be required to develop a plan to demonstrate how it will continue to carry out activities during the year of the continuation award consistent with the scope, goals, and objectives of the grantee's

application as approved in the 2010 competition. These plans must be submitted to RSA for review and approval by September 1, 2015.

Waiver of Delayed Effective Date

The Administrative Procedure Act requires that a substantive rule must be published at least 30 days before its effective date, except as otherwise provided for good cause (5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3)). We have not made any substantive changes to the proposed waiver and extension. The Secretary has therefore determined to waive the delayed effective date to ensure timely continuation grants to the entities affected and continuation of the valuable services the Regional Centers provide.

Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

The Secretary certifies that this final waiver and extension of the project period will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The only entities that will be affected are the five current grantees receiving Federal funds to serve as the Regional Centers and any other potential applicants.

The Secretary certifies that the waiver and extension will not have a significant economic impact on these entities because the extension of an existing project period imposes minimal compliance costs, and the activities required to support the additional year of funding will not impose additional regulatory burdens or require unnecessary Federal supervision.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

This final waiver and extension of the project period does not contain any information collection requirements.

Intergovernmental Review

This program is subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. However, under 34 CFR 79.8(a), we waive intergovernmental review in order to make awards by the end of FY 2015.

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Dated: July 27, 2015.

Michael K. Yudin,

Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

34 CFR Chapter III

[CFDA Number: 84.264H.]

Final Priority; Rehabilitation Training: Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center—Youth With Disabilities

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

ACTION: Final priority.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services announces a priority under the Rehabilitation Training program. The Assistant Secretary may use this priority for competitions in fiscal year (FY) 2015 and later years. This priority is designed to ensure that professionals working in State vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies receive the technical assistance (TA) they need to provide youth with disabilities with services and supports that lead to postsecondary education and competitive integrated employment.

DATES: This priority is effective August 31, 2015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tara Jordan, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., Room 5040, Potomac Center Plaza (PCP), Washington, DC 20202-2800. Telephone: (202) 245-7341 or by email: tara.jordan@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) or a text telephone (TTY), call the Federal Relay Service (FRS), toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of Program: Under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Rehabilitation Act), as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) makes grants to States and public or nonprofit agencies and organizations (including institutions of higher education) to support projects that provide training, traineeships, and TA designed to increase the numbers of, and improve the skills of, qualified personnel, especially rehabilitation counselors, who are trained to: provide vocational, medical, social, and psychological rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities; assist individuals with communication and related disorders; and provide other services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act.

Program Authority: 29 U.S.C. 772(a)(1).

Applicable Program Regulations: 34 CFR part 385.

We published a notice of proposed priority for this competition in the **Federal Register** on May 15, 2015 (80 FR 27868). That notice contained background information and our reasons for proposing the particular priority. There are differences between the proposed priority and this final priority, and we explain those differences in the *Analysis of Comments and Changes* section of this notice.

Public Comment: In response to our invitation in the notice of proposed priority, three parties submitted comments on the proposed priority.

Generally, we do not address technical and other minor changes.

Analysis of Comments and Changes: An analysis of the comments and of any changes in the priority since publication of the notice of proposed priority follows.

Comment: One commenter suggested that the Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center—Youth with Disabilities (VRTAC-Y) include as a focus of the training and TA to be provided by the Center best practices for improving services and supports for children with disabilities who are home schooled as well as children with disabilities in foster care. In addition, the commenter noted that, like youth without disabilities, youth with disabilities need support in obtaining work experience in intermediate jobs while they are still being encouraged to seek careers requiring postsecondary education or training. The commenter also suggested that the VRTAC-Y consult with adults with disabilities who are successful in order to identify practices they found to be helpful. Finally, the commenter suggested that