

### Summary of Potential Costs and Benefits

The benefits of the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Programs have been well established over the years in that similar projects have been completed successfully. These proposed priorities will generate new knowledge and technologies through research, development, dissemination, utilization, and technical assistance projects.

Another benefit of these proposed priorities is that the establishment of a new DRRP, a new RRTC, and a new RERC will support the President's NFI and will improve the lives of individuals with disabilities. The new DRRP, RRTC, and RERC will generate, disseminate, and promote the use of new information that will improve the options for individuals with disabilities to perform regular activities in the community.

### Intergovernmental Review

This program is not subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 part 79.

*Applicable Program Regulations:* 34 CFR part 350.

### 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 the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/news/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.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html>.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers 84.133A Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects, 84.133B Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers, and 84.133E Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers Program)

**Program Authority:** 29 U.S.C. 762(g), 764(a), 764(b)(2), and 764(b)(3).

Dated: April 17, 2008.

**Tracy R. Justesen,**

*Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.*

[FR Doc. E8-8714 Filed 4-21-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR)

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

**ACTION:** Request for written input.

**SUMMARY:** The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services requests written input regarding NIDRR's long-range plan for fiscal years 2010-2014 (the 2010-2014 Plan). The purpose of this solicitation is to obtain ideas from the public on the content and direction of the new NIDRR 2010-2014 Plan.

**DATES:** We must receive your comments on or before May 22, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** Address all written input to Donna Nangle, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 6029, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-2700. If you prefer to send your input through the Internet, please submit it at the following Web site <http://www.neweditions.net/NIDRRLLRP>, or use the following e-mail address: [NIDRR\\_Mailbox@ed.gov](mailto:NIDRR_Mailbox@ed.gov).

If you submit your written input through the Internet, identify the specific topic of your input in the subject line of your electronic message from among the following: employment outcomes; participation and community living; health and function; technology; and demographics. If you are submitting general input, please use the term "General" in the subject line of your electronic message. Please limit your input to no more than two single-spaced pages. Please submit your input only once to ensure that we do not receive duplicate copies.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this notice in an alternate format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, or computer diskette) by contacting the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Donna Nangle. Telephone: (202) 245-7462 or by e-mail: [donna.nangle@ed.gov](mailto:donna.nangle@ed.gov).

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

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background

As authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Act) (29 U.S.C. 760-762), NIDRR's mission is—

- To generate new knowledge and to promote its effective use to improve the abilities of individuals with disabilities to perform activities of their choice in the community, including the pursuit of employment; and

- To expand society's capacity to provide full opportunities and accommodation for individuals with disabilities.

Pursuant to section 202(h) of the Act (29 U.S.C. 762(h)), the Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services periodically publishes a five-year plan that outlines NIDRR's upcoming priorities for rehabilitation research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities, and explains the basis for these priorities. NIDRR's long-range plan for fiscal years 2005-2009 (2005-2009 Plan) was published in the **Federal Register** on February 15, 2006 (71 FR 8165) and can be accessed on the Internet at the following Web site: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/nidrr/policy.html>.

**Note:** Individuals with disabilities may also obtain a copy of the 2005-2009 Plan in an alternate format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, or computer diskette) by contacting the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

NIDRR held a public meeting on March 19, 2008 that was accessible by Webcast via the Internet or by participating in a toll-free teleconference. A transcript and an archive of this Webcast are available at: <http://www.tvworldwide.com/events/does/080319>.

### Development of the 2010-2014 Plan

NIDRR has begun the process of preparing the 2010-2014 Plan, and is interested in receiving, among other things, suggestions for research topics that are consistent with its mission for fiscal years 2010 through 2014.

As NIDRR works to develop the 2010-2014 Plan, the Assistant Secretary would like feedback from the public that includes, but is not limited to, suggestions for research:

- That would address the current needs of, or emerging issues facing, individuals with disabilities.
- that could help improve employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities.

- that could improve the programs of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, including its vocational rehabilitation and independent living programs.

NIDRR is also seeking input on:

- What strategies might be effective in building capacity in the area of disability and rehabilitation research.

- What NIDRR can do to ensure that its research and development activities produce results that can help improve the lives of individuals with disabilities.

*Applicable Program Regulations:* 34 CFR part 350.

*Authority:* 29 U.S.C. 762.

*Electronic Access to This Document:* You can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/news/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.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html>.

Dated: April 17, 2008.

**Tracy R. Justesen,**

*Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.*

[FR Doc. E8-8691 Filed 4-21-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**Office of Postsecondary Education; Overview Information; Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP), American Indian Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCU), and Alaska Native-Serving and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions (ANNH) programs; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008**

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Numbers: 84.031A, 84.031T, 84.031N, and 84.031W.)

*Dates:*

*Applications Available:* April 22, 2008.

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* May 22, 2008.

**Full Text of Announcement**

**I. Funding Opportunity Description**

*Purpose of Program:* The SIP, TCCU, and the ANNH programs authorized by Title III, Part A of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), 20 U.S.C. 1057-1059d, provide grants to eligible institutions of higher education (IHEs) to help them become self sufficient and expand their capacity to serve low-income students by providing funds to improve and strengthen their academic quality, institutional management and fiscal stability. Section 499A of the HEA, as added by the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA), Public Law 100-84, makes additional funds available in Fiscal

Years 2008 and 2009 to certain minority-serving institutions eligible for the SIP programs including an additional \$30 million to the TCCU program and \$15 million to the ANNH program. Awards under these programs are hereafter referred to as CCRAA-TCCU and CCRAA-ANNH.

**Program Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 1057-1059d and Pub. L. 110-84.

*Applicable Regulations:* (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 82, 84, 85, 86, 97, 98, and 99. (b) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 607.

**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 institutions of higher education only.

**II. Award Information**

*Type of Award:* Discretionary grants.

*Estimated Available Funds:*

\$23,411,000 for the SIP program, \$40,517,000 for the TCCU program (includes \$30,000,000 in CCRAA funding), and \$18,880,000 for the ANNH program (includes \$15,000,000 in CCRAA funding) for FY 2008.

*Estimated Average Size of Awards:* See following chart.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* See following chart.

Program name and type of award	Maximum award amount (\$)	Estimated number of awards	Estimated average award amount (\$)
Strengthening Institutions Program (84.031A):			
5-year Individual Development Grants .....	400,000	64	300,000
5-year Cooperative Arrangement Grants .....	500,000	1	500,000
Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Program (84.031T):			
5-year Individual Development Grants .....	475,000	6	450,000
1-year Construction Grants .....	1,650,000	6	1,336,000
2-year CCRAA-TCCU Construction Grants .....	3,000,000	10	3,000,000
Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Program (84.031N and 84.031W):			
5-year Individual Development Grants .....	500,000	8	400,000
2-year CCRAA-ANNH Renovation Grants .....	2,000,000	10	1,500,000

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

*Project Period:* Up to 60 months for development and cooperative arrangement grants, 12 months for one-year TCCU construction grants, and 24 months for CCRAA-TCCU two-year construction and CCRAA-ANNH renovation grants.

**III. Eligibility Information**

1. *Eligible Applicants:* An IHE that qualifies as an eligible institution under the SIP, TCCU, and the ANNH programs

may apply for grants under this notice. These programs are authorized by Title III, Part A, of the HEA. To qualify as an eligible institution under any Title III, Part A programs, an institution must, among other requirements—

(1) Be accredited or preaccredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association that the Secretary has determined to be a reliable authority as to the quality of education or training offered;

(2) Be legally authorized by the State in which it is located to be a junior or

community college or to provide an educational program for which it awards a bachelor's degree;

(3) Be designated as an "eligible institution" by demonstrating that it: A) has an enrollment of needy students as described in 34 CFR 607.3; and B) has low average educational and general expenditures per full-time equivalent (FTE) undergraduate student as described in 34 CFR 607.4.

*Relationship between the Title III, Part A programs, and the Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) program.*