

(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 grant 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

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

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 notify you informally, also.

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 directed by the Secretary under 34 CFR 75.118. The Secretary may also require more frequent performance reports under 34 CFR 75.720(c). For specific requirements on reporting, please go to <http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html>.

4. **Performance Measures:** Under the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA), the Department developed the following performance measures to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the HEP: (1) The percentage of HEP program exiters receiving a General Education Development (GED) credential (GPRA

1), and (2) the percentage of HEP GED recipients who enter postsecondary education or training programs, upgraded employment, or the military (GPRA 2).

Applicants must propose annual targets for these measures in their applications. The national target for GPRA 1 for FY 2010 is that 69 percent of HEP program exiters will receive a GED credential. The national target for GPRA 2 for FY 2010 is that 80 percent of HEP GED recipients will enter postsecondary education or training programs, upgraded employment, or the military. The panel readers will score related selection criteria for applicants, in part, on the basis of how well an applicant addresses these GPRA measures. Therefore, applicants should consider how they will demonstrate their capacity to provide reliable data on these measures, including the project's annual performance targets for the GPRA measures, as required by the OMB approved annual performance report that is included in the application package. All grantees will be required to submit, as part of their annual performance report, information with respect to these GPRA measures.

VII. Agency Contact

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David De Soto, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Migrant Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 3E344, Washington, DC 20202-6135. Telephone: (202) 260-8103, or by e-mail: david.de.soto@ed.gov, or Tara Ramsey, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Migrant Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 3E323, Washington, DC 20202-6135. Telephone: (202) 260-2063, or by e-mail: tara.ramsey@ed.gov. If you use a TDD, call the FRS, toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

VIII. Other Information

Accessible Format: Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document and a copy of the application package in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotope, or computer diskette) on request to the program contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** in section VII of this notice.

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.

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: December 10, 2009.

Thelma Meléndez de Santa Ana,

Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR)—Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program—Disability Rehabilitation Research Project (DRRP)—Reducing Obesity and Obesity-Related Secondary Health Conditions Among Adolescents and Young Adults With Disabilities From Diverse Race and Ethnic Backgrounds

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.133A-7.
AGENCY: Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of proposed priority for a DRRP.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services proposes a priority for the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program administered by NIDRR. Specifically, this notice proposes a priority for a DRRP. The Assistant Secretary may use this priority for a competition in fiscal year (FY) 2010 and later years. We take this action to focus research attention on areas of national need. We intend this priority to improve rehabilitation services and outcomes for individuals with disabilities.

DATES: We must receive your comments on or before January 14, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments about this proposed priority to Donna Nangle, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 6029, Potomac Center Plaza (PCP), Washington, DC 20202-2700.

If you prefer to send your comments by e-mail, use the following address: donna.nangle@ed.gov. You must include the term "Proposed Priority for a DRRP on Reducing Obesity" in the subject line of your electronic message.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice of proposed priority is in concert with NIDRR's Final Long-Range Plan for FY 2005–2009 (Plan). The Plan, which was published in the **Federal Register** on February 15, 2006 (71 FR 8165), can be accessed on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ose/nidrr/policy.html>.

Through the implementation of the Plan, NIDRR seeks to: (1) Improve the quality and utility of disability and rehabilitation research; (2) foster an exchange of expertise, information, and training to facilitate the advancement of knowledge and understanding of the unique needs of traditionally underserved populations; (3) determine best strategies and programs to improve rehabilitation outcomes for underserved populations; (4) identify research gaps; (5) identify mechanisms of integrating research and practice; and (6) disseminate findings.

This notice proposes a priority that NIDRR intends to use for DRRP competitions in FY 2010 and possibly later years. However, nothing precludes NIDRR from publishing additional priorities, if needed. Furthermore, NIDRR is under no obligation to make an award for this priority. The decision to make an award will be based on the quality of applications received and available funding.

Invitation to Comment: We invite you to submit comments regarding this proposed priority. To ensure that your comments have maximum effect in developing the notice of final priority, we urge you to identify clearly the specific topic that each comment addresses.

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 priority. Please let us know of any further ways we could 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 proposed priority in room 6029, 550 12th Street, SW., Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Washington, DC, time, Monday through Friday of each week except Federal holidays.

Assistance to Individuals with Disabilities in Reviewing the Rulemaking Record: On request we will provide an appropriate accommodation or auxiliary aid to an individual with a disability who needs assistance to review the comments or other documents in the public rulemaking record for this notice. If you want to schedule an appointment for this type of accommodation or auxiliary aid, please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Purpose of Program: The purpose of the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program is to plan and conduct research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities, including international activities, to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology, that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities, and to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Program Authority: 29 U.S.C. 762(g) and 764(a).

Applicable Program Regulations: 34 CFR part 350.

Proposed Priority:

This notice contains one proposed priority.

Reducing Obesity and Obesity-Related Secondary Conditions Among Adolescents and Young Adults with Disabilities from Diverse Race and Ethnic Backgrounds.

Background: Obesity continues to be a major public health concern in the United States (U.S.). Overall, the prevalence of obesity in the U.S. doubled among adults between 1980 and 2004. More than a third of adults in the U.S. meet the criteria for obesity (Ogden, *et al.*, 2007). Rates of obesity also increased among children and adolescents from 11 to 17 percent during roughly the same time period (Ogden, *et al.*, 2007).

Recent epidemiological studies indicate significant differences in obesity rates among individuals with and without disabilities (Altman & Bernstein, 2008; Rimmer, Rowland, & Yamaki, 2007; Rimmer & Rowland, 2008a). Approximately one-third of all adults with disabilities were obese compared with only 19 percent of adults without disabilities (Altman & Bernstein, 2008). Children and adolescents with disabilities are also more likely than their non-disabled

counterparts to be classified as being overweight. Approximately 30 percent of children between the ages of 6 and 18 who have limitations in walking, crawling, running, and playing are overweight, compared to about 16 percent of children in the same age group who do not have those limitations (Bandini, *et al.*, 2005).

There are also significant and well-documented disparities in obesity prevalence based on race and ethnicity (Altman & Bernstein, 2008; Steinmetz, 2006). For example, in general, a greater percentage of non-Hispanic blacks and Mexican-Americans of all ages are obese compared to non-Hispanic whites (Ogden, *et al.*, 2006).

Despite these documented disparities in obesity prevalence between individuals with and without disabilities, and by race and ethnicity, only a few national studies have examined variations in obesity by the intersection of both disability and minority group status. According to these studies, adults with both disability and race/ethnic minority status have significantly higher rates of obesity compared to individuals with disability or minority group status only, and compared to those with neither disability nor minority status (Jones & Sinclair, 2008). However, none of these studies report data specifically for the cohort of transition-age adolescents and young adults, approximately 15 to 25 years of age. New analyses of extant data are needed to determine whether the patterns that exist for adults similarly exist for adolescents and young adults who have disabilities and are from diverse race/ethnic backgrounds. Filling this knowledge gap, as well as identifying other risk factors for obesity in this population, will allow services and interventions to be targeted to youth with disabilities who are most at risk of obesity or overweight status. Targeting such services and interventions is critical for these adolescents and young adults, as obesity and overweight status generally continue into adulthood where they can restrict health-enhancing activities and jeopardize opportunities for community participation and employment (Rimmer, Rowland, & Yamaki, 2007).

Obesity and overweight status can also have serious health consequences for adolescents and adults with disabilities because they can be precursors to secondary conditions that can complicate treatment of the original disabling condition and undermine functional abilities (Rimmer & Rowland, 2008a; Kinne, Patrick, & Doyle, 2004). Secondary conditions consist of additional physical or mental health

conditions that are directly or indirectly related to the primary impairment, and are generally considered preventable (IOM, 2007). Although numerous studies have examined the secondary conditions experienced by adults with disabilities (Kinne *et al.*, 2004; Drum *et al.*, 2005; Rimmer, Rowland & Yamaki, 2007), new research is needed to identify the obesity-related secondary conditions that are most commonly experienced by adolescents and young adults with disabilities, especially those from minority race/ethnic backgrounds. New research on this target population is also needed to highlight variations in risk factors for obesity and obesity-related secondary conditions.

To date, NIDRR's investments in this area have increased awareness of the disparities in obesity and obesity-related secondary conditions between adolescents and adults with and without disabilities (Rimmer, Rowland & Yamaki, 2007; Rimmer & Rowland, 2008b). NIDRR-sponsored researchers have also piloted a new screening tool based on total body fat instead of body mass index (BMI), that more accurately identifies obesity and overweight status (Rimmer & Rowland, 2008a; Rimmer, 2008). The work to be conducted by the DRRP under this priority will build upon these earlier studies by providing more detailed information about the prevalence of obesity, the risk factors for obesity, and the obesity-related secondary conditions that are commonly experienced by adolescents with disabilities from minority race/ethnic backgrounds.

The majority of obesity intervention studies that exist were conducted in controlled, rather than community-based, settings where most or all of the common barriers to participation in health-promoting activities were eliminated (Rimmer & Rowland, 2008a). However, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provided \$650 million to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), "to carry out evidence-based clinical and community-based prevention and wellness strategies authorized by the Public Health Service Act that deliver specific, measurable health outcomes that address chronic disease rates." The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has developed an initiative in response to the Act. The goal of this initiative—Communities Putting Prevention to Work—is to reduce risk factors and prevent/delay chronic disease and promote wellness in both children and adults. It is not clear to what extent models or practices being implemented by projects such as these have implications for individuals with

disabilities. Adequate research is not available related to this area.

New research is needed to identify promising, community-based strategies that are culturally competent and have potential to be effective in reducing obesity and obesity-related secondary conditions among adolescents and young adults with disabilities from minority race/ethnic backgrounds.

References:

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- Steinmetz, E. (2004). Americans with Disabilities: 2002. Current Population Reports, P70–107, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.
- Thorpe, K.E., Florence, C.S., Howard, D.H., and Joski, P. (2004). The Impact of Obesity on the Rise in Medical Spending. *Health Affairs*, July–December (suppl. web excl.), W4–480–86.
- Wolf, A.M., Manson, J.E., Colditz, G.A. (2002). The Economic Impact of Overweight, Obesity and Weight Loss. In: Eckel, R (Editor). *Obesity: Mechanisms and Clinical Management*. Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins.

Proposed Priority:

The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services proposes a priority for a Disability Rehabilitation Research Project (DRRP) on Reducing Obesity and Obesity-Related Secondary Conditions among Adolescents and Young Adults with Disabilities from Diverse Race and Ethnic Backgrounds. The DRRP must build upon the current research literature on obesity and secondary conditions and examine existing community-based obesity prevention programs such as the programs being implemented by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in order to determine whether practices they are implementing hold promise for individuals with disabilities, what modifications to these practices may be necessary, and how individuals with disabilities might be incorporated into community-based programs serving the wider community. Applicants must identify the specific sub-populations of adolescents and young adults they

propose to study by type of disability (e.g., physical, sensory, mental) and by race/ethnic background. Under this priority, NIDRR is interested in obesity as a condition that is experienced concomitantly with other disabling conditions, but not as a primary disabling condition. When identifying the specific sub-populations by race/ethnic background, the DRRP must select from three or more of the following categories: non-Hispanic whites, non-Hispanic blacks, American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Asians or Pacific Islanders, and individuals of Hispanic origin.

Under this priority, the DRRP must be designed to contribute to the following outcomes:

(a) Enhanced understanding of the risk factors and health consequences of obesity and overweight status for adolescents and young adults with pre-existing disabilities from diverse race/ethnic backgrounds. The DRRP must contribute to this outcome by conducting analyses of extant data sources to identify variations in rates of obesity and overweight status by race/ethnicity and other risk factors among adolescents and young adults with disabilities approximately 15 to 25 years of age, as well as variations in obesity-related secondary conditions.

(b) New knowledge of promising, community-based and culturally competent practices for reducing obesity and obesity-related secondary conditions among adolescents and young adults with pre-existing disabilities. The DRRP must contribute to this outcome by conducting research to identify the key elements of culturally competent, community-based strategies and programs that show promise toward reducing obesity and overweight status for the specific target populations selected. The DRRP's work in this area is intended to identify potential interventions that can be tested and implemented in the future in community-based settings. Applicants must propose, in their applications, the specific criteria and methods they will use to identify culturally competent and promising community-based strategies and programs.

(c) Increased translation of research findings into practice or policy. The DRRP must contribute to this outcome by:

(1) Collaborating with stakeholder groups (e.g., youth and young adults with disabilities, families, family surrogates, rehabilitation professionals, and public health professionals) to develop, evaluate, or implement strategies to increase utilization of the

DRRP's research findings in programs targeted to youth with disabilities; and

(2) Coordinating with existing programs such as those being implemented by the CDC to obtain and share information regarding the applicability of promising practices for individuals with disabilities.

(2) Conducting dissemination activities to increase utilization of the DRRP's research findings.

Types of Priorities:

When inviting applications for a competition using one or more priorities, we designate the type of each priority as absolute, competitive preference, or invitational through a notice in the **Federal Register**. The effect of each type of priority follows:

Absolute priority: Under an absolute priority, we consider only applications that meet the priority (34 CFR 75.105(c)(3)).

Competitive preference priority: Under a competitive preference priority, we give competitive preference to an application by (1) awarding additional points, depending on the extent to which the application meets the priority (34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i)); or (2) selecting an application that meets the priority over an application of comparable merit that does not meet the priority (34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(ii)).

Invitational priority: Under an invitational priority, we are particularly interested in applications that meet the priority. However, we do not give an application that meets the priority a preference over other applications (34 CFR 75.105(c)(1)).

Final Priority: We will announce the final priority in a notice in the **Federal Register**. We will determine the final priority after considering responses to this notice and other information available to the Department. This notice does not preclude us from proposing additional priorities, requirements, definitions, or selection criteria, subject to meeting applicable rulemaking requirements.

Note: This notice does not solicit applications. In any year in which we choose to use this priority, we invite applications through a notice in the **Federal Register**.

Executive Order 12866: This notice has been reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 12866. Under the terms of the order, we have assessed the potential costs and benefits of this regulatory action.

The potential costs associated with this proposed regulatory action are those resulting from statutory requirements and those we have determined as necessary for administering this program effectively and efficiently.

In assessing the potential costs and benefits—both quantitative and qualitative—of this proposed regulatory action, we have determined that the benefits of the proposed priority justify the costs.

Discussion of 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. This proposed priority will generate new knowledge through research and development. Another benefit of this proposed priority is that the establishment of a new DRRP will improve the lives of individuals with disabilities. The new DRRP 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 CFR part 79.

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Dated: December 10, 2009.

Alexa Posny,

Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

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