

deliverables. This dissemination plan can be developed and submitted after your application has been reviewed and selected for funding. For additional information on the open licensing requirements please refer to 2 CFR 3474.20.

4. *Reporting:* (a) If you apply for a grant under this competition, you must ensure that you have in place the necessary processes and systems to comply with the reporting requirements in 2 CFR part 170 should you receive funding under the competition. This does not apply if you have an exception under 2 CFR 170.110(b).

(b) 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 multiyear 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 [www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html](http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html).

5. *Performance Measures:* The success of the CCAMPIS Program will be measured by the postsecondary persistence and degree completion rates of the CCAMPIS Program participants. All CCAMPIS Program grantees will be required to submit an annual performance report documenting the persistence and degree attainment of their participants. Although students may choose to use child care services at different points in their college enrollment, the goal is to measure the outcomes of student-parents based on their completion of their program within 150 percent or 200 percent of the published program length. The cohort model of evaluation will track the level of utilization by a student-parent throughout their enrollment at the institution and will provide results based on the long-term academic success of the student-parent. The Department will aggregate the data provided in the annual performance reports from all grantees to determine the accomplishment level. The CCAMPIS reporting data collection is moving toward a semester-to-semester cohort model. This will not increase public reporting burden as CCAMPIS grantees are gathering and maintaining the data needed in completing and reviewing the collection of information currently.

6. *Continuation Awards:* In making a continuation grant under 34 CFR

75.253, the Secretary considers, among other things: whether a grantee has made substantial progress in achieving the goals and objectives of the project; whether the grantee has expended funds in a manner that is consistent with its approved application and budget; and, if the Secretary has established performance measurement requirements, whether the grantee has made substantial progress in achieving the performance targets in the grantee's approved application.

In making a continuation grant, the Secretary also considers whether the grantee is operating in compliance with the assurances in its approved application, including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23).

#### VII. Other Information

*Accessible Format:* On request to the program contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, individuals with disabilities can obtain this document and a copy of the application package in an accessible format. The Department will provide the requestor with an accessible format that may include Rich Text Format (RTF) or text format (txt), a thumb drive, an MP3 file, braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc, or other accessible format.

*Electronic Access to This Document:* The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. You may access the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations at [www.govinfo.gov](http://www.govinfo.gov). At this site you can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site.

You may also access documents of the Department published in the **Federal Register** by using the article search feature at [www.federalregister.gov](http://www.federalregister.gov). Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.

**Nasser H. Paydar,**

*Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.*

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**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Applications for New Awards; Activities for Underserved Populations

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Education (Department) is issuing a notice inviting applications for fiscal year (FY) 2023 for Activities for Underserved Populations Program, Assistance Listing Number 84.315C, to make awards to minority entities and Indian Tribes to conduct research, training and technical assistance, and related activities to improve services under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Rehabilitation Act), especially services provided to underserved populations. This notice relates to the approved information collection under OMB control number 1820-0028.

#### **DATES:**

*Applications available:* May 31, 2023.  
*Deadline for transmittal of applications:* July 21, 2023.

*Date of pre-application meeting:* On the date this notice is published in the **Federal Register**, the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) will post a PowerPoint presentation specifically about Activities for Underserved Populations at <https://ncrtm.ed.gov/grant-info>. OSERS will conduct a pre-application conference call on June 6, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time specific to this competition to respond to questions. Information about the pre-application conference call will be available at <https://ncrtm.ed.gov/grant-info>. OSERS invites you to send questions to [315C@ed.gov](mailto:315C@ed.gov) in advance of the pre-application conference call. A summary of questions and responses will be available at <https://ncrtm.ed.gov/grant-info> within six business days after the pre-application conference call.

*Deadline for intergovernmental review:* September 28, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** For the addresses for obtaining and submitting an application, please refer to our Common Instructions for Applicants to Department of Education Discretionary Grant Programs, published in the **Federal Register** on December 7, 2022 (87 FR 75045), and available at [www.federalregister.gov/d/2022-26554](http://www.federalregister.gov/d/2022-26554). Please note that these Common Instructions supersede the version published on December 27, 2021.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kristen Rhinehart-Fernandez, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland

Avenue SW, Room 5076, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202–5076. Telephone: (202) 245–6103. Email: [315C@ed.gov](mailto:315C@ed.gov).

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability and wish to access telecommunications relay services, please dial 7–1–1.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Full Text of Announcement

#### I. Funding Opportunity Description

*Purpose of Program:* A purpose of the Activities for Underserved Populations program is to improve the quality, access, and delivery of services and the outcomes of services provided under the Rehabilitation Act, especially services provided to individuals with disabilities from underserved backgrounds, and to increase the capacity of minority entities and Indian Tribes to participate in activities funded under the Rehabilitation Act.

*Priority:* This priority is from the notice of final priority and definition (NFP) published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**.

*Absolute Priority:* For FY 2023, this priority is an absolute priority. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), we consider only applications that meet this priority.

The priority is:

*Improving the Delivery of Vocational Rehabilitation Services to, and the Employment Outcomes of, Individuals with Disabilities from Underserved Populations.*

Under this priority, the Department provides funding for a cooperative agreement for a minority entity or an Indian Tribe to provide training and technical assistance to a minimum range of 5 to 15 State vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies (Combined, General, or Agencies for the Blind) over a five-year period of performance so that the agencies are equipped to serve as role models for diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in the workforce system by implementing policies, practices, and service delivery approaches that are designed to contribute to increasing competitive integrated employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities from underserved populations. Further, the grantee must contribute to VR research and pedagogical practices that promote access to approaches that are racially, ethnically, culturally, and linguistically inclusive.

During the first year of the project the grantee will focus on developing training and technical assistance material and gathering input and feedback from a diverse group of stakeholders including the

Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), State VR agencies, and other relevant partners. During the period of performance, the grantee must enter into agreements with the State VR agencies receiving training and technical assistance. Each agreement must: specify the level of involvement from VR agency leadership and personnel and include an assurance that the VR agency is committed to sustainable systems change across the organization for improving delivery of services to underserved populations; explain how data will be collected and shared; identify training and technical assistance needs, intervention strategies, and implementation timelines; and describe how outcomes will be measured. The grantee must have a minimum of two agreements in place by the end of the first year of the grant.

#### Application Requirements

To be considered for funding under this priority, applicants must, at a minimum, propose a project that will conduct the following activities in a culturally appropriate manner. The Department encourages innovative approaches to meet this requirement. To meet this requirement, applicants must—

(a) Demonstrate, in the narrative section of the application under “Significance of the Proposed Project,” an understanding of the inequities and challenges experienced by individuals with disabilities from underserved populations determined eligible to receive VR services. To meet this requirement, applicants must—

(1) Present information and relevant data about the disparities that exist with respect to VR services and employment outcomes for underserved populations; and

(2) Describe how the project proposes to improve VR services for, and competitive integrated employment outcomes of, underserved populations.

(b) Demonstrate, in the narrative section of the application under “Quality of Project Design,” how the project will address inequities and challenges experienced by underserved populations determined eligible to receive VR services. To meet this requirement, applicants must—

(1) Demonstrate knowledge and experience working with individuals with disabilities from underserved populations;

(2) Incorporate into the project design current research and promising and evidence-based practices (EBPs),<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For purposes of these requirements, “evidence-based practices” (EBPs) means, at a minimum,

research about adult learning principles and implementation science, and relevant findings, recommendations, and relevant strategies identified by the Targeted Communities project<sup>2</sup> to overcome barriers to competitive integrated employment and VR participation for individuals with disabilities from underserved populations;

(3) Detail how the project will collect and examine data, including from the RSA–911 and other relevant sources, from a minimum range of 5 to 15 State VR agencies regarding VR applicants, VR-eligible individuals, and VR participants by race/ethnicity by—

(i) Exploring patterns, changes, or shifts in demographics for individuals with disabilities from underserved populations;

(ii) Exploring data, by race/ethnicity, from each State VR agency regarding VR applicants to identify opportunities for increased outreach to and referral of individuals with disabilities from underserved populations to VR services;

(iii) Examining data, by race/ethnicity, from each State VR agency regarding selected VR services and competitive integrated employment outcomes at exit to identify inconsistencies or gaps in the provision of services;

(iv) Examining data from each State VR agency to identify reasons for successful and unsuccessful closures between VR program participants from underserved populations and VR program participants who are not from underserved populations; and

(v) Reviewing each State VR agency’s service delivery model from eligibility determination to exit; and

(4) Present approaches for how the information and data described above will be used to inform strategies to improve the delivery of services to individuals with disabilities from underserved populations for each of the identified State VR agencies. For example, applicants may consider conducting a needs assessment and asset map for each of the identified State VR agencies to identify existing programs and services and businesses and philanthropic organizations in the community, as well as potential gaps

demonstrating a rationale (as defined in 34 CFR 77.1) based on high-quality research findings or positive evaluation that such activity, strategy, or intervention is likely to improve student outcomes or other relevant outcomes.

<sup>2</sup> Final Report from the Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center for Targeted Communities (Project E3) (PR/Award #H264F150003) <https://nrcrtm.ed.gov/library/detail/vocational-rehabilitation-technical-assistance-center-targeted-communities-project> and project website: <https://projecte3.com/>.

and opportunities for collaboration, to support individuals with disabilities from underserved populations in successfully obtaining competitive integrated employment. Applicants may also consider designing a long-term data collection tool and provide analytical support and training to the identified State VR agencies to identify additional data elements not captured in the RSA-911 or other case management systems to continually assess the quality of services and outcomes for individuals with disabilities from underserved populations and individuals with disabilities not from underserved populations.

(c) Demonstrate, in the narrative section of the application under “Quality of Project Services,” how the project will be designed so that policies, practices, and service delivery approaches will contribute to increased competitive integrated employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities from underserved populations. To meet this requirement, applicants must—

(1) Propose training and technical assistance activities that will be offered to the identified State VR agencies. Training and technical assistance activities will be further developed during the first year of the grant and described in the agreements with the identified State VR agencies based on needs and analysis of data. Training and technical assistance activities may include, but are not limited to, (i) assisting in State VR agency coordination and cross-agency partnerships with State and local agencies and community-based organizations, workforce programs, educational institutions, and other relevant local community agencies and organizations (*i.e.*, agencies and organizations that provide services and supports related to mental health, substance use, behavioral health, intellectual developmental disabilities, and other areas of need such as housing, food, transportation, and healthcare) to strengthen outreach and awareness about VR programs and services, build trust between State VR agency counselors and individuals with disabilities from underserved populations, and connect individuals with disabilities from underserved populations determined to be VR eligible with necessary supports to successfully obtain competitive integrated employment; (ii) reviewing policies, practices, and procedures from the identified State VR agencies and providing recommendations to help ensure they are culturally appropriate and implemented in an appropriate

manner; (iii) developing strategies to strengthen diversity in the VR workforce (*e.g.*, reviewing hiring practices from the identified State VR agencies and identifying strategies that expand outreach to VR counselors from underserved populations and mentoring and coaching activities for new and existing VR counselors and paraprofessionals, human resource and professional development specialists, and VR management and leadership personnel from underserved populations); and (iv) any other activity that improves understanding, responsiveness, and delivery of services to, and competitive integrated employment outcomes for, individuals with disabilities from underserved populations;

(2) Detail how those activities will incorporate relevant strategies and promising and effective practices identified by the Targeted Communities Project and other EBPs or related sources to the extent possible;

(3) Explain how training and technical assistance activities will be of high quality and sufficient intensity and duration to achieve the intended outcomes of the project;

(4) Describe how remote learning<sup>3</sup> opportunities will be incorporated into the project. Remote learning opportunities should offer experiences that advance engagement and implementation (*e.g.*, synchronous and asynchronous professional learning, professional learning networks or communities, and coaching), which could also be incorporated into Rehabilitation Counseling programs, as well as other training and professional development activities designed for the VR workforce, as appropriate. The remote learning environment must be accessible to individuals with disabilities in accordance with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act;

(5) Describe their knowledge, skills, and experience to support the training and technical assistance activities described above;

(6) Describe how the project will contribute to VR research and pedagogical practices that promote access to approaches that are racially, ethnically, culturally, and linguistically inclusive. To meet this requirement, applicants must describe how they will—

<sup>3</sup> “Remote learning” means programming where at least part of the learning occurs away from the physical building in a manner that addresses a learner’s educational needs. Remote learning may include online, hybrid/blended learning, or non-technology-based learning (*e.g.*, lab kits, project supplies, paper packets).

(i) Disseminate to all State VR agencies, RSA-funded Rehabilitation Long-Term Training projects and technical assistance centers, Department-funded programs, and Federal partners, as applicable, training and technical assistance material, analysis of data collected, evidence-based and promising practices, and lessons learned;

(ii) Develop products, such as toolkits, guides, manuals, webinars, and communities of learning, for instructors, facilitators, State VR agency directors, and human resource and professional development specialists to facilitate the implementation of training and technical assistance material in curriculum and relevant training and development activities; and

(iii) Gather input and feedback from a diverse group of stakeholders and subject matter experts, including RSA, State VR agencies, and other relevant partners, throughout the project to inform the development and delivery of the material described above.

(d) In the narrative section of the application under “Quality of the Project Evaluation,” include an evaluation plan for the project. The evaluation plan must describe—

(1) Clear and measurable outcomes;

(2) Approaches for measuring the effectiveness of the intervention strategies identified in the agreements, including standards and targets for measuring knowledge, skills, and abilities of State VR agency personnel before and after completion of training activities. To address this requirement, applicants must provide an approach for determining—

(i) The most effective practices in improving the delivery of services to individuals with disabilities from underserved populations and the data that demonstrate the effectiveness of the practices; and

(ii) The most effective practices in creating a culture of systems change within the State VR agency and the data that demonstrate the effectiveness of the practices;

(3) Methodologies, including instruments, data collection methods, and analyses, that will be used to evaluate the project and how the methods of evaluation will produce quantitative and qualitative data to demonstrate whether the project activities achieved their intended outcomes;

(4) How the evaluation will be coordinated, implemented, and revised, as needed, during the project. The applicant must designate at least one individual with sufficient dedicated time, demonstrated experience in

evaluation, and knowledge of the project to coordinate and conduct the evaluation. This may include, but is not limited to, making revisions to reflect any changes or clarifications, as needed, to the model and to the evaluation design and instrumentation with the logic model (*e.g.*, designing instruments and developing quantitative or qualitative data collections that permit collecting of progress data and assessing project outcomes);

(5) How evaluation results will be used to improve delivery of services to VR program participants from underserved populations from eligibility determination to exit. To address this requirement, applicants must provide an approach to gather input and feedback that includes the experiences of VR program participants from underserved populations. Applicants may consider voluntary focus groups, use of a unique identifier, or another approach that adheres to consumer confidentiality requirements in 34 CFR 361.38; and

(6) A process for gathering feedback from the identified State VR agencies for continuous improvement throughout years two, three, four, and five of the project.

(e) Demonstrate, in the narrative section of the application under “Quality of the Management Plan,” how applicants will ensure that—

(1) The project’s intended outcomes, including the evaluation, will be achieved on time and within budget through—

(i) Clearly defined responsibilities of key project personnel, subawards, and contracts, as applicable;

(ii) Procedures to track and ensure completion of the action steps, timelines, and milestones established for key project activities, requirements, and deliverables;

(iii) Internal monitoring processes to ensure that the project is being implemented in accordance with the established application and management plan; and

(iv) Internal financial management controls to increase efficiency and cost-effectiveness, including by reducing waste or achieving better outcomes, and how the applicant will ensure accurate and timely obligations, drawdowns, and reporting of grant funds, as well as monitoring subawards as applicable, in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 CFR part 200 and the terms and conditions of the Federal award;

(2) The allocation of key project personnel, subawards, as applicable,

and levels of effort of key personnel are appropriate and adequate to achieve the project’s intended outcomes;

(3) The products and services are of high quality, relevance, and usefulness, in both content and delivery and are accessible to individuals with disabilities in accordance with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as applicable;

(4) The proposed project will benefit from a diversity of perspectives; and

(5) Projects will be awarded and operated in a manner consistent with nondiscrimination requirements contained in the Federal civil rights laws.

(f) Include the following:

(1) In Appendix A, personnel-loading charts and timelines, as applicable, to illustrate the management plan described in the narrative;

(2) In Appendix A, a logic model<sup>4</sup> that depicts, at a minimum, the goals, activities, outputs, and outcomes of the proposed project;

(3) An assurance to maintain a high-quality website, with an easy-to-navigate design that is accessible to individuals with disabilities in accordance with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as applicable; and

(4) An assurance that training and technical assistance materials such as outreach, training curricula, presentations, reports, outcomes, and other relevant information will be submitted to RSA’s National Clearinghouse of Rehabilitation Training Materials (NCRTM) (<https://ncrtm.ed.gov/>) at least 90 days before the end of the final budget period.

*Definition:* The following definition is from the NFP.

*Underserved populations* means Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and other persons of color.

*Program Authority:* 29 U.S.C. 718(b)(2)(B).

*Note:* Projects will be awarded and must be operated in a manner consistent with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in Federal civil rights laws.

*Applicable Regulations:* (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations in 34 CFR parts 75, 77, 79, 81, 82, 84 and 86. (b) The Office of Management and Budget

<sup>4</sup> “Logic model” (also referred to as a theory of action) means a framework that identifies key project components of the proposed project (*i.e.*, the active “ingredients” that are hypothesized to be critical to achieving the relevant outcomes) and describes the theoretical and operational relationships among the key project components and relevant outcomes.

Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) in 2 CFR part 180, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3485. (c) The Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards in 2 CFR part 200, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3474. (d) The NFP.

*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:* Cooperative agreement.

*Estimated Available Funds:* \$910,490.

*Note:* This amount will be reduced by up to \$9,000 in the first year of the award to support peer review for this competition.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 1.

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

*Project Period:* Up to 60 months.

## III. Eligibility Information

1. *Eligible Applicants:* Minority entities and Indian Tribes. As defined in section 21(b)(5)(B) of the Rehabilitation Act, “minority entity” means a historically Black college or university, a Hispanic-serving institution of higher education, an American Indian Tribal college or university, or another institution of higher education whose minority student enrollment is at least 50 percent. The definition of “Indian Tribe” in section 7(19)(B) of the Rehabilitation Act is “any Federal or State Indian tribe, band, rancheria, pueblo, colony, or community, including any Alaskan native village or regional village corporation (as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act) and a tribal organization (as defined in section 4(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(l)).”

2. a. *Cost Sharing or Matching:* This competition does not require cost sharing or matching.

b. *Indirect Cost Rate Information:* This program uses an unrestricted indirect cost rate. For more information regarding indirect costs, or to obtain a negotiated indirect cost rate, please see [www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/intro.html](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/intro.html).

c. *Administrative Cost Limitation:* This program does not include any program-specific limitation on

administrative expenses. All administrative expenses must be reasonable and necessary and conform to Cost Principles described in 2 CFR part 200 subpart E of the Uniform Guidance.

3. *Subgrantees*: Under 34 CFR 75.708(b) and (c), a grantee under this competition may award subgrants to directly carry out project activities described in its application to the following types of entities: Indian Tribes, institutions of higher education, and public and private nonprofit organizations. The grantee may award subgrants to entities it has identified in an approved application. Under 34 CFR 75.708(e), a grantee may contract for supplies, equipment, and other services in accordance with 2 CFR 200.317–200.326, Procurement Standards.

#### IV. Application and Submission Information

##### 1. Application Submission

*Instructions*: Applicants are required to follow the Common Instructions for Applicants to Department of Education Discretionary Grant Programs, published in the **Federal Register** on December 7, 2022 (87 FR 75045), and available at [www.federalregister.gov/d/2022-26554](http://www.federalregister.gov/d/2022-26554), which contain requirements and information on how to submit an application. Please note that these Common Instructions supersede the version published on December 27, 2021.

2. *Intergovernmental Review*: This competition is subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. Information about Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs under Executive Order 12372 is in the application package for this competition.

3. *Funding Restrictions*: We reference regulations outlining funding restrictions in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice.

4. *Recommended Page Limit*: The application narrative is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. We recommend that you (1) limit the application narrative to no more than 50 pages and (2) use the following standards:

- A “page” is 8.5” x 11”, on one side only, with 1” margins at the top, bottom, and both sides.
- Double space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, reference citations, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, graphs, and screen shots.
- Use a font that is 12 point or larger.

- Use one of the following fonts: Times New Roman, Courier, Courier New, or Arial.

The recommended page limit does not apply to the cover sheet; the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; the assurances and certifications; or the abstract (follow the guidance provided in the application package for completing the abstract), the table of contents, the resumes, the reference list, the letters of support, or the appendices. However, the recommended page limit does apply to all of the application narrative, including all text in charts, tables, figures, graphs, and screen shots. Applicants are expected to make the contents of their application accessible for individuals with disabilities to the maximum extent possible. Tutorials and resources for making documents accessible are available for free on RSA’s National Clearinghouse for Rehabilitation Training Materials at <https://ncrtm.ed.gov/accessibility-resources>.

#### V. Application Review Information

1. *Selection Criteria*: The selection criteria for this competition are from 34 CFR 75.210, have a maximum score of 100 points, and are as follows:

- (a) Significance. (10 points)
  - (1) The Secretary considers the significance of the proposed project.
  - (2) In determining the significance of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:
    - (i) The likelihood that the proposed project will result in system change or improvement; and
    - (ii) The potential contribution of the proposed project to increase knowledge or understanding of rehabilitation problems, issues, or effective strategies.
- (b) Quality of the project design. (20 points)
  - (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the design of the proposed project.
  - (2) In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:
    - (i) The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the proposed project are clearly specified and measurable;
    - (ii) The extent to which the design for implementing and evaluating the proposed project will result in information to guide possible replication of project activities or strategies, including information about the effectiveness of the approach or strategies employed by the project;
    - (iii) The extent to which the proposed project is designed to build capacity and

yield results that will extend beyond the period of Federal financial assistance;

(iv) The extent to which the design of the proposed project reflects up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice;

(v) The extent to which the proposed project will establish linkages with other appropriate agencies and organizations providing services to the target population; and

(vi) The extent to which performance feedback and continuous improvement are integral to the design of the proposed project.

(c) Quality of project services. (25 points)

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project.

(2) In determining the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project, the Secretary considers the quality and sufficiency of strategies for ensuring equal access and treatment for eligible project participants who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.

(3) In addition, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project involve the collaboration of appropriate partners for maximizing the effectiveness of project services;

(ii) The extent to which the training or professional development services to be provided by the proposed project are of sufficient quality, intensity, and duration to lead to improvements in practice among the recipients of those services; and

(iii) The extent to which the results of the proposed project are to be disseminated in ways that will enable others to use the information or strategies.

(d) Quality of the project evaluation. (25 points)

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the evaluation to be conducted of the proposed project.

(2) In determining the quality of the evaluation, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide valid and reliable performance data on relevant outcomes (as defined in 34 CFR 77.1(c));

(ii) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will, if well implemented, produce promising evidence (as defined in 34 CFR 77.1(c)) about the project’s effectiveness;

(iii) The extent to which the methods of evaluation include the use of objective performance measures that are

clearly related to the intended outcomes of the project and will produce quantitative and qualitative data to the extent possible;

(iv) The qualifications, including relevant training, experience, and independence, of the evaluator; and

(v) The extent to which the methods of evaluation provide for examining the effectiveness of project implementation strategies.

(e) Quality of the management plan. (20 points)

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project.

(2) In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestone for accomplishing project tasks;

(ii) The extent to which the time commitments of the project director and principal investigator and other key project personnel are appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives of the proposed project; and

(iii) How the applicant will ensure that a diversity of perspectives are brought to bear in the operation of the proposed project, including those of parents, teachers, the business community, a variety of disciplinary and professional fields, recipients or beneficiaries of services, or others, as appropriate.

**2. Review and Selection Process:** We remind potential applicants that in reviewing applications in any discretionary grant competition, the Secretary may consider, under 34 CFR 75.217(d)(3), the past performance of the applicant in carrying out a previous award, such as the applicant's use of funds, achievement of project objectives, and compliance with grant conditions. The Secretary may also consider whether the applicant failed to submit a timely performance report or submitted a report of unacceptable quality.

In addition, in making a competitive grant award, the Secretary requires various assurances, including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23).

**3. Risk Assessment and Specific Conditions:** Consistent with 2 CFR 200.206, before awarding grants under this competition the Department

conducts a review of the risks posed by applicants. Under 2 CFR 200.208, the Secretary may impose specific conditions and, under 2 CFR 3474.10, in appropriate circumstances, high-risk conditions on a grant if the applicant or grantee is not financially stable; has a history of unsatisfactory performance; has a financial or other management system that does not meet the standards in 2 CFR part 200, subpart D; has not fulfilled the conditions of a prior grant; or is otherwise not responsible.

**4. Integrity and Performance System:** If you are selected under this competition to receive an award that over the course of the project period may exceed the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$250,000), under 2 CFR 200.206(a)(2) we must make a judgment about your integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards—that is, the risk posed by you as an applicant—before we make an award. In doing so, we must consider any information about you that is in the integrity and performance system (currently referred to as the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)), accessible through the System for Award Management. You may review and comment on any information about yourself that a Federal agency previously entered and that is currently in FAPIIS.

Please note that, if the total value of your currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from the Federal Government exceeds \$10,000,000, the reporting requirements in 2 CFR part 200, Appendix XII, require you to report certain integrity information to FAPIIS semiannually. Please review the requirements in 2 CFR part 200, Appendix XII, if this grant plus all the other Federal funds you receive exceed \$10,000,000.

**5. In General:** In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget's guidance located at 2 CFR part 200, all applicable Federal laws, and relevant Executive guidance, the Department will review and consider applications for funding pursuant to this notice inviting applications in accordance with:

(a) Selecting recipients most likely to be successful in delivering results based on the program objectives through an objective process of evaluating Federal award applications (2 CFR 200.205);

(b) Prohibiting the purchase of certain telecommunication and video surveillance services or equipment in alignment with section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2019 (Pub. L. 115–232) (2 CFR 200.216);

(c) Providing a preference, to the extent permitted by law, to maximize use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States (2 CFR 200.322); and

(d) Terminating agreements in whole or in part to the greatest extent authorized by law if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities (2 CFR 200.340).

## 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); or we may send you an email containing a link to access an electronic version of your 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. Open Licensing Requirements:** Unless an exception applies, if you are awarded a grant under this competition, you will be required to openly license to the public grant deliverables created in whole, or in part, with Department grant funds. When the deliverable consists of modifications to pre-existing works, the license extends only to those modifications that can be separately identified and only to the extent that open licensing is permitted under the terms of any licenses or other legal restrictions on the use of pre-existing works. Additionally, a grantee or subgrantee that is awarded competitive grant funds must have a plan to disseminate these public grant deliverables. This dissemination plan can be developed and submitted after your application has been reviewed and selected for funding. For additional information on the open licensing requirements please refer to 2 CFR 3474.20.

**4. Reporting:** (a) If you apply for a grant under this competition, you must ensure that you have in place the necessary processes and systems to comply with the reporting requirements in 2 CFR part 170 should you receive funding under the competition. This

does not apply if you have an exception under 2 CFR 170.110(b).

(b) 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 multiyear 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 [www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html](http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html).

(c) Under 34 CFR 75.250(b), the Secretary may approve a data collection period for a grant for a period of up to 72 months after the end of the project period and provide funding, separate from this funding opportunity, for the data collection period for the sole purpose of collecting, analyzing, and reporting performance measurement data regarding the project.

5. *Performance Measures*: For the purposes of Department reporting under 34 CFR 75.110, we have established the following program performance measures:

*Measure 1*: Based on the State VR agencies that received training and technical assistance, the number and percentage of individuals with disabilities from underserved populations determined eligible to receive VR services compared to all individuals with disabilities that are not from underserved populations and determined eligible to receive VR services.

*Measure 2*: Based on the State VR agencies that received training and technical assistance, the number and percentage of individuals with disabilities from underserved populations that received VR services compared to all individuals with disabilities that are not from underserved populations that received VR services.

*Measure 3*: Based on the State VR agencies that received training and technical assistance, the number and percentage of individuals with disabilities from underserved populations employed at the time of exit compared to all individuals with disabilities that are not from underserved populations and employed at the time of exit.

6. *Continuation Awards*: In making a continuation award under 34 CFR 75.253, the Secretary considers, among other things: whether a grantee has made substantial progress in achieving

the goals and objectives of the project; whether the grantee has expended funds in a manner that is consistent with its approved application and budget; and, if the Secretary has established performance measurement requirements, whether the grantee has made substantial progress in achieving the performance targets in the grantee's approved application.

In making a continuation award, the Secretary also considers whether the grantee is operating in compliance with the assurances in its approved application, including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23).

## VII. Other Information

*Accessible Format*: On request to the program contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, individuals with disabilities can obtain this document and a copy of the application package in an accessible format. The Department will provide the requestor with an accessible format that may include Rich Text Format (RTF) or text format (txt), a thumb drive, an MP3 file, braille, large print, audiotope, or compact disc, or other accessible format.

*Electronic Access to This Document*: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. You may access the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations at [www.govinfo.gov](http://www.govinfo.gov). At this site you can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site.

You may also access documents of the Department published in the **Federal Register** by using the article search feature at [www.federalregister.gov](http://www.federalregister.gov). Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.

**Glenna Wright-Gallo,**

*Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.*

[FR Doc. 2023-11600 Filed 5-30-23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Proposed Agency Information Collection

**AGENCY**: Office of Infrastructure, U.S. Department of Energy.

**ACTION**: Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY**: The Department of Energy (DOE) invites public comment on a proposed collection of information that DOE is developing for submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES**: Comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before July 31, 2023. If you anticipate difficulty in submitting comments within that period, contact the person listed in **ADDRESSES** as soon as possible.

**ADDRESSES**: Written comments may be sent to Ira Birnbaum, DOE/Infrastructure/FEMP, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585 or by email at [Ira.Birnbaum@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Ira.Birnbaum@hq.doe.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Ira Birnbaum, DOE/Infrastructure/FEMP, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585, [Ira.Birnbaum@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Ira.Birnbaum@hq.doe.gov), (202) 287-1869.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**: Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

*This information collection request contains: (1) OMB No.: New; (2) Information Collection Request Title: DOE Qualified List of Energy Service Companies; (3) Type of Request: New; (4) Purpose: The ESPC statute (42 U.S.C. 8287(b)(2)(A)-(B)) requires the Secretary of Energy to establish and maintain a list of firms qualified to perform energy efficiency and renewable energy*