

NIDRR Funding Opportunities and Procedures



National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR)
Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS)
U.S. Department of Education

Overview

- ▶ Understanding NIDRR's mandate, mission and values
- ▶ NIDRR's application and review process
- ▶ NIDRR grant mechanisms
- ▶ Where to go for further information

2

Organization Details

- ▶ Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) includes:
 - ▶ Rehabilitative Services Administrative (RSA)
 - ▶ Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)
 - ▶ National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitative Research (NIDRR)
- ▶ Legislative authority
 - ▶ Title II, *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, as amended

3

NIDRR's Mission

- ▶ 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; and
- ▶ To expand society's capacity to provide full opportunities and accommodations for its citizens with disabilities.

4

Scope of NIDRR Mandate

- ▶ *Cross-disability Work*
 - ▶ Physical and mobility impairments;
 - ▶ Sensory impairments; and
 - ▶ Cognitive impairments and psychiatric disability.
- ▶ *Cross Life-span Work*
 - ▶ Children and youths;
 - ▶ Working-age adults; and
 - ▶ Individuals "aging with" lifelong and early-onset disabilities, and those "aging into" disability in mid- to later life.

5

NIDRR's Research Domains

- ▶ Focus on outcomes in five major domains:
 - ▶ Employment;
 - ▶ Participation and community living;
 - ▶ Health and function;
 - ▶ Technology for access and function; and
 - ▶ Disability demographics.

6

NIDRR's Outcome Arenas

- ▶ Research and Development
 - ▶ Discoveries
 - ▶ Theories, measures and methods
 - ▶ Interventions, products, devices and environmental adaptations
- ▶ Capacity-building
- ▶ Knowledge translation (KT)

7

NIDRR Strategic Goals and Objectives: Research

- ▶ Contribute evidence-based theories, information and analyses to increase understanding and enhance knowledge of disability and rehabilitation.
- ▶ Provide new and improved measures and methods to strengthen the scientific basis of disability and rehabilitation.
- ▶ Develop new and improved interventions, programs, products, devices and environmental adaptations to guide decision making, change practice and enhance access, function and participation.

8

NIDRR Strategic Goals and Objectives: Capacity Building

- ▶ Promote productive partnerships with other federal agencies and nonfederal organizations to strengthen the research infrastructure, support clinical trials and increase KT effectiveness.
- ▶ Encourage multidisciplinary applications.
- ▶ Enhance opportunities for cross-disciplinary and advanced research training in disability and rehabilitation-related fields.

9

NIDRR Strategic Goals and Objectives: Knowledge Translation

- ▶ Promote external review of the quality of NIDRR-funded research and related activities.
- ▶ Develop tools and methods to facilitate effective accumulation, translation, dissemination and transfer of disability and rehabilitation research findings.

10

NIDRR Research Process

- ▶ The majority of funds go to agency-initiated research; however, the specific focus of the research and methodological approach is usually left up to the investigators.
- ▶ NIDRR's focus is on applied research; NIDRR does not fund basic research; however, NIDRR does fund clinical research in medical rehabilitation.

11

NIDRR Research Process (continued)

- ▶ NIDRR is moving toward electronic submissions.
- ▶ Following application due date, NIDRR's peer review process typically takes between 3 and 6 months.
- ▶ NIDRR provides support to institutions, except in the case of the Switzer Fellowship Program in which support is provided to the individual.

12

NIDRR Research Process *(continued)*

- ▶ The number of applications varies by competition. Large center grants have fewer applicants compared to field-initiated competition.
- ▶ For most competitions, panels are formed specifically for the individual competition.
- ▶ NIDRR panels emphasize research expertise but also include consumer and practitioner experts.
- ▶ At NIDRR, project staff have the responsibility of organizing review panels, using support contractors to handle logistics.

13

NIDRR Research Process *(continued)*

- ▶ There is no triage process—all grants sent to the panel are reviewed and discussed.
- ▶ NIDRR conducts site visits on awards that exceed \$500,000.
- ▶ NIDRR funding levels include indirect costs.
- ▶ Some competitions occur every year.
- ▶ Other competitions occur on an as-needed basis, usually at the end of three- to five-year grant cycles.

14

Key Review Elements for NIDRR Grants

- ▶ Grant applications should address these questions:
 - ▶ What is the importance of the problem in terms of improving lives of individuals with disabilities?
 - ▶ What is the appropriateness and quality of the proposed research approach?
 - ▶ Is there an evaluation plan that specifies planned outputs and outcomes and provides information on how a proposed project will reach its targets?

15

NIDRR Grant Mechanisms

- ▶ Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training
- ▶ Fellowships
- ▶ Field-Initiated Projects (Research and Development)
- ▶ Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers
- ▶ Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers
- ▶ Model Systems
- ▶ Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects
- ▶ Dissemination and Utilization Grants
- ▶ Small Business Innovative Research Grants
- ▶ ADA Technical Assistance Centers

16

NIDRR Grant Mechanisms *(continued)*

- ▶ Advanced Rehabilitation Research Projects
 - ▶ \$200,000 per year
 - ▶ Five-year awards
 - ▶ Advanced rehabilitation research training at post-doctoral level
 - ▶ Awards made to educational institutions only
 - ▶ Must be interdisciplinary
 - ▶ Annual announcements
- ▶ Switzer Fellowship Program
 - ▶ Two levels: merit and distinguished
 - ▶ Annual announcements

17

NIDRR Grant Mechanisms *(continued)*

- ▶ Field-Initiated Projects
 - ▶ \$200,000 per year
 - ▶ Three-year awards
 - ▶ May be research or development
 - ▶ Applications reviewed by standing panels
 - ▶ Annual announcements

18

NIDRR Grant Mechanisms *(continued)*

- ▶ Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)
 - ▶ Average \$850,000 per year
 - ▶ Five-year awards
 - ▶ Advanced programs of research
 - ▶ Focus on new knowledge
 - ▶ Affiliation with institutions of higher education
 - ▶ Research training, dissemination and technical assistance required
 - ▶ Announcements, as needed

19

NIDRR Grant Mechanisms *(continued)*

- ▶ Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRPs)
 - ▶ \$300,000–\$950,000
 - ▶ May be up to five years of funding
 - ▶ Projects that emphasize research, demonstration, dissemination, technical assistance and innovation
- ▶ Model Systems:
 - ▶ Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
 - ▶ Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)
 - ▶ Burn

20

NIDRR Grant Mechanisms *(continued)*

- ▶ Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs)
 - ▶ Average \$900,000 per year
 - ▶ Five-year awards (29 current centers)
 - ▶ Advanced research of an engineering or technical nature
 - ▶ Affiliation with institutions of higher education
 - ▶ Emphasis is on technology transfer
 - ▶ Announcements, as needed

21

Where to Go for Further Information

- ▶ Web site: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/nidrr/index.html>
 - ▶ Click on “Grants and Funding;” then:
 - ▶ For information on discretionary grant competitions for new awards for the year, click on “Grants Forecasts for NIDRR.”
 - ▶ For access to grant program announcements in the *Federal Register*, including “proposed” and “final” regulations and priorities, click on “Grant Application Announcements.”

22

Where to Go for Further Information

- ▶ NIDRR home page:
www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/nidrr/index.html
- ▶ National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research home page:
www.ncddr.org
- ▶ National Rehabilitation Information Center home page:
www.naric.com

23

Further Information

- ▶ Phillip Beatty, associate director, Research Sciences Division
202-245-7267
Phillip.Beatty@ed.gov
- ▶ Donna Nangle
202-245-7462
Donna.Nangle@ed.gov
- ▶ NIDRR main telephone number:
202-245-7640

24