NIDILRR Funding Opportunities and Procedures

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National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR)
Administration for Community Living (ACL)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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

• Legislative authority
  – Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA)
  – WIOA moved agency from Department of Education to Department of Health and Human Services

• Current budget
  – About $107 million
  – 90% to grants; 10% to contracts

• 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.
NIDILRR funds research and development from many disciplines, in many targeted outcome domains

• Outcome domains:
  – Employment
  – Community living and participation
  – Health and function

• Many grants are cross-domain
• Many grants are multidisciplinary
NIDILRR grants vary in the degree to which they are agency-directed vs. field-initiated

• Traditionally, some grant mechanisms have been more field-initiated than others

• In order to attract a diversity of research ideas and approaches in its three primary outcome domains, NIDILRR has increased the number of field-initiated grants— but the topics of some priorities are still agency-directed.
NIDILRR Grant Mechanisms

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

• Switzer Fellowship Program
  • Awards to the individual rather than to the institution
  • One-year awards
  • Topic, methods, etc., proposed by applicant
  • $65,000-$75,000
  • Typically post-doctoral, but may be pre-doctoral
  • Competition every year; approximately seven fellowships awarded
Switzer Fellowship Program

• Examples:

Disability, Volunteering, and Employment over the Life Course

- Analyzing three large national datasets to determine (a) the factors associated with individuals with disabilities doing volunteer work and (b) whether doing volunteer work contributes to employment success
Switzer Fellowship Program

• Examples (con’t):

Improving Patient Outcomes through Engagement in Inpatient Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Rehabilitation: Perspectives of Patients, Clinicians, Administrators, and Policymakers

- Investigates the value of patient engagement for improved participation of patients in inpatient spinal cord injury rehabilitation
- Helps increase patient engagement by identifying facilitators of and barriers to patient engagement implementation in inpatient SCI rehabilitation
Switzer Fellowship Program

• Examples (con’t):
  – *Novel Exercise and Diet Prescription to Improve Body Composition and Metabolic Health in Individuals with Long-Standing Spinal Cord Injury*
    - Evaluates the effects of a novel combination exercise program vs. high protein diet on body composition and metabolic health in individuals with spinal cord injury with type 2 diabetes or impaired glucose tolerance
NIDILRR Grant Mechanisms (continued)

• Field-Initiated Projects
  • Disability and rehabilitation topic, methods, etc., proposed by applicant
  • May be for research or development projects
  • NIDILRR’s largest competition—200-300 applications per year; 20 awards per year
  • Up to $200,000 per year
  • Three-year awards
  • Annual competitions
Field-Initiated Projects

• Examples:
  – *Sleep Disordered Breathing (SDB) in Persons with Chronic Tetraplegia: Characterization and Treatment*
    - Seeks to enhance understanding of causes, co-morbidities, predictors, and treatments for SDB, and better understand the relationship between SDB and quality of life
Field-Initiated Projects

- Examples (cont):

  Video Gaming Technology to Promote Health and Fitness Among Adolescents with Disabilities

    - Published a set of recommendations from an international expert panel on the optimal design of active video games for persons with disabilities
NIDILRR Grant Mechanisms (continued)

• Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Projects
  • Provide advanced rehabilitation research training at post-doctoral level
  • Awards made to education institutions only
  • Grantee must provide interdisciplinary training
  • Up to $150,000 per year
  • Five-year awards
  • Competition every year
NIDILRR Grant Mechanisms (continued)

• Small Business Innovation Research
  • Products that improve the lives of persons with disabilities
• Phase I
  • Develop prototypes, models, proofs-of-concept
  • Up to $75,000 for six months
  • Competitions every year
  • Currently 10 awards
• Phase II
  • Bring Phase I products to commercialization
  • $200,000–$300,000 per year
  • Two-year awards
  • Successful Phase I grantees invited to apply
NIDILRR Grant Mechanisms (continued)

• Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)
  • Advanced programs of research; multiple projects
  • NIDILRR may specify the general area
  • RRTCs serve as “National Resource Centers” on specific topics
  • Focus on new knowledge
  • Research, training, dissemination, and technical assistance required
  • Affiliation with institutions of higher education or provider of rehabilitation services
  • $650,000–$950,000 per year (typically around $850,000)
  • Five-year awards
  • Announcements as needed
NIDILRR Grant Mechanisms (continued)

• Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs)
  • Advanced research & development of an engineering or technical nature
  • Multiple projects
  • NIDILRR may specify the general area
  • Emphasis is on technology transfer
  • Affiliation with institutions of higher education or other nonprofit organization
  • $900,000–$950,000 per year (specified by NIDILRR)
  • Five-year awards
  • Announcements, as needed
NIDILRR Grant Mechanisms
(continued)

• Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRPs)
  – Projects emphasize research, demonstration, dissemination, technical assistance
  – Some agency-initiated, some field-initiated
  – Used to sponsor specific, large NIDILRR programs (TBI & Burn Model Systems)
  – $300,000–$995,000 (specified by NIDILRR)
  – Up to five years
  – Announcements as needed
NIDILRR Grant Mechanisms
(continued)

• Model Systems:
  • Traumatic Brain Injury
  • Spinal Cord Injury
  • Burn

• Multiple centers submit patient data to central database
• Longitudinal data collection
• Five-year awards (centers and data centers)
• Centers and the public publish research based on data in the database
Applying for Funding

• Notices regarding NIDILRR funding opportunities
  – See: http://www2.ed.gov/programs/nidrr/fy15nidrrandaclgrantcompetitions.html#fy15NIDRRtransitoacl
  – Information from NARIC (National Rehabilitation Information Center)
    http://www.naric.com
    – **Subscribe to NIDILRR grant announcements**: “NIDRR Announcements List”
• For 2015 (this year) announcements will be published in the Federal Register
• Applications due in 60 days
• Applicants submit applications electronically, via grants.gov

• The number of applications varies by competition. Large center grants have fewer applicants than field-initiated.
• Review panel scores all eligible applications
  – Review criteria are public; each criterion has a maximum score
  – Total score for the application is the sum of points across criteria
  – There is no global score

• Awards start October 1
Further Information

• NIDILRR home page (for now):  
  http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/nidrr/index.html

• National Rehabilitation Information Center:  http://www.naric.com
  • About NIDRR Funding and Other Grant Resources”:
    http://www.naric.com/?q=node/33

• Search database of past & present NIDRR awards
Contact information (for now…)

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