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OSEP Applicant Webinar:

STATE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS TO IMPROVE SERVICES AND RESULTS FOR DEAFBLIND CHILDREN AND NATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND DISSEMINATION CENTER FOR DEAFBLIND CHILDREN (ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBER/CFDA 84.326T)

Office of Special Education Programs

U.S. Department of Education

December 22, 2022





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Introduction

- Welcome – Presenter – Susan Weigert, Ph.D
- Webinar will be recorded
- Please email any follow-up questions to Susan Weigert at susan.Weigert@ed.gov





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Note Regarding this Webinar

- These slides are for general guidance only and information has been highly summarized due to logistics of the webinar.
- Please read the entire [2023-326T Application Package](#) in its entirety before applying for this grant opportunity.
- Please also take a look at the [Common Instructions for Department of Education Discretionary Grant Programs](#)





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Timeline

- Notice inviting applications published:
 - **December 19, 2022**
- Deadline for submitting application is:
 - **February 17, 2023 by 11:59:59 PM Washington DC time**
- Deadline for intergovernmental review:
 - **April 18, 2023**
- Grantees announced and funding distributed by:
 - **October 1, 2023**





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Application Package Contents

- Applicant Letter
- Notice Inviting Applications
 - Federal Register Notice
 - Grants.gov System Submission Procedures and Tips for Applicants
- Priority Description and Selection Criteria
- General Information on Completing an Application
- Transmittal Instructions
- Required Forms and Instructions





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PROGRAM INFORMATION

Purpose

Eligible Applicants

Funding Levels





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Purpose of the Funding Programs

- Two Departmental Programs fund this priority: the Technical Assistance and Dissemination to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities (TA&D) program and the Personnel Development to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities (PD) program.





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Purpose of the TA&D Program

- The purpose of the **Technical Assistance and Dissemination to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities Program** is to:
 - promote academic achievement and to improve results for children with disabilities by providing technical assistance (TA), supporting model demonstration projects, disseminating useful information, and implementing activities that are supported by scientifically based research.





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Purpose of the PD Program

- The purpose of the **Professional Development Program** is to:
 - (1) help address State-identified needs for personnel preparation in special education, early intervention, related services, and general education to work with children, including infants, toddlers, and youth with disabilities; and (2) ensure that those personnel have the necessary skills and knowledge, derived from practices that have been determined through scientifically based research, to be successful in serving those children.





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This Priority and its Purposes

- The purpose of this priority is to establish and operate State Technical Assistance Projects to Improve Services and Results for DeafBlind Children, and
- A National Technical Assistance and Dissemination Center for DeafBlind Children that will provide TA and support to the State projects.





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State DB Grants: Purposes

- The State Technical Assistance Projects to Improve Services and Results for DeafBlind Children (State DeafBlind Projects) will help SEAs, Part C LAs, LEAs, including charter school LEAs, EIS providers, teachers, service providers, and families to address the educational, related services, transitional, and early intervention needs of DeafBlind children.
- The State DeafBlind Projects are designed to increase access to, and progress in, the grade-level general education curriculum, including grade-level or alternate academic achievement standards, for DeafBlind children and improve their communication skills with a goal of supporting lifelong learning, including postsecondary education and employment readiness.





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National Center and its Purposes

- The National Technical Assistance and Dissemination Center for DeafBlind Children (National Center) will provide TA and support to the State DeafBlind Projects in addressing these needs. This support includes providing specialized TA, training, centralized product development and dissemination, and informational services to agencies and organizations, professionals, families, and others involved in providing services to DeafBlind Children.





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Focus Areas

- For the purposes of this competition, the Department has separated the absolute priority into two focus areas: **State DeafBlind Projects** (Focus Area **A**) and a **National Center** (Focus Area **B**).
- Applicants must identify whether they are applying under Focus Area A, Focus Area B, or both.
- The program and certain application requirements for the two focus areas may differ, so applicants must ensure that they have met all applicable requirements for the relevant focus area.





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Eligible Applicants

Under both Focus Areas A and B the following applicants are eligible:

- SEAs; State LAs under Part C of IDEA; LEAs, including public charter schools that are considered LEAs under State law; IHEs; other public agencies; private nonprofit organizations; freely associated States and outlying areas; Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations; and for-profit organizations.
- Under Focus area A only, a non-SEA applicant must include a letter of support from the SEA indicating that the SEA will work with the applicant if the applicant is awarded the grant.





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Eligible Applicants under Focus Area A

- With respect to Focus Area A of the priority only, in order to provide SEAs with greater flexibility in how TA is delivered and ensure high-quality TA, and in accordance with 34 CFR 75.127, individual States have the following options: (1) Participating as a member of a multi-State consortium; or (2) applying directly for funds as a single State. Therefore, eligible applicants for funds awarded under Focus Area A of the priority may be an entity serving a multi-State consortium or a single State.





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Eligible Applicants under Focus Area A

- Eligible applicants under Focus Area A are invited to submit single-State applications or be a member of a consortium application to provide DeafBlind TA services to individual States. If a State is included in more than one application as a member of a consortium or submits an individual State application, and more than one application is determined to be fundable for the State, the State will be given the option to choose the award (individual State or consortium) under which it will receive funding. A State may not be funded under multiple awards.





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Focus Area A: (State Projects) Funding Levels

- **Total amount of federal funds available:** \$9,500,000
- **Focus Area A:** 54 estimated awards
- In determining the maximum funding levels for each State, the Secretary considered, among other things, the following factors: (1) The total number of children from birth through age 21 in the State. (2) The number of children in poverty in the State. (3) The previous funding levels. (4) The minimum funding amounts. (5) The travel costs associated with serving the geographic location of the State.
- **Project period:** Up to 60 months





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Focus Area A: (State Project) Allowable Indirect Costs

- A grantee may recover the **lesser of** (a) its actual indirect costs as determined by the grantee's negotiated indirect cost rate agreement and (b) 10 percent of its modified total direct costs.
- If a grantee's allocable indirect costs exceed 10 percent of its modified total direct costs, the grantee may not recoup the excess by shifting the cost to other grants or contracts with the U.S. Government, unless specifically authorized by legislation. The grantee must use non-Federal revenue sources to pay for such unrecovered costs.
- This limit on indirect cost rate does not apply to a grantee under Focus Area B (National Center)





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Focus Area A: (State Project) Funding Levels

- Note: While maximum award values for a 12-month period were listed in the Notice Inviting Applications, the Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services may change the maximum award through a notice published in the Federal Register.





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Focus Area B: (National Center) Funding Levels

- **Total amount of federal funds available:** \$2,100,000.
- **Focus Area B:** 1 estimated award
- **Project period:** Up to 60 months





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COMPETITION INFORMATION

FOCUS AREA A: STATE PROJECTS

Expected Project Outcomes
Administrative Requirements





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Expected Project Outcomes Focus Area A

- State DeafBlind Projects funded under this priority must achieve, at a minimum, the following expected outcomes:
 - (a) Provide TA and training on improving outcomes to personnel who serve DeafBlind children;
 - (b) Increase early identification and referral of DeafBlind children for appropriate services and supports;
 - (c) Facilitate emerging and developing literacy and numeracy for DeafBlind children by promoting access to the grade level general education curriculum, including grade-level or alternate academic achievement standards, through the use of high-quality practices;





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Expected Project Outcomes Focus Area A

Continued:

- (d) Expand support to DeafBlind children and their families during the transition to post-secondary education or employment.
- (e) Increase support to families of DeafBlind children to facilitate their involvement in early intervention, education, and transition opportunities;
- (f) In collaboration with the National Center, collect information to provide a State-by-State needs assessment; and
- (g) For States that use, or plan to use, certified interveners, projects in those States will collaborate with the National Center to increase the number of qualified interveners within the State who have demonstrated skills to support and improve the educational, social, and communication outcomes of DeafBlind children.





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Administrative Requirements: Focus Area A

- To be considered for funding under Focus Area A, applicants must meet a number of application and administrative requirements published in this priority.
- Applicants seeking funding under Focus Area A are advised to carefully review and respond to **all of the application and administrative requirements** beginning on page B8 of the application package posted on Grants.gov.





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Administrative Requirements: Focus Area A

There are numerous administrative requirements which describe information you'll want to include in your grant application, such as how you intend to:

- Provide school and district personnel with the training and information needed to develop and implement individualized supports to ensure that DeafBlind children have equitable access to the general education curriculum and to grade-level and alternate achievement standards as appropriate.



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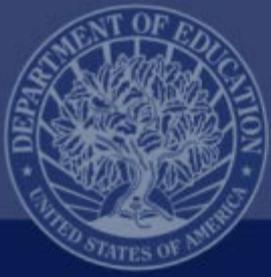
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Administrative Requirements: Focus Area A

(continued)

- How you will work with OSEP-funded State Parent Training and Information Centers (PTIs) to ensure that a diverse group of family members and caregivers of DeafBlind children have the training and information needed to establish, maintain, and improve productive partnerships with teachers, school administrators, and service providers.





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Administrative Requirements: Focus Area A

(continued) How you will:

- Ensure equal access and treatment for members of under-represented populations;
- Identify the needs of your intended recipients for TA and information;
- Ensure that services meet the needs of those intended recipients of the grant by providing measurable intended project outcomes ;
- Base your services on current research and make use of high-quality practices.





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COMPETITION INFORMATION

FOCUS AREA B: NATIONAL CENTER

Expected Project Outcomes

Administrative Requirements





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Expected Project Outcomes

National Center Funded under Focus Area B

- The National Center will work with the State DeafBlind Projects to ensure that family members and caregivers, EIS providers, special and general education teachers, interveners, and related services personnel have access to the specialized training and tools needed to support the educational, communication, and socialization needs of DeafBlind children.

The Center must achieve, at a minimum, the following expected outcomes:

- (a) Expand communication and coordination across the State DeafBlind Project TA network to improve outcomes for DeafBlind children;





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Expected Project Outcomes

National Center Funded under Focus Area B

- (b) Expand the development and use of training modules to support personnel development of teachers, related service providers, and interveners;
- (c) Expand the body of knowledge and use of high-quality practices to facilitate emerging and developing literacy and numeracy for DeafBlind children;
- (d) Facilitate increased family involvement in the early intervention, education, and transition opportunities for the diverse population of DeafBlind children by disseminating culturally and linguistically responsive information, and providing equitable opportunities for networking and engagement with DeafBlind family organizations;





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Expected Project Outcomes

National Center Funded under Focus Area B

- (e) Collaborate with the State DeafBlind Projects to facilitate the early identification of children with dual-sensory impairment in the State, to ensure that their families, teachers, and other service providers can receive appropriate services provided by the State DeafBlind Projects; and
- (f) Collaborate with the State DeafBlind Projects to provide a State-by-State needs assessment that includes disability and demographic information and trends, to ensure that the State DeafBlind Projects and those they serve receive high-quality, appropriate resources and services.





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Administrative Requirements: Focus Area B

- To be considered for funding under this priority, applicants must meet a number of application and administrative requirements published in this priority,
- Applicants are advised to carefully review and respond to **all of the application and administrative requirements** beginning on page B-14 of the application package posted on Grants.gov.





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Administrative Requirements: Focus Area B

Administrative requirements associated with Focus Area B includes information you'll want to include in your grant application, such as the following examples: You'll need to explain how the proposed National Center will:

(1) Address the current and emerging needs of State DeafBlind Projects, SEAs, LEAs, LAs, EIS providers, and organizations serving DeafBlind children to ensure they have the training and information needed to implement and sustain high-quality, equitable, effective, and efficient systems that have the implementation supports in place to ensure DeafBlind children have access to and progress in the grade-level general education curriculum, including grade-level or alternate academic achievement standards, and have access to high-quality educational and early intervention and developmental opportunities that lead to successful transitions to postsecondary education or employment.





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Administrative Requirements: Focus Area B

(Continued) Also among these administrative requirements you'll need to describe how the National Center will:

(2) Improve educational outcomes for DeafBlind children, including those from under-represented populations, and indicate the likely magnitude or importance of these outcomes.





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Administrative Requirements: Focus Area B

(Continued) You'll describe how the Project will:

(3) Use a conceptual framework (and provide a copy in Appendix A) to develop project plans and activities, describing any underlying concepts, assumptions, expectations, beliefs, or theories, as well as the presumed relationships or linkages among these variables, and any empirical support for this framework;

(4) Be based on current research and make use of evidence-based practices (EBPs).



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Administrative Requirements: Focus Area B

(Continued) Note that many of the administrative requirements have sub-requirements, such as the following:

(5) Develop products and provide services that are of high quality and sufficient intensity and duration to achieve the intended outcomes of the proposed project. To address this requirement, the applicant must describe--

- (i) How it proposes to identify or develop and expand the knowledge base pertaining to the development of communicative competence in DeafBlind children;
- (ii) How the proposed project will collaborate with higher-education institutions...;
- (iii) How the proposed project will collaborate with the OSEP-funded National Center on Educational Outcomes to incorporate information on including DeafBlind children who have significant cognitive disabilities in State- and district-wide assessment systems;





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Competition Information: Focus Areas A and B:

Selection Criteria

Application Requirements

General Requirements





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Selection Criteria

Significance	(10 points)
Quality of Project Services	(35 points)
Quality of the Project Evaluation	(20 points)
Adequacy of Resources and Quality of Project Personnel	(15 points)
Quality of Management Plan	(20 points)
TOTAL	(100 points)





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Significance of the Project (10 pts.)

- (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:





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Significance of the Project (cont.)

- (i) The extent to which specific gaps or weaknesses in services, infrastructure, or opportunities have been identified and will be addressed by the proposed project, including the nature and magnitude of those gaps or weaknesses; and
- (ii) The importance or magnitude of the results or outcomes likely to be attained by the proposed project.





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Quality of Project Services (35 pts.)

- (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.





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Quality of Project Services (cont.)

(3) In addition, 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 there is a conceptual framework underlying the proposed research or demonstration activities and the quality of that framework;





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Quality of Project Services (cont.)

(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.





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Quality of Project Services (cont.)

(3) In addition, 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 measurable;
- (ii) The extent to which there is a conceptual framework underlying the proposed research or demonstration activities and the quality of that framework;





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Quality of Project Services (cont.)

- (iii) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project reflect up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice;
- (iv) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project are appropriate to the needs of the intended recipients or beneficiaries of those services; and
- (v) The extent to which the TA services to be provided by the proposed project involve the use of efficient strategies, including the use of technology, as appropriate, and the leveraging of non-project resources.





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Quality of the Evaluation Plan (20 pts.)

(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 are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the proposed project;
- (ii) The extent to which the methods of evaluation provide for examining the effectiveness of project implementation strategies;





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Quality of the Evaluation Plan (cont.)

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

(iii) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes; and

(iv) 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.



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Adequacy of Project Resources and Quality of Project Personnel (15 pts.)

- (1) The Secretary considers the adequacy of resources for the proposed project and the quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the quality of project personnel, the Secretary considers the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.





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Adequacy of Project Resources and Quality of Project Personnel (15 pts.)

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

- (i) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of the project director or principal investigator;
- (ii) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel;





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Adequacy of Project Resources and Quality of Project Personnel (cont.)

(iii) The adequacy of support, including facilities, equipment, supplies, and other resources, from the applicant organization or the lead applicant organization; and

(iv) The extent to which the costs are reasonable in relation to the objectives, design, and potential significance of the proposed project.





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Quality of Management Plan (20 pts.)

- (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 milestones for accomplishing project tasks;





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Quality of Management Plan (cont.)

(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;

(iii) The adequacy of mechanisms for ensuring high-quality products and services from the proposed project; and



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Quality of Management Plan (cont.)

(iv) 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.





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Application Requirements

- Include, in Appendix A, a logic model for the project.
- Include, in Appendix A, personnel-loading charts and timelines, as applicable, to illustrate the management plan described in the narrative.
- Include, in the budget, travel funds to support the project director's attendance at meetings sponsored by OSEP as specified in the priority, at a minimum.





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Application Requirements

- Maintain a website that meets government or industry-recognized standards for accessibility.
- Ensure that annual progress toward meeting project goals is posted on the project website.
- Transfer of pertinent resources and products, if appropriate at the end of the grant.





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General Requirements

- Recipients of funding under this competition must make positive efforts to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities (see section 606 of IDEA).
- Each applicant for, and recipient of, funding under this program must involve individuals with disabilities, or parents of individuals with disabilities ages birth through 26, in planning, implementing, and evaluating the project (see section 682(a)(1)(A) of IDEA).





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General Requirements (Cont.)

- Applicant must describe steps to ensure equitable access to, and participation in, its program for students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries with special needs. (See Section 427, GEPA)
- Applicant must ensure that the budget includes attendance of the project director at a three-day project directors' meeting in Washington, DC, during each year of the project.





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SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Application Submission
Submission Tips





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Application Submission

- Applications must be submitted electronically using Grants.gov.
- Applications may not be submitted via email.
- Applications must be submitted no later than 11:59:59 pm Eastern Time, on February 17, 2023.
- Application narrative sections and all other attachments to the application must be uploaded as a PDF read-only, non-modifiable format file.





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Application Tips

- Read carefully “Grants.gov Submission Procedures and Tips for Applicants” found on page B-41 of the application package.





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Application Tips

- The Chart on page B 24 provides a table of estimated award values for the State Deaf-Blind Projects. As noted above, maximum award amounts may change through a notice published in the Federal Register.
- Maximum funding level for the National Center grant is \$2,100,000. for each 12-month project period. Applicants must not exceed published budgeted amounts in your budget requests.





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Page Limit Recommendations:

We recommend that you limit the application narrative to no more than 70 pages for the Technical Assistance Center and 50 pages for State projects.

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.





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Page Limit Recommendations:

- 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 list of priority requirements, 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.





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Page Limit Recommendations:

We also recommend that you:

- Use a font that is 12 point or larger.
- Use one of the following fonts: Times New Roman, Courier, Courier New, or Arial.





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Appendix A

- Reviewers will be instructed to review the content of Appendix A.
- Charts, tables, figures, graphs, screen shots, and logic models that provide information directly relating to the application requirements for the narrative should be the only items included in Appendix A.
- Appendix A should not be used for supplementary information. Please note that charts, tables, figures, graphs, screen shots, and logic models **can be single-spaced when placed in Appendix A or any appendix.**





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Submission Tips

- Register early. Grants.gov may take five or more business days to complete. Be sure that your registration with the System for Award Management (SAM) is current.
- Submit early. Don't wait until the last day to submit your application. Grants.gov will put a date/time stamp on your application and then process it after it is fully uploaded.
- Verify that Grants.gov has received your submission on time and that it was validated successfully.





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THANK YOU!

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Grants.gov Support Desk

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