[ Please stand by for realtime captions. ]

I will be adding the caption link from my email.

 Good morning, this is Tara from the office of special education programs. Greg Knollman and I are here to tell you a little bit more about the research and development center about adopting software and adapting and customizing instruction in digital learning environments to improve results for children with disabilities. Please include your name and where you are from and the chat pod. Feel free to ask any questions in the chat pod. There will be times to ask questions. We will try to break then. You will be welcome to on mute your line. If your line is currently on mute your line please mute it. We will go from there. I see a note in the chat pod , that Adam is saying he cannot hear sound.

I can hear you. I know that star for will mute everyone's line. Perhaps if you hit the star for function, it will mute everyone's line.

The conference is now in silent mode.

Should I take them off of mute?

The conference is now in talk mode .

If you mute the line, you mute me as well.

Adam, if you could call into the conference line, that should hopefully get you connected to this presentation and you should be able to hear the audio portion. We believe the phone line on mutated , if we hear a lot of background noise, we will have to mute it . The biggest thing is we want to make asking questions available to everyone. You can enter questions into the chat feature, located in the bottom right-hand portion of your screen. If you do not see the chat box, there is a chat button which is located at the top right hand portion of your screen. That you bring up the chat portion. If you have any questions, enter them into the chat box. There will be certain portions of the presentation were we will pause and into the questions you provide.

We will go ahead and continue on. As I mentioned, this is an informational webinar. As Greg said, there will be a time for question and answers. You can enter them into the chat pod or wait and ask them on the phone.

This will be recorded. I will start the recording now. Good. It looks like it is being recorded. Sorry about that. Greg, I can't tell if it did that correctly or not.

I can try to locate technical support. I am not seeing anything on my screen that is indicating whether or not it is recording. Why don't you go ahead and continue and we can always try to fix that feature later.

Greg, one more thing, can you send Terrace : information. Please pick questions in the Windsor they will be answered during the question and answer portion of the event. The topics for discussion today, we will start with a purpose, the absolute priority and key definitions. Eligible applicants are, what information, timeline for submitting an application and when you might find out if you are funded or not, program requirements, application and administrative requirements, and the selection criteria. So, the purpose of this priority which is 84.327A , which is a priority under the educational technology, media and materials for individuals with disabilities program. This program over all is to improve results for students with disabilities by promoting the development, demonstration, and use of technology. The support educational -- activities for students in the classroom. To provide support for captioning and video description that is appropriate for the using classroom and, provide accessible educational materials to children in a timely manner. Those are a part of our program . The multimedia materials across all of our tech priorities. If you have open the application packet , hopefully you have, that is where you would've found the wink -- link to this webinar, you would notice there was a dear colleague letter, a notice inviting applications, that is where you would find the priority description and selection criteria. Also included is dental information in the applicant transmittal instructions and application forms and instructions. If there are questions about that, you can ask during this webinar you can set up a time to speak with me separately. For this priority the absolute priority it is to fund a cooperative agreement to establish and operate a research and development center that will develop software designed to adapt and customize digital materials for children with disabilities, whether or not delivered online. Under this priority the center must determine the most effective Digital Products that are currently available to support differentiated instruction for children's with disabilities in digital and online learning environments, and determine for each of these products, the key design components that maximize the ability of educators, caregivers, parents and children to adapt and customize digital content and to differentiate instruction . Just for a little bit of background, a cooperative agreement means that it is something where the department of education, project officers would be working closely with you during the period. In addition, you will develop and deliver software that meets current industry standards and guidelines for excess abilities. Current standards include the accessibility 1.0 and

 WCAG. Option should allow educators , caregivers, parents and children to customize instructional material and the software must automatically adjust complexity and delivery on the child's input . The need to ensure that the product is both in open educational resource and licensed through and open access licensing authority. We will discuss that. And, identify legal issues surrounding accessible educational materials that may impede the use of the product with Digital Products or platforms and determine ways to ensure access for all children's or disabilities. This includes copyrights. In addition, they must develop measures to evaluate the potential usefulness and fit of the selected accessibility components to be included in the development and production of the software, and maximize the efficiency of the product by reducing the cost of it including the reduction of materials, and ensuring optimal ease-of-use by end-users. Just a few key definitions and notes. For the purpose of this priority, open educational resources are materials that you may freely use and reuse at no cost.

 Open educational resources happen authored or created by an individual organization that chooses to retain few if any ownership rights. In addition and this is not on the slide, and must also be open sourced software. This is something that you may have that other people can't -- can have access to during production. If you have questions about open-source software, for free to send me a message afterward and we can discuss it more. Just the quick note about the priority. The software may require extensive engineering expertise, such as computer aided software engineering, which includes the domain of software tools used to design and implement applications, especially when embedding automated tools, which could be accessibility tools, content adaptation tools within information systems which I the online curriculum products. You can see footnote page a 16 for that. Eligible applicants. You can look at those. ACAs, LE a is, and it LEAS, SEAS -- and other public agencies, private nonprofits, freely associated states Indian tribes and tribal organizations. Please I had a question, it could be someone who is pardoning with you or subcontracting on the grant. I wanted to clarify that. I have a typo . I apologize. The total amount of federal funds, we will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding $1 million. There should be an extra zero. Exceeding $1 million for a project period of 12 months. The project period is up to sick the months. There can be a budget up to $1 million each year. Noted that an application will be rejected and will not be reviewed if it is over the yearly limit which is $1 million for up to five years. Just to go over the timeline, this application was published on May 24, 2017 . I think there is a typo here as well. The deadline for submitting applications is July 10, 2017 , not June 10. The deadline for the intergovernmental review is September 6, 2017 and grantees announced in funding will be announced October 1, 2017. The deadline is July 10, 2017 not June. These are the recommended format and page limits. There have been a few changes. We highly recommend that you stick to these formats. It in 0.5 x 11 pages with 1 inch margins. That should include titles and headings, quotations, reference citations , as well as

 text the charts, tables and figures. Please use a font that is 12 points are over. Please use Times new Roman, career or aerial. The application narrative should be no longer than 70 pages. These are recommended and we highly recommend that you follow these guidelines. This is just a little bit more. Appendix a, , revers will be instructed to review the content of appendix A. It should require charts, tables and figures there should be the only items included in appendix A. It should not include supplementary information. They do not need to be doublespaced or following the 40 matting requirements of the narrative. Going to pause for a moment. Does anyone want to ask any questions at this point? Please feel free to type them into the chat box.

 Terra, for those folks on the phone, we are hearing a little bit of a background noise. Please mute your phone's. If we continue to experience a lot of background noise, you can mute everyone's line. We also want to draw people's attention to. A link have been provided in the chat box. That will provide you with a captioning service. If you need captioning for this event, the link is provided.

 Thank you, I guess if there are no questions, I will continue on. These are general requirements. These are things that you will see across most of our funded grants. You must make a positive effort to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities and project activities. That is a part of IDEA. Also it must involve individuals with disabilities or parents of individuals with disabilities ages birth through age 26. So your going to note here. I'm going to go over five requirements. There is the significance of the project, quality project design, the quality of the evaluation plan, adequacy of resources, and quality of management plan. A quick note, as we go over the priority criteria, you will see the same requirements repeated but instead of seeing what is required within the application, you will see what the reviewers who are reviewing the application will be judging the applications on. If you have questions, please feel free to ask. Under the significance of the project, the applicants should address the need for adaptive software that includes a range of accessible options that allow the end user to customize the instructional material and self adjust based on the child's input . To meet this requirement, the applicant must present information on what digital materials currently available to educators, caregivers, parents, and children that offer specially designed needs . In addition, it should say how it should improve outcomes for children with disabilities by enhancing their ability to access instruction that meets their states college and career ready standards that differ in she and customize digital materials. What you will see later before I move on, is that that section is going to be worth about 20 points. You will see how the reviewers are judging that as we go over the selection criteria. The next is the quality of the project design. That is how they will ensure that the software is developed to meet the needs of publishers, distributors, developers and users. How it achieves measurable outcomes. The should develop a logic model and at a minimum, the goals, activities and outcomes of the proposed project . A logic model used in connection should communicate how the project will achieve its outcome and provide a framework for both the formative and evaluations of the project. If you note, there is a page number associated with these and there is additional information within the priority to give you a little bit more background of what we are requiring. Continued, quality of project design. There should be an iterative process of field testing in the development of the software. This could be an agile model , but it should be a process of testing and refining throughout . Improving the capabilities of the software by describing the key components of the software that maximize the ability to adapt and customize content into differentiate or individualize instruction in digital or online environments for children with his abilities and the specifications necessary for the software to be indebted -- embedded during design. A lot of time grants will define the specifications. Here we are asking you to provide them to us. It should also be based on current research and technologies used to develop accessible educational materials and support differentiation of instruction . To meet this requirement, the applicant must describe. How they're going to meet current accessibility standards to achieve the outcome. We talked about those earlier. To develop computer adaptable software that is readily available to teachers, instructors, students and parents. And it can be embedded during production . That meets accessibility standards and facilitate instruction that meets the unique needs of children with disabilities. A quick note here, over the last few weeks when we have been discussing this, there have been questions. This could be a tool, it would not necessarily be one platform, it should work across different programs their platforms. Number eight, ensure effective communication and collaboration between projects that -- staff, stakeholders and

 OSEP. We have several products developed currently. They could be broad or specific. The next section is the quality of the evaluation plan which is worth 15 points. You will see that later on. The evaluation plan should measure the progress in implementation, including the criteria for determining the extent to which the projects research and product development have reached its target population. The measures of the intended outcomes or results of the project activities to ensure , to evaluate , to ensure evaluation of those products and how well the goals or objectives of the proposed object have been met. That is specifically in the application packet. Adequacy of project resources. This section is worth 25 points.

 From the perspective of OSEP, we found this to be very important. To make sure that the people who apply have the necessary qualifications to be able to meet the needs of the software development of the project. You want to describe how the project will encourage application for employment from persons who are members that have been traditionally underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability as appropriate. The proposed key project personnel, consultants and subcontractors that have the qualifications and experience to carry out the proposed development of the software and achieve the projects intended outcomes. The applicant and any key partners , that they have adequate resources to carry out the proposed activities , and that the costs are reasonable in relation to the results and benefits. Next is quality management plan, 20 points. The proposed management plan should ensure that the into the outcomes will be achieved on time and within budget. As I mentioned earlier, it is 1 million per year for up to five years. Allocation of key project personnel and any consultants and subcontractors and how these allocations are appropriate and adequate to achieve the intended outcome. The proposed management plan and how it will ensure that the research in the software development are of high quality, relevant, and useful to recipients. And, how the proposed project will benefit from a diversity of perspective in the software's development and design including those developments, technical designers, publishers, distributors, vendors, standards Consortium members, families including those who have children with disabilities, educators who serve children with disabilities, researchers and policymakers. The proposed project will establish and maintain a technical review board. Application requirements. You do need to make sure that you include a logic model, conceptual framework , personnel loading chart and timeline, and your budget. In addition, in your budget, you need to include a 1 1/2 day kickoff meeting in Washington, DC after receipt of the award and an annual meeting in Washington DC with OSEP project officer and relevant staff during each subsequent year . You also need to include a conference in Washington, DC during each year of project period and to annual today trips to attend apartment briefings, department sponsor conferences and other meetings as required by OSEP. These would have to be worked out individually with your project officer . You will have to include how you will fund that in your budget. You should also include a lime -- line item for an annual 5% of the grant amount to support emerging needs . As those needs are identified in consultation with an approved OSEP officer. With the approval, the project must reallocate any remaining funds from this annual set-aside no later than the end of the third quarter of each budget period. Finally, you need to maintain a high quality website , with an easy to navigate design, that means government or industry recognized standards for accessibility. I'm going to stop briefly for questions. I am hearing some background noise, please mute your phones if you do not have a question. If you do have questions, please feel free to ask and unmute your line. I am going to move on. So this is the selection criteria. This is what the reviewers will be looking at when they review your application. There looking at significance of the project, 20 points, quality of the project services, 20 points, the quality of the project evaluation, 20 points, -- I apologize that should be 15 points. In the adequacy of research project should be 25, . The significance of the project. In determining significance, the Secretary considers the following factors. The potential contribution of the proposed project to increasing the knowledge or understanding of the problems or issues or effective strategies. The likely utility of the project such as information, materials, processes or tech geeks that will result from the proposed -- project including the potential for being used effectively in a variety of settings. The tent to which the results of the project are disseminated in the ways that will enable others to use the information. The next section is the quality of the project design . This is also 20 points. In determining the quality of the project design, Secretary considers the following factors. The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved are clearly specified and measurable. The extent to which the logic model depicts at a minimum, the project goals, activities, outputs and outcomes , and a conceptual framework underlying the activities and the quality of the model and framework. Third, the extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project reflect up-to-date knowledge and understanding of current research and development in the field, are highly relevant and useful to educators, children and parents and are delivered in a timely, and cost-efficient manner. In addition, the extent to which the proposed project includes a high-quality plan for project influence -- implementation and achieves

 project objectives. The extent to which the proposed development includes adequate quality controls, and as appropriate, repeated testing project . And, the extent to which the services provided by the proposed project involves the collaboration of the appropriate partners for maximizing the effectiveness of project services. The quality of the evaluation plan, 15 points. The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives and outcomes of the proposed project. The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide data and performance feedback for effectiveness, and the progress toward achieving intended outcomes. And, the extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide qualitative and quantitative data to provide continuous performance feedback and demonstrate project has met intended outcomes. In addition, the extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide timely guidance for quality assurance. Ag -- adequacy of project resources which is 25 points. The secretary

 considers the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employments from persons who are members of groups that event traditionally underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age or disabilities. In addition , qualification should include relevant training and experience , that could be project director or staff , the qualifications including relevant training and experience of project consultants or subcontractors. The adequacy of support, including facilities, equipment and supplies from the applicant organization and key partners . And, the extent to which the costs are reasonable in relation to the anticipated results and benefits. Quality of the management plan is 20 points. The secretary the sitters the adequacy of the plan to of cheese the objectives on time and within budget, including defined responsibilities, timelines and milestones for accomplishing project Tass. The extent to which the time commitments of the project director, staff and consult her's -- consultants are appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives of the proposed project. The adequacy of the mechanisms for ensuring high quality products and services from the proposed project. How the applicant will ensure the diversity of perspectives including those of parents, teachers, business community, a variety of disciplinary and professional fields, recipients or beneficiaries of services and others as appropriate. Any questions

 someone asked of the slides will be available yes, they will be available and I will make any corrections that I noted throughout. Okay, if there are no questions, one thing I want to know, the July 10 deadline, at 4:30 PM, that is a hard deadline. Please try to submit your applications early. Sometimes there are issues with G5, sometimes there are with numbers etc. We do highly recommend if you are submitting, submit early.

 If you do have other questions or you would like to set up a time to meet with me, please send me an email or give me a call. I will be more second or we will in the call

 of the available in the grants website

If you would like a copy of the PowerPoint, email Tara directly. The recording will be available in a few days. Thank you so much. Thank you everyone

[ Event Concluded ]