**State Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Projects**

Focus Area A: State and Multi-State Technical Assistance Projects to Improve Services and Results for Children Who Are Deaf-Blind*.*

Under Focus Area A, the Department will fund grants to establish and operate State or multi-State Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Projects (projects) to improve services and results for children who are deaf-blind. Grants are available to support projects in all States. The District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and the outlying areas and freely associated States are States for purposes of this priority. Because the Bureau of Indian Affairs is not a State, it will not be eligible for a State grant under this priority. Funds awarded under this priority may not be used to provide direct early intervention services under Part C of IDEA, or direct special education and related services under Part B of IDEA.

Projects funded under this priority must, at a minimum:

(1) deliver TA and training necessary to improve outcomes for children who are deaf-blind to personnel in the schools, classrooms, or EIS providers, where a child who is deaf-blind is served;

(2) through collaboration with the federally funded Parent Centers (National and Regional Parent Technical Assistance Centers, Parent Training and Information Centers and Community Parent Resource Centers), provide training and supports to families of children who are deaf-blind so that they can successfully advocate on behalf of their children and help ensure that their children are better positioned for independent living;

(3) increase the ability of SEAs, LEAs, LAs, EIS providers, and other agencies to use evidence-based practices to improve outcomes for children who are deaf-blind, including ensuring that these children will graduate from high school ready for college and a career;

(4) increase the ability of SEAs, LEAs, LAs, EIS providers, and other agencies to develop policies and practices to improve outcomes for children who are deaf-blind; and

***(5) provide data to the National Center for the annual National Child Count of children who are deaf-blind.***

**(Federal Register** /Vol. 78, No. 126 /Monday, July 1, 2013 /Notices Page 39261)

Focus Area B: National Technical Assistance and Dissemination Center for Children Who Are Deaf-Blind.

Under Focus Area B, the Department will fund a cooperative agreement to establish and operate a National Center on Deaf-Blindness that must, at a minimum: (1) increase the ability of State and multi-State deaf-blind projects to assist personnel in SEAs, LEAs, LAs, and EIS providers to use evidence-based practices and products to improve outcomes for children who are deaf-blind; (2) develop evidence-based tools and broadly disseminate evidence-based tools to State or multi-State deaf-blind projects and individuals and entities at each level of the education system to improve outcomes for children who are deaf-blind; (3) in collaboration with the Parent Centers, increase the ability of State or multi-State deaf-blind projects to provide training and supports to families of children who are deaf-blind so that they can successfully advocate on behalf of their children and help ensure that their children are better positioned for independent living; (4) enable State or multi-State deaf-blind projects to develop policies and practices to improve outcomes for children who are deaf-blind; and ***(5) conduct an annual National Child Count of children who are deaf-blind, ensuring that accurate data to inform practice is presented in a way that is useful to States.***

**(Federal Register** /Vol. 78, No. 126 /Monday, July 1, 2013 /Notices Page 39263)