

Subpart C—How Does the Secretary Award Discretionary Grants on a Competitive Basis?

§ 367.20 Under what circumstances does the Secretary award discretionary grants on a competitive basis to States?

- (a) In the case of a fiscal year for which the amount appropriated under section 753 of the Act is less than \$13,000,000, the Secretary awards discretionary grants under this part on a competitive basis to States.
- (b) Subparts A, B, C, and E of this part govern the award of competitive grants under this part.

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 796k(b)(1))

§ 367.21 How does the Secretary evaluate an application for a discretionary grant?

- (a) The Secretary evaluates an application for a discretionary grant on the basis of the criteria in § 367.22.
- (b) The Secretary awards up to 100 points for these criteria.
- (c) The maximum possible score for each criterion is indicated in parentheses.

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 711(c) and 796k(b)(1) and (i)(1))

§ 367.22 What selection criteria does the Secretary use?

The Secretary uses the following criteria to evaluate an application for a discretionary grant:

- (a) *Extent of need for the project* (20 points). (1) The Secretary reviews each application to determine the extent to which the project meets the specific needs of the program, including consideration of—
 - (i) The needs addressed by the project;
 - (ii) How the applicant identified those needs;
 - (iii) How those needs will be met by the project; and
 - (iv) The benefits to be gained by meeting those needs.
- (2) The Secretary reviews each application to determine—
 - (i) The extent that the need for IL services for older individuals who are blind is justified, in terms of comple-

menting or expanding existing IL and aging programs and facilities; and

(ii) The potential of the project to support the overall mission of the IL program, as stated in section 701 of the Act.

(b) *Plan of operation* (25 points). The Secretary reviews each application to determine the quality of the plan of operation for the project, including—

- (1) The quality of the design of the project;
- (2) The extent to which the plan of management ensures proper and efficient administration of the project;
- (3) How well the objectives of the project relate to the purpose of the program;

(4) The quality and adequacy of the applicant's plan to use its resources (including funding, facilities, equipment, and supplies) and personnel to achieve each objective;

(5) How the applicant will ensure that project participants who are otherwise eligible to participate are selected without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability;

(6) A clear description of how the applicant will provide equal access to services for eligible project participants who are members of groups that have been traditionally under-represented, including members of racial or ethnic minority groups; and

(7) The extent to which the plan of operation and management includes involvement by older individuals who are blind in planning and conducting program activities.

(c) *Quality of key personnel* (10 points).

(1) The Secretary reviews each application to determine the qualifications of the key personnel the applicant plans to use on the project, including—

- (i) The qualifications of the project director;
- (ii) The qualifications of each of the other management and decision-making personnel to be used in the project;
- (iii) The time that each person referred to in paragraphs (c)(1)(i) and (ii) of this section will commit to the project;

(iv) How the applicant, as part of its nondiscriminatory employment practices, will ensure that its personnel are