will encourage the collection of information that will increase the literacy knowledge base.

The NIFL will award up to four grants to SLRCs for the creation of these regional hubs. The grants will be used as seed money to attract ongoing support from other sources. Only one grant will be made within each of the four OVAE regions.

Purpose: The purpose of the technology grant program is to create regional electronic information and communication hubs for literacy that will—

1. build the technological capacity for electronic information exchange among SLRCs within each OVAE region through consortia of states that cooperate in sharing resources and expertise.

2. enable individual SLRCs to share data with the literacy community and with major national adult literacy holdings by linking them with each other and the LINCS prototype.

3. demonstrate the use of the LINCS prototype by other state agencies and local adult literacy service providers in efforts to improve program and professional development.

4. increase the literacy field's knowledge base by using the ''Starting Point'' manual standards to develop a systematic procedure for collecting new literacy information, resources, especially unpublished materials.

NIFL intends the value of this technology project to extend beyond the SLRCs to the literacy community as a whole. The larger goals of LINCS are to bring the community together—literacy researchers, practitioners, administrators, students, and policymakers—and to close the gap between information ''haves'' and ''have nots.'' These goals can only be met by expanding the network to increasingly greater numbers of individuals and groups in the literacy field.

Eligible Applicants: All State Literacy Resource Centers (SLRC's) are eligible to apply for an award under this program.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: June 26, 1995.

Available Funds: In Fiscal Year 1995, $600,000 is available for two year technology cooperative agreement awards. Year 2 funding is subject to program authorization and availability of appropriations, and contingent upon satisfactory completion of the first year plan of action.

Estimated Number of Awards: Up to 4, with no more than 1 award made within each of the four OVAE regions.

Estimated Amount of Each Award: $150,000.

Project Period: Up to 24 months.

Selection criteria: (a)(1) In evaluating applications for a grant under this competition, the Director uses the following selection criteria.

(2) The maximum score for all of the criteria in this section is 100 points.

(3) The maximum score for each criterion is indicated in parentheses with the criterion.

(b) The Criteria—(1) Mission and Strategy. (10 points) The Director reviews each application to determine how well the applicant has related the mission and strategy of the project to NIFL's overall goals and priorities, including:

(i) The degree to which the plan for creating a regional hub reflects an understanding of the major tasks necessary to achieve NIFL's goals for building regional capacity;

(ii) The quality of the plans for developing an appropriate, coherent, and effective program to achieve the project's goals;

(iii) The effectiveness of proposed strategies for providing regional leadership to consortium members and other partners; and

(iv) The quality of plans to establish effective working relationships with other organizations in the region as required for effective development of the project.

(2) Institutional Capability (15 points) The Director reviews each application to determine the capabilities of the organization to sustain a long-term, high-quality, and coherent program, including:

(i) The applicant's experience in establishing and carrying out collaborative working relationships with other states, other state agencies, and other public and private groups;

(ii) The applicant's experience in developing materials and methods for training and technical assistance to adult literacy providers.

(iii) The ability of the applicant to carry on the project when NIFL funding has ended.

(3) Plan of Operation. (30 points) The Director reviews each application to determine the quality of the plan of operation for the project, including:

(i) The quality of the design of the project;

(ii) The extent to which the plan of management is effective and ensures proper and efficient administration of the project;

(iii) How well the objectives of the project relate to the purpose of the LINCS;

(iv) The extent to which the applicant provides for effective collaboration between SLRCs and other agencies;

(v) The quality of the applicant's plan to use its resources and personnel to achieve each objective; and

(vi) The extent to which the applicant's plan for year 1 provides for achieving the minimum project outcomes listed under *Program Narrative.*

(4) Technical Soundness. (20 points) The Director reviews each application to determine the technical soundness of the proposed project, including:

(i) The extent to which the applicant demonstrates a thorough knowledge of literacy data collections, dissemination and applying the required Institute's guidelines and standards.

(ii) The extent to which the applicant demonstrates knowledge of current databases, telecommunications practices, equipment configurations and maintenance.

(iii) Evidence of the commitment of the applicant to provide technical support and equipment to the members of consortium;

(iv) Evidence that the applicant will consider the perspectives of a variety of service providers in carrying out the work of the consortium;

(v) The extent to which the training content is comprehensive and at an appropriate level; and

(vi) The extent to which training methods are likely to be effective.

(5) Budget and cost effectiveness. (10 points) The Director reviews each application to determine the extent to which:

(i) The budget is adequate to support consortium activities;

(ii) Costs are reasonable in relation to the objectives of the consortium;

(iii) The budgets for any subcontracts are detailed and appropriate; and

(iv) The budget details resources, cash and in-kind, that the applicant and others, particularly other consortium members, will provide to the project in addition to grant funds.

(6) Evaluation Plan. (10 points) The Director reviews each application to determine the quality of the evaluation plan for the consortium, including the adequacy of:

(i) The methods and mechanism which will be used to document the consortium's progress in relation to its mission and goals; and

(ii) The methods which will be used to document the impact of the consortium's program on its target audiences.

Applications should describe and justify the methods used to ensure that the consortium's work is of high quality as evaluated by the above procedures.

(7) Quality of Key Personnel. (5 points) The Director reviews each