

conventional and independent lives as a part of families and communities.

- Toward these ends, ADD seeks to enhance the capabilities of families in assisting people with developmental disabilities to achieve their maximum potential to support the increasing ability of people with developmental disabilities to exercise greater choice and self-determination; to engage in leadership activities in their communities; as well as to ensure the protection of their legal and human rights.

Programs funded under the Act are:

- Federal assistance to State developmental disabilities councils;
- State system for the protection and advocacy of individual rights;
- Grants to University Affiliated Programs for interdisciplinary training, exemplary services, technical assistance, and information dissemination; and
- Grants for Projects of National Significance.

## Part II. Background Information

### A. Description of Projects of National Significance

Under Part E of the Act, grants and contracts are awarded for projects of national significance that support the development of national and State policy to enhance the independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion of individuals with developmental disabilities through:

- Data collection and analysis;
- Technical assistance to enhance the quality of State developmental disabilities councils, protection and advocacy systems, and university affiliated programs; and
- Other projects of sufficient size and scope that hold promise to expand or improve opportunities for people with developmental disabilities, including:
  - Technical assistance for the development of information and referral systems;
  - Educating policy makers;
  - Federal interagency initiatives;
  - The enhancement of participation of minority and ethnic groups in public and private sector initiatives in developmental disabilities;
  - Transition of youth with developmental disabilities from school to adult life; and
  - Special pilots and evaluation studies to explore the expansion of programs under part B (State developmental disabilities councils) to individuals with severe disabilities other than developmental disabilities.

### B. Comments on FY 1995 Proposed Priority Areas

The notice soliciting comments on the FY 1995 proposed priority areas was published in the **Federal Register** on January 11, 1995 (60 FR 2760). A 60-day period was required to allow the public to comment on the proposed areas. After review and analysis of these comments, ADD is publishing its final priorities in this announcement.

The public comment notice requested specific comments and suggestions on the proposed funding priorities, in addition to recommendations for additional priority areas which would assist in bringing about the increased independence, productivity, and integration into the community of people with developmental disabilities.

ADD received a total of 62 letters and 193 inquiries by the closing date in response to the public comment notice. Commentary was from the following sources:

- Advocacy agencies, which includes national organizations and associations, national advocacy groups and State/local advocacy groups;
- Service organizations, which includes agencies that provide services for individuals with developmental disabilities as well as providing advocacy services on behalf of a particular disability, including developmental disabilities councils;
- Educational systems, which includes schools, colleges, and universities, programs located within a university setting and University Affiliated Programs;
- Private agencies, which includes national, State, and local nonprofit organizations;
- Government agencies, which includes Federal, State, county, and local government agencies;
- Private individuals; and
- Foundations.

The comments ranged from requests for copies of the final application solicitation to general support to substantive, insightful responses for this year's proposed funding priorities and recommendations for other priority areas. The vast majority were supportive of and expanded upon what we proposed in the announcement, in addition to relating specifically to the program goals and priorities of the particular agencies submitting the comments.

The comments received were helpful in highlighting the concerns of the developmental disabilities field and have been used in refining the final priority areas.

*Comment:* Six letters were submitted to ADD recommending additional

funding priorities for FY 1995.

Suggestions included projects addressing the need for accessible and inclusive programs within the developmental disabilities network; the needs of aging persons with developmental disabilities and their families, especially those in rural areas; the need for research and training on Abusive Head Trauma, which includes Shaken Baby Syndrome; and transportation needs related to accessing jobs and services. There was a recommendation for priority areas for potential grantees to propose their own issues and for small, grassroots organizations to have the opportunity to develop their own solutions in their local communities.

*Response:* ADD continues to press for accessible and inclusive programs and project products. Through funding criteria, site visits, and monitoring of reports this principle is conveyed and its implementation evaluated.

ADD has funded projects related to aging in the past and continues to support projects and activities in this area through the University Affiliated Program. We share concerns that were expressed about the aging of individuals with developmental disabilities, which is reflected in our mission to promote the independence, productivity, integration, and inclusion of all people with developmental disabilities in their communities.

ADD will consult with the Administration on Aging and others to identify the need and opportunity for future focused efforts in this area.

We welcome the sharing of information with regard to medical conditions having implications for projects addressing abuse, violence, the need for early assessments and intervention, and family-centered approaches. The specifics regarding Abusive Head Trauma, Shaken Baby Syndrome, and Failure-to-Thrive will be included in appropriate priority areas.

ADD sees the element of transportation as a crucial factor in the success of any program. In stressing outcome-oriented approaches and ongoing mechanisms for evaluation and identification of barriers, ADD will include transportation concerns.

ADD is committed to inclusion and input from advocates and grassroots efforts. It has funded projects to strengthen families through national and grassroots strategies, partnerships in policymaking, and People First self-advocacy. Future priority areas will include opportunities for design options and local community initiatives.

ADD appreciates the suggestions for additional priority areas. With the