proposed fiscal year 1995 priority areas we have developed our most extensive array of project possibilities and will make concentrated efforts to support effective work in these areas. The suggestions have been considered significant and have been incorporated where appropriate.

Comment: ADD received 8 comments on Proposed Priority Area 1, Collaboration Between Youth Service Providers and Disabilities Advocates to Enhance Services to Youth With Developmental Disabilities. There was strong support for collaborative efforts, including memoranda of understanding and fiscal participation, and a recommendation to expand the scope of this priority area. Suggestions included language regarding information sharing and networking efforts that include all stakeholders, the identification of barriers, and the development of materials and strategies and the resources of technology and assistive

One comment urged inclusion of the capability to address and correct the breakdown in the school-to-work transition process and another stressed the importance of completing school as imperative for employment.

A comment from one State was that there was only minuscule risk in that particular State of youth with developmental disabilities running away or becoming involved with delinquent behavior.

Response: ADD is committed to collaborative efforts whenever possible, with or without fiscal participation, and we feel the focus of this priority area is appropriate at this time. It builds on the Family and Youth Services Bureau efforts with respect to at-risk youth and expands to include ADD's concerns. Prevention of and response to these issues will in fact necessitate a holistic approach.

Both agencies regard employment as a major goal, which must be addressed much earlier in the school experience than has been done, as well as attention to the principles of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The comments on project criteria contributed an appreciated refinement of announcement language.

As for the numbers of youth at risk, ADD feels strongly that such youth with developmental disabilities are particularly vulnerable and inadequately served. It is therefore essential that we explore and devise models which hold more promise for these young people.

Comment: ADD received 14 comments on Proposed Priority Area 2, Americans With Developmental

Disabilities and the Criminal Justice System. The comments received in this priority area were supportive of what ADD proposed in the published notice. There was strong support for programs to institute ongoing training for law enforcement and court personnel and to address prevention strategies as well. Involving self-advocates was strongly urged as essential, with projects directed by self-advocates and conducted by and through organizations of self-advocates in collaboration with the developmental disabilities network. One comment noted that this area would not impact a large segment of the population of the writer's State.

It was also suggested that there be a component emphasizing the need for mental health services to children in the criminal justice system. Other comments recommended funding for the transition from incarceration to the community, the inclusion of legal and safety concerns during enforcement, training with respect to impaired judgment resulting from fetal alcohol syndrome, and a study of the factors contributing to delinquency.

Response: ADD is committed to supporting leadership and direction by self-advocates, whose experience and perspective will ensure effective projects, a major goal along with ongoing and replicable projects. The specific concerns regarding mental health and transition to the community will clearly be identified in a required analysis of barriers to effective programs and desirable outcomes. ADD hopes to address these components in future PNS projects.

Medical issues should be an element of any proposed project so that justice system personnel are aware of symptoms and of indications of abuse and violence as well as substance abuse. As for the suggested numbers of individuals who may be impacted by the issues of this priority area in a particular State, ADD reiterates its commitment to the vulnerable individuals with developmental disabilities and to the inadequately served among them.

Comment: ADD received 11 comments on Proposed Priority Area 3, First Jobs—Introducing Young Persons With/Without Developmental Disabilities to the World of Work and Community Service. There was strong support for moving from segregated work settings to supported employment programs and a comment urging that individuals with the most severe disabilities who have not benefitted from supported employment not be ignored and remain unserved. There was support for ADD's approach with

regard to its Americorps projects, which include individuals with and without disabilities, and for collaboration among nonprofit agencies, Head Start, Vocational Rehabilitation, the Job Training Partnership Act Program (JTPA), and other public resources. Meaningful vocational assessments and a focus on consumer choice and quality of life were stressed, as was the importance of planning and partnerships so that first jobs lead to second jobs and ultimate career paths. One commenter had concerns about the Jobs Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS) program and training for JOBS staff unaccustomed to working with individuals with developmental disabilities, about the necessary longterm investment, and about funding for modifications to automated systems.

Comments from individuals involved concerns regarding personal assistance services. There was also a suggestion that this priority area be combined with the priority area for youth at risk for running away who need access to supports and services which lead to independence. Another suggestion was that people with developmental disabilities receive training to be personal assistants.

Response: ADD is in agreement with the movement toward a cultural shift to recognition of abilities and choice and away from control of employment resources by providers of employment and vocational services. We feel the community as a whole benefits from inclusion of individuals with developmental disabilities in the workplace. The benefits of diversity are seen in supported employment, which includes the development of natural supports reflecting participation of all co-workers.

Collaborative linkages are also critical as we strive to expand access to earlier educational/vocational experiences for children and youth with disabilities. Maximum efforts should be made to assure that individuals with the most severe disabilities are afforded these essential opportunities. Consideration of assistive technology, transportation needs, and accommodations for personal assistance services are essential components.

While there is some overlap with the issues addressed in Priority Area 1, ADD intends to fund each of these areas with their particular foci and demonstrate its commitment to contributions to the community that individuals with developmental disabilities make. ADD would consider, however, funding projects which effectively address essential requirements of both areas.