the State level first and then to local communities. However, if a State wishes to develop a grant application which is focused on developing a comprehensive multi-system, multi-agency statewide strategy and then proposes to test implementation of the strategy in a number of local communities before implementation statewide, we would be interested in considering funding for this approach. ADD urges any State applying for funds to include all the relevant agencies, systems, disciplines, and other pertinent entities in its proposed strategy and grant application.

In addition to this PNS priority area, ADD will continue its interagency and interdepartmental activities to prevent and reduce the incidence of abuse of children with disabilities and all other children who are abused, many of whom develop disabilities.

Comment: ADD received 9 comments on Proposed Priority Area 9, Technical Assistance Projects. The hope was expressed that ADD could continue to provide the catalyst to generate advocacy and support for individuals to protect their legal and human rights under the ADA, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended by the Rehabilitation Act amendments of 1992 (Pub.L. 102-569), and the Constitution. Efforts such as the Advocacy Training/Technical Assistance Center were reported to have provided valuable technical assistance to the protection and advocacy systems. One commenter proposed a national technical assistance project independent from the existing Protection and Advocacy System.

There was a recommendation that ADD direct its resources not only to improve each component of the ADD network (Protection and Advocacy Systems, University Affiliated Programs, and Developmental Disabilities Councils) but to realize the impact of cooperative and coordinated activities focused on common goals. Commenters urged ADD to include in any training the application of the 14 principles of quality improvement developed by W. Edwards Deming for private industry, which are seen as applicable to disability issues, as well as the nine principles delineated in Reinventing Government, which reinforce such goals as outcome orientation, responsiveness to consumers, empowerment, and teamwork.

There was encouragement to separate technical assistance from program monitoring and to allow program components to direct the technical assistance provided to them. Exploring different methods of utilizing stipends or vouchers for technical assistance when needed from recognized experts was also suggested. There was also strong support for collaborative network efforts at the Federal level through memoranda of understanding and fiscal participation, which, along with deliverable products, will enable progress to go far beyond communication toward realization of supports and service benefits at the local level.

*Response:* The thoughtful commentary on this priority area is timely and appreciated. ADD will closely consider the input received and seek out additional consultations with the network and other stakeholders on this issue.

Comment: ADD received 27 general comments on the priority areas. They were vastly supportive of what had been proposed. Several comments were received that commended us for the way in which we approached this year's priorities through considerable consultation, discussion, and reflection and the inclusion of such issues as increasing interagency collaboration and outcome measurement methodology, consumer empowerment, system conversion, strategies for addressing abuse and violence, employment opportunities through community service, unserved and inadequately served individuals, and individuals with developmental disabilities in the criminal justice system.

There was strong support for giving highest priority to the areas of cultural diversity, consumer involvement, and technical assistance and for recognizing that collaboration and cooperation are not outcomes in themselves but means to successful programmatic results. Focusing on deliverable products, such as model memoranda of agreement, training curricula, procedural plans, or memoranda for joint funding, and on outcomes was seen as increasing the replicability of the proposed priorities.

ADD was urged to seek assurance that people with disabilities are included in implementation of funded projects through participation in advisory bodies and quality management and evaluation teams. ADD was also urged to promote culturally appropriate approaches with respect to information dissemination and recruitment of professionals and nonprofessionals.

In addition, there was strong support for ADD's continued funding of national data collection and analysis projects and a recommendation that data should reflect current best thinking of the developmental disabilities network about housing and individual supports, not facilities, and about jobs, not sheltered employment, and that duplication of effort be avoided. One commenter wished to see increased government incentives, such as tax credits, for the promulgation of charitable donations of time, assets such as housing or equipment, and funds to advance the concerns of the Projects of National Significance and other efforts.

Two comments reflected regret over lack of continuation of projects in leadership initiatives and personal assistance services and another would like to have seen more latitude for choice of project design within priority areas. More focus was called for on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) through a dynamic model of empowerment for ADA compliance at the grass roots level utilizing the significant Protection and Advocacy resource.

There were some questions about targeting specific priority areas to address concerns that should already be under development by Councils and about creating or enhancing specialized structures instead of providing appropriate supports from within generic service systems.

Response: The unusual depth and range of commentary on the proposed FY 1995 funding priorities reflects an impressive intensity and commitment. ADD expended considerable energy to develop these initiatives, utilizing the resources of its network and staff, and we have applied the same diligence in consideration of comments, suggestions, and recommendations. We believe the final priority areas reflect the input received from the public comment process and a sensitivity to the concerns expressed in each of the letters received. Clearly, not every issue raised can be addressed and incorporated.

When in the past we proposed only a few priority areas, it was thought by some that the full range of needs was ignored. Proposing several priority areas has been seen by some as attempting too much. The purpose of the ADD Projects of National Significance is to chart courses that others can follow. A component of all Projects of National Significance is the development and implementation of programs and approaches that will be ongoing beyond funding periods. We have been challenged by the call to reinvent government and charged by our constituencies to promote systems change for effective response to identified needs.

ADD hopes that the description of comments received and its responses will be viewed as a forum, for we have seen an unusual range of feedback which tells us and those who read this announcement what the best thinking is