preference to applications that meet the following competitive priority. The Secretary awards 10 points to an application that meets this competitive priority. These points are in addition to any points the application earns under the selection criteria for the program:

Providing Program Services in an Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community.

Background: The Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community Program is a critical element of the Administration's community revitalization strategy. The program is a first step in rebuilding communities in America's povertystricken inner cities and rural heartlands. It is designed to empower people and communities by inspiring Americans to work together to create

jobs and opportunity.

Under this program the Federal Government has designated 9 Empowerment Zones (Atlanta, GA; Baltimore, MD; Chicago, IL; Detroit, MI; New York, NY; Philadelphia, PA/ Camden, NJ; Kentucky Highlands, KY; Mid-Delta, MS; and Rio Grande Valley, TX); 2 Supplemental Empowerment Zones (Los Angeles, CA and Cleveland, OH); and 95 Enterprise Communities (a full list of which is available upon request). Interested individuals may contact the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at 1-800-998-9999 for additional information on the Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community Program.

Under the Empowerment Zone and **Enterprise Community Program** communities are invited to submit strategic plans that comprehensively address how the community would link economic development with education and training, as well as how community development, public safety, human services, and environmental initiatives together would support sustainable

communities.

Priority: The Secretary gives competitive preference to applications that-

(1) Propose the provision of substantial services in Empowerment Zones or Enterprise Communities; and

(2) Propose projects that contribute to the strategic plan of the Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community activities and that are made an integral component of the Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community activities.

A PWI project may provide services at one or more sites. Under this program a PWI project is considered to be providing substantial services in a zone or community if a minimum of 51 percent of the total number of persons served by the project, irrespective of the number of sites, reside in a zone or

community and at least one of the project sites is located within the boundaries of a zone or community. If there is only one project site, it must be located within the boundaries of a zone or community.

Invitational Priorities: Within the competitive priority in this notice, the Secretary is particularly interested in applications that meet one or more of the following invitational priorities. However, under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1) an application that meets one or more of these invitational priorities does not receive competitive or absolute preference over other applications:

Invitational Priority 1. Projects that demonstrate the use of alternative work setting models of employment, such as flexiplace or telecommute, to assist individuals with disabilities to secure and maintain competitive employment.

Invitational Priority 2. Projects that demonstrate the use of workplace apprenticeship programs designed to encourage, support, and train individuals with disabilities for employment in careers with advancement potential.

Invitational Priority 3. Projects that demonstrate effective outreach and collaboration with minority-owned businesses in order to secure competitive placement opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Minorityowned businesses are defined as nonprofit and for-profit entities at least 51 percent owned or controlled by one or more minority individuals.

Invitational Priority 4. Projects that demonstrate a service model or design that will facilitate the transition from school-to-work of individuals with disabilities. Projects should focus on placing youth with disabilities in employment with career path or career advancement opportunities.

For Applications and General Information Contact: Constance Pledger, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue SW., room 3318 Switzer Building, Washington, DC 20202-2741. Telephone: (202) 205-9343 or the electronic bulletin boards of the Rehabilitation Services Administration at (202) 205-5574 (2400 bps) or (202) 205-9950 (9600 bps) to order applications; or (202) 205-9415 for information.

Program Authority: 29 U.S.C. 795g.

84.235U Special Projects and **Demonstrations for Providing Vocational** Rehabilitation Services to Individuals with Disabilities

Purpose of Program: To provide financial assistance to projects for expanding or otherwise improving vocational rehabilitation and other rehabilitation services for individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities.

Eligible Applicants: State agencies; other public agencies and organizations, including federally recognized Indian tribal governments; and nonprofit private agencies and organizations.

Project Period: Up to 36 months. Applicable Regulations: (a) The **Education Department General** Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, and 85; and (b) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR parts 369 and 373.

Priorities:

Competitive Priority: Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i) and the notice of final priorities for this program published in the **Federal Register** on December 9, 1994 (59 FR 63860), the Secretary gives preference to applications that meet the following competitive priority. The Secretary awards 10 points to an application that meets this competitive priority. These points are in addition to any points the application earns under the selection criteria for the program:

Providing Program Services in an Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community.

Background:

The Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community Program is a critical element of the Administration's community revitalization strategy. The program is a first step in rebuilding communities in America's povertystricken inner cities and rural heartlands. It is designed to empower people and communities by inspiring Americans to work together to create jobs and opportunity.

Under this program the Federal Government has designated 9 Empowerment Zones (Atlanta, GA; Baltimore, MD; Chicago, IL; Detroit, MI; New York, NY; Philadelphia, PA/ Camden, NJ; Kentucky Highlands, KY; Mid-Delta, MS; and Rio Grande Valley, TX); 2 Supplemental Empowerment Zones (Los Angeles, CA and Cleveland, OH); and 95 Enterprise Communities (a full list of which is available upon request). Interested individuals may contact the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at 1–800– 998-9999 for additional information on the Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community Program.

Under the Empowerment Zone and **Enterprise Community Program** communities are invited to submit strategic plans that comprehensively address how the community would link economic development with education and training, as well as how community development, public safety, human services, and environmental initiative