

to the general amendment of this subchapter by Pub. L. 105-220.

### § 796j-1. Training and technical assistance

#### (a) In general

From the funds appropriated and made available to carry out this part for any fiscal year, beginning with fiscal year 2015, the Commissioner shall first reserve not less than 1.8 percent and not more than 2 percent of the funds to provide, either directly or through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, training and technical assistance to designated State agencies, or other providers of independent living services for older individuals who are blind, that are funded under this part for such fiscal year.

#### (b) Survey

The Commissioner shall conduct a survey of designated State agencies that receive grants under section 796k of this title regarding training and technical assistance needs in order to determine funding priorities for such training and technical assistance.

#### (c) Application for grant

To be eligible to receive a grant or enter into a contract or cooperative agreement under this section, an entity shall submit an application to the Commissioner at such time, in such manner, containing a proposal to provide such training and technical assistance, and containing such additional information, as the Commissioner may require. The Commissioner shall provide for peer review of applications by panels that include persons who are not government employees and who have experience in the provision of services to older individuals who are blind.

(Pub. L. 93-112, title VII, § 751A, as added Pub. L. 113-128, title IV, § 486, July 22, 2014, 128 Stat. 1693.)

### § 796k. Program of grants

#### (a) In general

##### (1) Authority for grants

Subject to subsections (b) and (c) of this section, the Commissioner may make grants to States for the purpose of providing the services described in subsection (d) of this section to older individuals who are blind.

##### (2) Designated State agency

The Commissioner may not make a grant under this subsection unless the State involved agrees that the grant will be administered solely by the agency described in section 721(a)(2)(A)(i) of this title.

#### (b) Contingent competitive grants

Beginning with fiscal year 1993, in the case of any fiscal year for which the amount appropriated under section 796l of this title is less than \$13,000,000, grants made under subsection (a) of this section shall be—

- (1) discretionary grants made on a competitive basis to States; or
- (2) grants made on a noncompetitive basis to pay for the continuation costs of activities for which a grant was awarded—
  - (A) under this part; or

(B) under part C of this subchapter, as in effect on the day before October 29, 1992.

#### (c) Contingent formula grants

##### (1) In general

In the case of any fiscal year for which the amount appropriated under section 796l of this title is equal to or greater than \$13,000,000, grants under subsection (a) of this section shall be made only to States and shall be made only from allotments under paragraph (2).

##### (2) Allotments

For grants under subsection (a) of this section for a fiscal year described in paragraph (1), the Commissioner shall make an allotment to each State in an amount determined in accordance with subsection (i) of this section, and shall make a grant to the State of the allotment made for the State if the State submits to the Commissioner an application in accordance with subsection (h) of this section.

#### (d) Services generally

The Commissioner may not make a grant under subsection (a) of this section unless the State involved agrees that the grant will be expended only for purposes of—

- (1) providing independent living services to older individuals who are blind;
- (2) conducting activities that will improve or expand services for such individuals; and
- (3) conducting activities to help improve public understanding of the problems of such individuals.

#### (e) Independent living services

Independent living services for purposes of subsection (d)(1) of this section include—

- (1) services to help correct blindness, such as—
  - (A) outreach services;
  - (B) visual screening;
  - (C) surgical or therapeutic treatment to prevent, correct, or modify disabling eye conditions; and
  - (D) hospitalization related to such services;
- (2) the provision of eyeglasses and other visual aids;
- (3) the provision of services and equipment to assist an older individual who is blind to become more mobile and more self-sufficient;
- (4) mobility training, braille instruction, and other services and equipment to help an older individual who is blind adjust to blindness;
- (5) guide services, reader services, and transportation;
- (6) any other appropriate service designed to assist an older individual who is blind in coping with daily living activities, including supportive services and rehabilitation teaching services;
- (7) independent living skills training, information and referral services, peer counseling, and individual advocacy training; and
- (8) other independent living services.

#### (f) Matching funds

##### (1) In general

The Commissioner may not make a grant under subsection (a) of this section unless the