

New F¹. Bill Flynn



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES
REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Bill Flynn
Director of Special Programs
Wood College, P.O. Box 289
Mathiston, Mississippi 39752-0289

SEP 23 1996

Dear Mr. Flynn:

Thank you for your letter dated July 22, 1996 to Ms. Diana Fortuna of the White House Domestic Policy Council. In your letter, you raised concerns about comments made by peer reviewers on your organization's grant application for funding under the fiscal year 1996 Projects for Initiating Recreation Programs for Individuals with Disabilities Program. Ms. Fortuna forwarded your letter to me for response.

It is my understanding that Ms. Mary Winkler of my staff recently discussed with you the concerns you raised in your letter. I regret that your application was not funded and I appreciate that your organization is interested in receiving a grant under the Recreation Program. In our peer review process, we ensure that a comprehensive review and evaluation of each application is conducted by a panel of expert reviewers in the field of recreation programs for individuals with disabilities. During your conversation with Ms. Winkler, I understand that you discussed in detail your concerns about each peer reviewer's comments. As you know, this competition was highly competitive. Of the 224 applications received, only the top 14 ranked applications received funding.

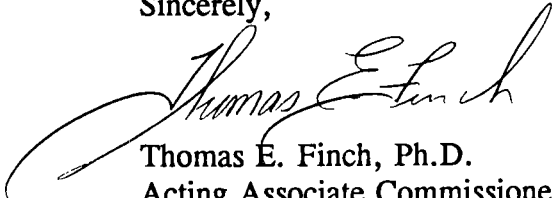
The next competition for the Recreation Program will be held in fiscal year 1998 and I hope you will submit another application for funding at that time. In order to assist you, I have enclosed copies of the three top ranked applications funded under the fiscal year 1996 Recreation Program competition. If you would like to discuss these applications further, feel free to contact the applicants directly or contact Ms. Winkler at (202) 205-8435. Also, Ms. Winkler is available to assist you in developing any future applications for funding under the Recreation Program.

In addition to the Recreation Program, you may consider submitting a grant application for our Special Projects and Demonstration Program which also provides grants for services to youth with disabilities. For your information, I have enclosed a copy of last year's Special Projects and Demonstration Program application package that identifies specific criteria used in the evaluation of applications submitted. Once you have had an opportunity to review these materials, and if you have any questions, please contact Ms. Pamela Martin, Program Manager, Special Projects and Demonstrations Program at (202) 205-8494.

Page 2 -- Mr. Bill Flynn

Again, I appreciate the time and effort that went into the development of your application and regret that it was not funded at this time. If I can be of further assistance, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Finch, Ph.D.
Acting Associate Commissioner

Enclosures

cc: Ms. Diana Fortuna
White House Domestic
Policy Council

TO: Fred Schroeder
Susan Benbow

FROM: Diana Fortuna

DATE: August 6, 1996

I got a call from a gentleman who is disappointed that he was turned down for an RSA grant. He sent me the attached explanatory materials. As Susan and I discussed, since it is not appropriate for me to become involved in your decision in any way, the best way to handle this appears to be to forward this to you and ask you to handle as you deem appropriate.

Thanks.



Wood College
*"A United Methodist
Church College"*



Development Office

July 22, 1996

Diana Fortuna
Whitehouse Domestic Policy Council
Old Executive Office Building
Room 213
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Ms. Fortuna:

Thanks for listening to my concerns about our proposal for a recreation program for handicapped children, and how it has been reviewed. I have enclosed a copy of the narrative so that you can see for yourself what we are trying to develop for children and young adults in the North Central area of Mississippi. There is community support for the program and I believe that this would be the first such unique approach to both a recreational activity and a physical therapy program—a pilot program that could be replicated in other communities across the nation if we can get it underway.

As I read the comments by the reviewers, I was struck by what were obvious contradictions in their interpretations of what we were proposing. I was also dismayed by the Lead Reviewer's very negative comments; it seemed to me that this person had a preconceived notion that this was not something that the Department of Education should support. Do these people have their own ideas of what types of programs should be supported? You bet your life they do, and they have been working with certain individuals and organizations or institutions which makes it easier to manage a project.

Please take a look at what we have proposed which is unique in providing recreational activities as well as physical therapy, has community support, can be replicated in other communities, involves other young people with the handicapped children and young adults, and is will be managed by an institution which has experienced staff familiar with federal grant programs. I would not be bothering your office if I did not feel strongly about this proposal; we will appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

Bill Flynn
Director of Special Programs

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
 OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES
 REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
 WASHINGTON, D.C.

INDIVIDUAL RATER EVALUATION FORM - NEW AWARD

PROGRAM: Recreational Programs for Individuals with Disabilities(84.128J)

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS: This form is furnished for your use in evaluating the application identified below. It is suggested that the reviewer read this form first to become familiar with the questions asked about the application, and then read the application in a thorough fashion. The eight criteria which appear on the following pages have been reproduced from Federal regulations (34 CFR Part 75), and the authorizing statute for this program (Section 802(a) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by section 801(a) of Public Law 102 - 569, 106 Stat. 4344). NO OTHER FACTORS CAN BE USED. It is important that each applicant have the benefit of your written comments, so please be as detailed as possible. Please include page references for each of your comments. The summary page should be completed last.

APPLICATION NUMBER: H128J 60045

APPLICANT NAME: Wood College

TOTAL RAW SCORE: Enter subtotal score for each criterion and add.

CRITERION	RANGE	SUBTOTAL
(a) IMPACT OF THE PROJECT	0-20	10
(b) PLAN OF OPERATION	0-25	18
(c) QUALITY OF KEY PERSONNEL	0-10	4
(d) BUDGET AND COST EFFECTIVENESS	0-10	5
(e) EVALUATION PLAN	0-10	4
(f) ADEQUACY OF RESOURCES	0-05	3
(g) PLAN FOR DISSEMINATION OF FINDINGS	0-10	3
(h) PLAN FOR SUSTAINING AFTER PROJECT PERIOD	0-10	3
TOTAL RAW SCORE	0-100	50

OVERALL RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL _____ NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

Reviewer # 3

Panel # 9

IMPACT OF THE PROJECT (20 POINTS) (CFDA 84.128J)

The application describes:

- i) The extent to which the proposed project provides individuals with disabilities with recreational activities and related experiences that will enhance their employment, mobility, socialization, independence, and community integration skills;
- ii) Information that shows: the number of individuals with disabilities expected to be served; the types of individuals with disabilities expected to be served; the types of recreational activities expected to be available; and, how the proposed recreational activities and related experiences will improve the employment, mobility, socialization, independence, and community integration skills of the individuals with disabilities to be served.

+/-	<p>COMMENTS: Use clear, precise sentences. Indicate each strength with a "+" and each weakness with a "-" in the left-hand column. Add page references in the right-hand column. Add page number in the right column.</p>	Page ref.
+	The application provides a description of the target populations who would be potential participants in the service	3-5
+	Goals are established for the number of children and adults served annually, and for the duration of the project	10
-	Therapeutic benefits of the project are described. However, impact of the project activities on employment, mobility, socialization, independence and community integration are not clearly addressed.	10
-	The impact of the project on individuals served appears to be minimal, with little opportunity for	10
<p>MORE SPACE PROVIDED ON NEXT PAGE</p>		

PLAN OF OPERATION (25 POINTS) (CFDA 84.128J)

The application describes:

- (1) The quality of the design of the project;
- (2) The extent to which the project includes specific intended outcomes that--
 - (i) Will accomplish the purposes of the program to initiate programs to provide individuals with disabilities with recreational activities and related experiences that can be expected to aid in their employment, mobility, socialization, independence, and community integration;
 - (ii) Are attainable within the project period given the project's budget and other resources;
 - (iii) Are objective and measurable for purposes of evaluation; and
 - (iv) Include specific objectives to be met during each budget period that can be used to determine the progress of the project toward meeting its intended outcomes;
- (3) The extent to which the plan of management is effective and ensures proper and efficient administration of the project;
- (4) The quality of the applicant's plan to use its resources and personnel to achieve each objective and intended outcome during the period of Federal funding;
- (5) The extent to which the applicant's plan identifies the numbers of eligible clients by type of disability and the numbers of clients with severe disabilities available to participate in the project;
- (6) The extent to which the applicant plans to conduct outreach activities to recruit participants;
- (7) The extent to which the applicant's plan ensures that individuals who are otherwise eligible to participate are selected without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disabling condition; and,
- (8) The extent to which project activities are provided in settings with peers who are not individuals with disabilities.

+/-	<u>COMMENTS:</u> Use clear, precise sentences. Indicate each strength with a "+" and each weakness with a "-" in the left-hand column. Add page references in the right-hand column.	Page ref.
+	The application describes specific objectives for the project	10-11
+	Objectives appear to be attainable within the project period.	"
+	Objectives are measurable.	"
MORE SPACE PROVIDED FOR COMMENTS ON NEXT PAGE		

PLAN OF OPERATION (25 POINTS) (CFDA 84.128J) (CONTINUED)

+/-	<p>COMMENTS: Use clear, precise sentences. Indicate each strength with a "+" and each weakness with a "-" in the left-hand column. Add page references in the right-hand column.</p>	Page ref.
+	A narrative is provided for project activities	7-8
-	<p>The application forces the reviewer to "piece together" the plan of operation from the narrative. Organization of the narrative according to the evaluation criteria (as required by the PFF) would have greatly benefited the application and allowed better assessment of the plan's effectiveness.</p>	
-	Screening criteria for the project are not clearly defined, although participants are screened in.	7
-	Operational plan generally lacks specificity and details.	
-	<p>Services are not provided in settings with peers who are not disabled. Non-disabled individuals in contact with participants are in roles of hired assistants, volunteer, etc. who are coming into class for disabled persons. This does not meet criteria, in my view</p>	16-17
<p>SCORE awarded for PLAN OF OPERATION (MAXIMUM 25 POINTS) (18)</p>		

QUALITY OF KEY PERSONNEL (10 POINTS) (CFDA 84.128.J)

The application describes:

- (1) The relevant experience and training of the project director;
- (2) The relevant experience and training of each of the other key personnel to be used on the project;
- (3) The amount of time that each key person will commit to the project; and
- (4) The extent to which the applicant, as part of its nondiscriminatory employment practices, encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have been traditionally underrepresented, such as--
 - (i) Persons with disabilities;
 - (ii) The elderly;
 - (iii) Women; and
 - (iv) Members of racial or ethnic minority groups.

+/-	COMMENTS: Use clear, precise sentences. Indicate each strength with a "+" and each weakness with a "-" in the left-hand column. Add page references in the right-hand column.	Page ref.
+	Narrative descriptions of education and experience of key project staff are given.	14
-	However, names of key staff are not provided, nor are resumes or letters appended. Important to be able to link project staff with qualifications.	14
-	Time commitments of key staff are not provided.	14
-	The application does not describe how members of underrepresented groups will be recruited for positions.	14

MORE SPACE FOR COMMENTS IS PROVIDED ON THE NEXT PAGE

BUDGET AND COST EFFECTIVENESS (10 POINTS) (CFDA 84.128.J)

The application describes:

- 1) The budget is adequate to support the project activities and the Federal matching requirements;
- 2) Costs are reasonable in relation to the objectives of the project; and,
- 3) Information that substantiates how the project will meet its matching requirement and increase its share of project costs during the project period, including an identification of the sources and amounts of matching funds.

+/-	<u>COMMENTS:</u> Use clear, precise sentences. Indicate each strength with a "+" and each weakness with a "-" in the left-hand column. Add page references in the right-hand column.	Page ref.
+	The Year 1 budget is adequate to support proposed activities	Budget prop-
+	A budget justification is included on the Federal budget page, Section C. However, my pages were "cut off" at the bottom in copying. Be lenient include justification in project narrative.	"
+	The project has decreasing Federal assistance for years 2 and 3.	18
-	The increasing applicant match is based on expectations of donations, grants, and fund-raising. These are highly speculative. The application needs firmer commitments for support, such as agreements from local businesses to provide sponsorships, charges on sliding fees etc.	18
MORE SPACE FOR COMMENTS IS PROVIDED ON THE NEXT PAGE		

EVALUATION PLAN (10 POINTS) (CFDA 84.128.J)

The application describes the quality of the evaluation plan, and the extent to which the applicant's methods of evaluation:

- (1) Are appropriate for the project;
- (2) Will determine how successful the project is in meeting its intended outcomes; and
- (3) Are objective and produce data that are quantifiable.

+/-	<u>COMMENTS:</u> Use clear, precise sentences. Indicate each strength with a "+" and each weakness with a "-" in the left-hand column. Add page references in the right-hand column.	Page ref.
-	The application does not contain a section describing how the project activities will be evaluated. This is part of the organizational problem described previously.	
+	The application does indicate that progress will be monitored and reported, as well as project finances. However, this is very general.	21
-	Monitoring and reporting activities fail to assess progress toward all objectives and activities.	10-11

MORE SPACE FOR COMMENTS IS PROVIDED ON THE NEXT PAGE

ADEQUACY OF RESOURCES (5 POINTS) (CFDA 84.128J)

The application demonstrates that:

- 1) The facilities that the applicant plans to use are adequate;
- 2) The equipment and supplies that the applicant plans to use are adequate; and
- 3) The recordkeeping capabilities of the applicant for financial and evaluation purposes are adequate.

+/-	COMMENTS: Use clear, precise sentences. Indicate each strength with a "+" and each weakness with a "-" in the left-hand column. Add page references in the right-hand column.	Page ref.
+	The stables and riding facilities at	19
	Wood College appear to be adequate	
	for project activities.	
+	Outside resources, such as community	20
	agencies, have also been identified.	
+	Available supplies and equipment	20
	appear to be adequate.	
-	Other than annual audits, the	20
	capability of the applicant to	
	manage Federal grant money are	
	not addressed.	

MORE SPACE FOR COMMENTS IS PROVIDED ON THE NEXT PAGE

ADEQUACY OF RESOURCES (5 POINTS) (CFDA 84.128J)
(CONTINUED)

+/-

COMMENTS: Use clear, precise sentences. Indicate each strength with a "+" and each weakness with a "-" in the left-hand column. Add page references in the right-hand column.

Page
ref.

SCORE awarded for ADEQUACY OF RESOURCES
(MAXIMUM 5 POINTS) (3)

**PLAN FOR SUSTAINING THE PROGRAM AFTER PROJECT PERIOD
(10 POINTS) (CFDA 128J)**

(1) The application describes its plan to sustain the project after the termination of Federal grant support.

+/-	<p>COMMENTS: Use clear, precise sentences. Indicate each strength with a "+" and each weakness with a "-" in the left-hand column. Add page references in the right-hand column.</p>	Page ref.
+	Methods for sustaining the project after termination of Federal funding are described.	18
-	<p>Sustaining the program depends entirely on support which has yet to be committed. The application states that support is "expected to be generated" from local businesses, grants from other governmental agencies, and local supporters. There is no commitment from any of these sources in evidence. Sustaining the project is too dependent on speculative avenues. The applicant could have gained commitment from local business to sponsor a specific number of participants, or a letter of agreement from local MR/DD services to offer reimbursement.</p>	

MORE SPACE FOR COMMENTS IS PROVIDED ON THE NEXT PAGE

PARTNERSHIPS FOR STRONGER FAMILIES
INFORMATION DISSEMINATION ACTION TEAM
AUGUST 6, 1996
11:00AM - 1:00PM

AGENDA

- I. The Viewing
- II. Words from the technical side
- III. Strategize around unsolved issues (ie. who gets the mail, getting local feedback, etc.)
- IV. Other issues?

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OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES
REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

INDIVIDUAL RATER EVALUATION FORM - NEW AWARD

PROGRAM: Recreational Programs for Individuals with Disabilities(84.128J)

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS: This form is furnished for your use in evaluating the application identified below. It is suggested that the reviewer read this form first to become familiar with the questions asked about the application, and then read the application in a thorough fashion. The eight criteria which appear on the following pages have been reproduced from Federal regulations (34 CFR Part 75), and the authorizing statute for this program (Section 802(a) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by section 801(a) of Public Law 102 - 569, 106 Stat. 4344). NO OTHER FACTORS CAN BE USED. It is important that each applicant have the benefit of your written comments, so please be as detailed as possible. Please include page references for each of your comments. The summary page should be completed last.

APPLICATION NUMBER: 128J 60042

APPLICANT NAME: Ward College, Mass

TOTAL RAW SCORE: Enter subtotal score for each criterion and add.

CRITERION	RANGE	SUBTOTAL
(a) IMPACT OF THE PROJECT	0-20	10
(b) PLAN OF OPERATION	0-25	15
(c) QUALITY OF KEY PERSONNEL	0-10	5
(d) BUDGET AND COST EFFECTIVENESS	0-10	8
(e) EVALUATION PLAN	0-10	9
(f) ADEQUACY OF RESOURCES	0-05	4
(g) PLAN FOR DISSEMINATION OF FINDINGS	0-10	10
(h) PLAN FOR SUSTAINING AFTER PROJECT PERIOD	0-10	5
TOTAL RAW SCORE	0-100	79 79

OVERALL RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL _____ NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

Reviewer #1

Panel # 9

* Added in correctly

IMPACT OF THE PROJECT (20 POINTS) (CFDA 84.128J)

The application describes:

- i) The extent to which the proposed project provides individuals with disabilities with recreational activities and related experiences that will enhance their employment, mobility, socialization, independence, and community integration skills;
- ii) Information that shows: the number of individuals with disabilities expected to be served; the types of individuals with disabilities expected to be served; the types of recreational activities expected to be available; and, how the proposed recreational activities and related experiences will improve the employment, mobility, socialization, independence, and community integration skills of the individuals with disabilities to be served.

+/-	<p>COMMENTS: Use clear, precise sentences. Indicate each strength with a "+" and each weakness with a "-" in the left-hand column. Add page references in the right-hand column. Add page number in the right column.</p>	Page ref.
+	The proposed project provides individuals with disabilities to participate in recreational activities that should enhance their life goals.	
-	The activity described is limited to the area of kayak/paddle riding alone. RECREATION ACTIVITY	
	There are supporting reasons for this program & anticipated results.	
	This is limited follow up & potential continuation of activity following trial period. Supporting resources are suggested.	
	But the letters of support attached. CAN GET THESE	
	Suggested but not included any bibliography of past programs or resources.	
	Many disabled individuals at the shore have been other similar activities.	
	<p>MORE SPACE PROVIDED ON NEXT PAGE</p>	

PLAN OF OPERATION (25 POINTS) (CFDA 84.128J)

The application describes:

- (1) The quality of the design of the project;
- (2) The extent to which the project includes specific intended outcomes that--
 - (i) Will accomplish the purposes of the program to initiate programs to provide individuals with disabilities with recreational activities and related experiences that can be expected to aid in their employment, mobility, socialization, independence, and community integration;
 - (ii) Are attainable within the project period given the project's budget and other resources;
 - (iii) Are objective and measurable for purposes of evaluation; and
 - (iv) Include specific objectives to be met during each budget period that can be used to determine the progress of the project toward meeting its intended outcomes;
- (3) The extent to which the plan of management is effective and ensures proper and efficient administration of the project;
- (4) The quality of the applicant's plan to use its resources and personnel to achieve each objective and intended outcome during the period of Federal funding;
- (5) The extent to which the applicant's plan identifies the numbers of eligible clients by type of disability and the numbers of clients with severe disabilities available to participate in the project;
- (6) The extent to which the applicant plans to conduct outreach activities to recruit participants;
- (7) The extent to which the applicant's plan ensures that individuals who are otherwise eligible to participate are selected without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disabling condition; and,
- (8) The extent to which project activities are provided in settings with peers who are not individuals with disabilities.

+/-	COMMENTS: Use clear, precise sentences. Indicate each strength with a "+" and each weakness with a "-" in the left-hand column. Add page references in the right-hand column.	Page ref.
	<i>expected but not clear as to objectives</i>	
-	<i>long range of participation</i>	
+	<i>Services are available during grant period</i>	
	<i>Project is available in the field</i>	
-	<i>over long period of time</i>	
MORE SPACE PROVIDED FOR COMMENTS ON NEXT PAGE		

PLAN OF OPERATION (25 POINTS) (CFDA 84.128J) (CONTINUED)

+/-	<p>COMMENTS: Use clear, precise sentences. Indicate each strength with a "+" and each weakness with a "-" in the left-hand column. Add page references in the right-hand column.</p>	Page ref.
+	Plan appears effective with reference to staff + personal life + role.	
+	Associative reports of clients with varying disabilities well suited for inclusion.	
-	No reference to ^{Women} minorities, elderly or National Americans as per.	
-	No specific plans re inclusion of blacks without disabilities.	
	The training of CAT program. Handicapped children with disabilities is included.	

SCORE awarded for PLAN OF OPERATION (MAXIMUM 25 POINTS) (15)

ADEQUACY OF RESOURCES (5 POINTS) (CFDA 84.128J)
(CONTINUED)

+/-

COMMENTS: Use clear, precise sentences. Indicate each strength with a "+" and each weakness with a "-" in the left-hand column. Add page references in the right-hand column.

Page
ref.

SCORE awarded for ADEQUACY OF RESOURCES
(MAXIMUM 5 POINTS) (4)

