

# **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

## **Community-Based Research and Technology for Independence**

### **OVERVIEW**

“Technology for Independence: Community-Based Resource Center (TI-CBRC),” a partnership of the Law, Health Policy & Disability Center at the University of Iowa College of Law and the Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU) at The Institute for Rehabilitation & Research, invites centers for independent living and other community-based organizations researchers serving people with disabilities and university-based to participate in a series of trainings on research promoting access to and use of technology (AT).

The trainings will start during April 2003, featuring 12 monthly on-line training sessions and culminating in an on-site symposium in June 2004 at the University of Iowa.

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the training sessions and symposium is to provide a forum for the use of participatory action research (PAR). Project activities are intended to assist consumer-run groups in developing capacity to collect, analyze, and write up research that directly focuses on the needs of their organizations and consumers in the areas of technology and environmental access.

### **HOW TO PARTICIPATE**

The TI-CBRC invites teams composed of researchers and disability organizations to submit a brief proposal describing a research project on technology. Individuals involved in current research as well as those interested in conducting future research related to assistive technology are invited to participate.

Six teams of two individuals each will be selected to participate in the trainings and symposium. Selection to participate is competitive and will be based on application quality and the relevance of proposed research. Consideration will be given to divergent backgrounds, topics, and interests.

The project will accept proposals from those interested in participating but who have not yet established a team. However, individuals accepted to participate must establish a research team prior to participation in the symposium. Participants’ travel and lodging expenses for the symposium will be paid by the TI-CBRC project funded by a grant from the National Institute on Disability Research and Rehabilitation, U.S. Department of Education.

### **TRAINING DESCRIPTION**

The trainings will include six web-assisted audio-conferences with discussions led by nationally recognized disability researchers and six web-based educational modules on understanding, using and writing up research.

The proposed research training curriculum includes topics such as participatory action research, introduction to research, conducting focus groups, surveys and legal/policy research, ethics in community-based research, writing up research results.

Proposed research projects appropriate for the trainings can include locally based issues of interest to community organizations or smaller research projects of interest to the teams.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

To obtain an application and for further information on the curriculum and program faculty, visit the LHPDC web site at <http://www.its.uiowa.edu/law/cbrc> or contact Sally Weiss at [szweiss@bellsouth.net](mailto:szweiss@bellsouth.net) or 828-456-9290 (Voice) / 319-353-5828 (TTY). Application is available at <http://www.its.uiowa.edu/law/cbrc/docs/app.pdf>. The deadline for applications is March 7, 2003.

The CBRC is a five-year project funded 100% by NIDRR grant H133A021801. The purpose of the CBRC is to provide training, technical assistance, and dissemination on research related to assistive technology and community-based research.