



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION MID REHA9ILtrA'17VE SERVTCES

APR 5 1999

Curtis L. Decker,
Executive Director
NAPAS
900 Second Street, NE, Suite 211
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. Decker:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the 56 Protection and Advocacy (P&A) systems throughout the country, requesting clarification of section 682(g) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and its application to P&As. This section defines a "parent organization" for purposes of eligibility for funding to be a Parent Training and Information Center (PTI). Your question is stated below along with our response.

You asked for clarification "on P&As eligibility as parent organizations for purposes of establishing themselves as a PTI Center".

An applicant that meets the criteria for "parent organization" as defined in section 682 (g)(1) or (g)(2) would be eligible for funding as a PTI provided all other applicable requirements are met. An "institution of higher education" is the only type of entity that the statute specifically excludes from eligibility. Therefore, a P&A that meets the statutory definition of a "parent organization" would be eligible to compete for funding as a PTI.

I hope this information is helpful to you. If we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact Donna Fluke of my Office at (202)205-9161.

Sincerely,

Thomas Hehir
Director
Office of Special Education Programs