4000-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Institute of Education Sciences

Overview Information

Education Research and Special Education Research Grant Programs

Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2009.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Numbers: 84.305A, 84.305B, 305C, 305D, 305E, 84.324A, and 84.324B.

SUMMARY: The Director of the Institute of Education Sciences (Institute) announces the Institute's FY 2009 competitions for grants to support education research and special education research. The Director takes this action under the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, title I of Public Law 107-279. The intent of these grants is to provide national leadership in expanding fundamental knowledge and understanding of education from early childhood education through postsecondary and adult education.

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose of Program: The central purpose of the Institute's research grant programs is to provide parents, educators, students, researchers, policymakers, and the general public with reliable and valid information about education practices that support learning and improve academic achievement and access to education opportunities for all students. In carrying out its grant programs, the Institute provides support for programs of research in areas of demonstrated national need.

Competitions in this notice: The Institute will conduct nine research competitions in FY 2009 through two of its National Education Centers.

The National Center for Education Research (NCER) will hold six competitions: two competitions for education research; one competition for education research training; one competition for education research and development centers; one competition for research on statistical and research methodology in education; and one competition for evaluation of State and district education programs and policies.

The National Center for Special Education Research (NCSER) will hold three competitions: two competitions for special education research and one competition for special education research training.

National Center for Education Research Competitions

Education Research. Under the two education research competitions, NCER will consider only applications that address one of the following education research topics:

- Reading and Writing
- Mathematics and Science Education
- Cognition and Student Learning
- Teacher Quality - Reading and Writing
- Teacher Quality - Mathematics and Science Education
- Social and Behavioral Context for Academic Learning
- Education Leadership
- Education Policy, Finance, and Systems

- Early Childhood Programs and Policies
- Middle and High School Reform
- Interventions for Struggling Adolescent and Adult Readers and Writers
- Postsecondary Education
- Education Technology

Education Research Training. Under the education research training competition, NCER will consider only applications for:

- Postdoctoral Research Training
- Predoctoral Research Training

Education Research and Development Centers. Under the education research and development centers competition, NCER will consider only applications that address one of the following education research topics:

- Teacher Effectiveness
- Rural Education
- Turning Around Chronically Low Achieving Schools

Research on Statistical and Research Methodology in Education. Under this competition, NCER will consider only applications that address research on statistical and research methodology in education.

Evaluation of State and District Education Programs and Policies. Under this competition, NCER will consider only applications that address the evaluation of State and district education programs and policies.

National Center for Special Education Research Competitions

Special Education Research. Under the two special education research competitions, NCSER will consider only applications that address one of the following special education research topics:

- Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education
- Reading, Writing, and Language Development
- Mathematics and Science Education
- Social and Behavioral Outcomes to Support Learning
- Transition Outcomes for Special Education Secondary Students
- Cognition and Student Learning in Special Education
- Teacher Quality
- Related Services
- Systemic Interventions and Policies for Special Education
- Autism Spectrum Disorders

Special Education Research Training. Under the special education research training competition, NCSER will consider only applications for Postdoctoral Research Training.

PROGRAM AUTHORITY: 20 U.S.C. 9501 et seq.

Applicable Regulations: The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 77, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, 97, 98, and 99. In addition, 34 CFR part 75 is applicable, except for the provisions in

34 CFR 75.100, 75.101(b), 75.102, 75.103, 75.105, 75.109(a), 75.200, 75.201, 75.209, 75.210, 75.211, 75.217, 75.219, 75.220, 75.221, 75.222, and 75.230.

Note: The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to institutions of higher education only.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Discretionary grants and cooperative agreements.

Fiscal Information: Although Congress has not enacted a final appropriation for FY 2009, the Institute is inviting applications for these competitions now so that it may be prepared to make awards following final action on the Department's appropriations bill. The President's FY 2009 Budget for the Institute includes sufficient funding for all of the competitions included in this notice. The actual award of grants will depend on the availability of funds. The number of awards made under each competition will depend on the quality of the applications received for that competition. The size of the awards will depend on the scope of the projects proposed.

III. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants: Applicants that have the ability and capacity to conduct scientifically valid research are eligible to apply. Eligible applicants include, but are not limited to, non-profit and for-profit organizations and public and private agencies and institutions, such as colleges and universities.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching: These programs do not require cost sharing or matching.

IV. Application and Submission Information

1. Request for Applications and Other Information: Information regarding program and application requirements for the competitions will be contained in the NCER and NCSER Request for Applications (RFA) packages, which will be available at the following Web sites:

http://ies.ed.gov/funding/

http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ies/programs.html

2. Applications Available: The RFAs for the education research, special education research, research on statistical and research methodology in education, and evaluation of State and district education programs and policies competitions will be available at the Web sites listed above on or before March 3, 2008. The dates on which applications for these competitions will be available are also indicated in the chart at the end of this notice.

The RFAs for the education research training, special education research training, and education research and development centers competitions will be available at the Web sites listed above on or before March 20, 2008.

Interested potential applicants should periodically check the Institute's Web site.

Information regarding selection criteria and review procedures for the competitions will be provided in the RFA packages.

3. Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: The deadline dates for transmittal of applications invited under this notice are indicated in the chart at the end of this notice and in the RFAs for the competitions.

4. Submission Requirements: Applications for grants under these competitions must be submitted electronically using the Grants.gov Apply site (Grants.gov). Information (including dates and times) about how to submit your application electronically, or in paper format by mail or hand delivery if you qualify for an exception to this requirement, please refer to section V. a. Submission of Applications in this notice.

We do not consider an application that does not comply with the deadline requirements.

Individuals with disabilities who need an accommodation or auxiliary aid in connection with the application process should contact the person listed under For Further Information Contact in Section VII in this notice. If the Department provides an accommodation or auxiliary aid to an individual with a disability in connection with the application process, the individual's application remains subject to all other requirements and limitations in this notice.

V. Submission of Applications

a. Electronic Submission of Applications.

Applications for grants under the Education Research, Education Research Training, Education Research and Development Centers, Research on Statistical and Research Methodology in Education, and Evaluation of State and District Education Programs and Policies competitions, CFDA Numbers 84.305A, 84.305B, 84.305C, 84.305D, and 84.305E, and for grants under the Special Education Research and Special Education Research Training competitions, CFDA Numbers 84.324A and 84.324B, must be submitted electronically using the Governmentwide Grants.gov Apply site at http://www.Grants.gov. Through this site, you will be able to download a copy of the application package, complete it offline, and then upload and submit your application. You may not e-mail an electronic copy of a grant application to us.

We will reject your application if you submit it in paper format unless, as described elsewhere in this section, you qualify for one of the exceptions to the electronic submission requirement and submit, no later than two weeks before the application deadline date, a written statement to the Department that you qualify for one of these exceptions. Further information regarding calculation of the date that is two weeks before the application deadline date is provided later in this section under Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement.

You may access the electronic grant applications for the Education Research, Education Research Training, Education Research and Development Centers, Research on Statistical and Research Methodology in Education, Evaluation of State and District Education Programs and Policies, Special Education Research, and Special Education Research Training competitions at http://www.Grants.gov. You must search for the downloadable application package for each competition by the CFDA number. Do not include the CFDA number's alpha suffix in your search (e.g., search for 84.324, not 84.324A).

Please note the following:

• When you enter the Grants.gov site, you will find information about submitting an application electronically through the site, as well as the hours of operation.

• Applications received by Grants.gov are date and time stamped. Your application must be fully uploaded and submitted, and must be date and time stamped by the Grants.gov system no later than 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. Except as otherwise noted in this section, we will not consider your application if it is date and time stamped by the Grants.gov system later than 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. When we retrieve your application from Grants.gov, we will notify you if we are rejecting your application because it was date and time stamped by the Grants.gov system after 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date.

• The amount of time it can take to upload an application will vary depending on a variety of factors including the size of the application and the speed of your Internet connection. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you do not wait until the application deadline date to begin the submission process through Grants.gov.

• You should review and follow the Education Submission Procedures for submitting an application through Grants.gov that are included in the application package for the competition to ensure that you submit your application in a timely manner to the Grants.gov system. You can also find the Education Submission Procedures pertaining to Grants.gov at http://e-Grants.ed.gov/help/GrantsgovSubmissionProcedures.pdf

• To submit your application via Grants.gov, you must complete all steps in the Grants.gov registration process (see http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). These steps include (1) registering your organization, a multi-part process that includes registration with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR); (2) registering yourself as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR); and (3) getting authorized as an AOR by your organization. Details on these steps are outlined in the Grants.gov 3-Step Registration Guide (see http://www.grants.gov/section910/Grants.govRegistrationBrochure.pdf). You also must provide on your application the same D-U-N-S Number used with this registration. Please note that the registration process may take five or more business days to complete, and you must have completed all registration steps to allow you to submit successfully an

application via Grants.gov. In addition you will need to update your CCR registration on an annual basis. This may take three or more business days to complete.

• You will not receive additional point value because you submit your application in electronic format, nor will we penalize you if you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, as described elsewhere in this section, and submit your application in paper format.

• You must submit all documents electronically, including all information you typically provide on the following forms: Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424 (R&R)) and the other R&R forms including, Project Performance Site Locations, Other Project Information, Senior/Key Person Profile, Research and Related Budget (Total Federal + Non-federal) and all necessary assurances and certifications.

• You must attach any narrative sections of your application as files in a .PDF (Portable Document) format. If you upload a file type other than the file type specified in this paragraph or submit a password-protected file, the Institute may choose not to review that material.

• Your electronic application must comply with any page-limit requirements described in this notice.

• After you electronically submit your application, you will receive from Grants.gov an automatic notification of receipt that contains a Grants.gov tracking number. (This notification indicates receipt by Grants.gov only, not receipt by the Department.) The Department then will retrieve your application from Grants.gov and send a second notification to you by e-mail. This second notification indicates that the Department has received your application and has assigned your application a PR/Award number (an ED-specified identifying number unique to your application).

• We may request that you provide us original signatures on forms at a later date.

Application Deadline Date Extension in Case of Technical Issues with the Grants.gov System: If you are experiencing problems submitting your application through Grants.gov, please contact the Grants.gov Support Desk, toll free, at 1-800-518-4726. You must obtain a Grants.gov Support Desk Case Number and must keep a record of it.

If you are prevented from electronically submitting your application on the application deadline date because of technical problems with the Grants.gov system, we will grant you an extension until 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, the following business day to enable you to transmit your application electronically or by hand delivery. You also may mail your application by following the mailing instructions described elsewhere in this notice.

If you submit an application after 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date, please contact the person listed under For Further Information Contact in section VII in this notice and provide an explanation of the technical problem you experienced with Grants.gov, along with the Grants.gov Support Desk Case Number. We will accept your application if we can confirm that a technical problem occurred with the Grants.gov system and that that problem affected your ability to submit your application by 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. The Department will contact you after a determination is made on whether your application will be accepted.

Note: The extensions to which we refer in this section apply only to the unavailability of, or technical problems with, the Grants.gov system. We will not grant you an extension if you failed to fully register to submit your application to Grants.gov before the application deadline date and time or if the technical problem you experienced is unrelated to the Grants.gov system.

Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement: You qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, and may submit your application in paper format, if you are unable to submit an application through the Grants.gov system because—

• You do not have access to the Internet; or

• You do not have the capacity to upload large documents to the Grants.gov system;

and

• No later than two weeks before the application deadline date (14 calendar days or, if the fourteenth calendar day before the application deadline date falls on a Federal holiday, the next business day following the Federal holiday), you mail or fax a written statement to the Department, explaining which of the two grounds for an exception prevent you from using the Internet to submit your application.

If you mail your written statement to the Department, it must be postmarked no later than two weeks before the application deadline date. If you fax your written statement to the Department, we must receive the faxed statement no later than two weeks before the application deadline date.

Address and mail or fax your statement to: Elizabeth Payer, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW., room 602C, Washington, DC 20208. FAX: (202) 219-1466.

Your paper application must be submitted in accordance with the mail or hand delivery instructions described in this notice.

b. Submission of Paper Applications by Mail.

If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you may mail (through the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial carrier) your application to the Department. You must mail the original and two copies of your application, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the applicable following address:

By mail through the U.S. Postal Service:

U.S. Department of Education

Application Control Center

Attention: (CFDA Number: [Identify the CFDA number for the competition under which you are submitting an application.])

400 Maryland Avenue, SW.

Washington, DC 20202-4260

or

By mail through a commercial carrier:

U.S. Department of Education

Application Control Center, Stop 4260

Attention: (CFDA Number: [Identify the CFDA number for the competition under which you are submitting an application.])

7100 Old Landover Road

Landover, MD 20785-1506

Regardless of which address you use, you must show proof of mailing consisting of one of the following:

(1) A legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark.

(2) A legible mail receipt with the date of mailing stamped by the U.S. Postal Service.

(3) A dated shipping label, invoice, or receipt from a commercial carrier.

(4) Any other proof of mailing acceptable to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

If you mail your application through the U.S. Postal Service, we do not accept either of the following as proof of mailing:

(1) A private metered postmark.

(2) A mail receipt that is not dated by the U.S. Postal Service.

If your application is postmarked after the application deadline date, we will not consider your application.

Note: The U.S. Postal Service does not uniformly provide a dated postmark. Before relying on this method, you should check with your local post office.

c. Submission of Paper Applications by Hand Delivery.

If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you (or a courier service) may deliver your paper application to the Department by hand. You must deliver the original and two copies of your application by hand, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address:

U.S. Department of Education

Application Control Center

Attention: (CFDA Number: [Identify the CFDA number for the competition under which you are submitting an application.])

550 12th Street, SW.

Room 7041, Potomac Center Plaza

Washington, DC 20202-4260

The Application Control Center accepts hand deliveries daily between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, except Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays.

Note for Mail or Hand Delivery of Paper Applications: If you mail or hand deliver your application to the Department--

(1) You must indicate on the envelope--if not provided by the Department--in Item 10 of the SF 424 (R&R) the CFDA number, including suffix letter, if any, of the competition under which you are submitting your application; and

(2) The Application Control Center will mail to you a notification of receipt of your grant application. If you do not receive this notification within 15 business days from the application deadline date, you should call the U.S. Department of Education Application Control Center at (202) 245-6288.

VI. Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices: If your application is successful, we notify your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators and send you a Grant Award Notice (GAN). We may notify you informally, also.

If your application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we notify you.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements: We identify administrative and national policy requirements in the application package and reference these and other requirements in the Applicable Regulations section in this notice.

We reference the regulations outlining the terms and conditions of an award in the Applicable Regulations section in this notice and include these and other specific conditions in the GAN. The GAN also incorporates your approved application as part of your binding commitments under the grant.

3. Grant Administration: Applicants should budget for a three-day meeting for project directors to be held in Washington, DC.

4. Reporting: At the end of your project period, you must submit a final performance report, including financial information, as directed by the Secretary. If you receive a multi-year award, you must submit an annual performance report that provides the most current performance and financial expenditure information as directed by the Secretary under 34 CFR 75.118. The Secretary may also require more frequent performance reports under 34 CFR 75.720(c). For specific requirements on grantee reporting, please go to http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html

5. Performance Measures:

To evaluate the overall success of its education research program, the Institute annually assesses the quality and relevance of newly funded research projects, as well as the quality of research publications that result from its funded research projects. External panels of qualified scientists review the quality of new research applications, and the percentage of newly funded projects that receive an average panel score of excellent or higher is determined. A panel of experienced education practitioners and administrators reviews descriptions of a randomly selected sample of newly funded projects and rates the degree to which the projects are relevant to educational practice. An external panel of eminent scientists reviews the quality of a randomly selected sample of new publications, and the percentage of new publications that are deemed to be of high quality is determined.

VII. Agency Contact

For Further Information Contact: The contact person associated with a particular research competition is listed in the chart at the end of this notice and in the RFA. The date on which applications will be available, the deadline for transmittal of applications, the estimated range of awards, and the project period are also listed in the chart and in the RFA that will be posted at the following Web sites:

http://ies.ed.gov/funding/

http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ies/programs.html

Alternative Format: Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document and a copy of the application package in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the program contact person listed in the chart at the end of this notice.

Electronic Access to This Document: You can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the Federal Register, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: www.ed.gov/news/fedregister

To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free, at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC, area at (202) 512-1530.

Note: The official version of this document is the document published in the Federal Register. Free Internet access to the official edition of the Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at: www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html

Dated: February 26, 2008

_____

Grover J. Whitehurst,

Director, Institute of

Education Sciences.

INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES

FY 2009 Grant Competitions to Support Education Research and Special Education Research

CFDA NUMBER AND NAME	APPLICATION AVAILABLE	DEADLINE FOR TRANSMITTAL OF APPLICATIONS	ESTIMATED RANGE OF AWARDS*	PROJECT PERIOD	FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
National Center for Education Research (NCER)					
84.305A-1 Education Research ▪ Reading and Writing ▪ Mathematics and Science Education ▪ Cognition and Student Learning ▪ Teacher Quality – Reading and Writing ▪ Teacher Quality – Mathematics and Science Education ▪ Social and Behavioral Context for Academic Learning ▪ Education Leadership ▪ Education Policy, Finance, and Systems ▪ Early Childhood Programs and Policies ▪ Middle and High School Reform ▪ Interventions for Struggling Adolescent and Adult Readers and Writers ▪ Postsecondary Education ▪ Education Technology	March 3, 2008	June 26, 2008	$100,000 to $1,200,000	Up to 5 years	Katina Stapleton Katina.Stapleton@ed.gov
84.305D Research on Statistical and Research Methodology in Education	March 3, 2008	June 26, 2008	$75,000 to $400,000	Up to 3 years	Allen Ruby Allen.Ruby@ed.gov
84.305A-2 Education Research ▪ Reading and Writing ▪ Mathematics and Science Education ▪ Cognition and Student Learning ▪ Teacher Quality – Reading and Writing ▪ Teacher Quality – Mathematics and Science Education ▪ Social and Behavioral Context for Academic Learning ▪ Education Leadership ▪ Education Policy, Finance, and Systems ▪ Early Childhood Programs and Policies ▪ Middle and High School Reform ▪ Interventions for Struggling Adolescent and Adult Readers and Writers ▪ Postsecondary Education ▪ Education Technology	March 3, 2008	October 2, 2008	$100,000 to $1,200,000	Up to 5 years	Katina Stapleton Katina.Stapleton @ed.gov
84.305B Education Research Training ▪ Postdoctoral Research Training ▪ Predoctoral Research Training	March 20, 2008	October 2, 2008	$160,000 to $1,000,000	Up to 5 years	Robin. Harwood Robin.Harwood@ed.gov

INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES

FY 2009 Grant Competitions to Support Education Research and Special Education Research

CFDA NUMBER AND NAME	APPLICATION AVAILABLE	DEADLINE FOR TRANSMITTAL OF APPLICATIONS	ESTIMATED RANGE OF AWARDS*	PROJECT PERIOD	FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
84.305C Education Research & Development Centers ▪ Center on Teacher Effectiveness ▪ Center on Rural Education ▪ Center on Turning Around Chronically Low Performing Schools	March 20, 2008	October 2, 2008	$1,000,000 to $2,000,000	Up to 5 years	David Sweet David.Sweet@ed.gov
84.305E Evaluation of State and District Education Programs and Policies	March 3, 2008	October 2, 2008	$300,000 to $1,200,000	Up to 5 years	Allen Ruby Allen.Ruby@ed.gov
National Center for Special Education Research (NCSER)					
84.324A-1 Special Education Research ▪ Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education ▪ Reading, Writing, and Language Development ▪ Mathematics and Science Education ▪ Social and Behavioral Outcomes to Support Learning ▪ Transition Outcomes for Special Education Secondary Students ▪ Cognition and Student Learning in Special Education ▪ Teacher Quality ▪ Related Services ▪ Systemic Interventions and Policies for Special Education ▪ Autism Spectrum Disorders	March 3, 2008	June 26, 2008	$100,000 to $1,200,000	Up to 5 years	Kristen Lauer Kristen.Lauer@ed.gov
84.324A-2 Special Education Research ▪ Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education ▪ Reading, Writing, and Language Development ▪ Mathematics and Science Education ▪ Social and Behavioral Outcomes to Support Learning ▪ Transition Outcomes for Special Education Secondary Students ▪ Cognition and Student Learning in Special Education ▪ Teacher Quality ▪ Related Services ▪ Systemic Interventions and Policies for Special Education ▪ Autism Spectrum Disorders	March 3, 2008	October 2, 2008	$100,000 to $1,200,000	Up to 5 years	Kristen Lauer Kristen.Lauer@ed.gov

INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES

FY 2009 Grant Competitions to Support Education Research and Special Education Research

CFDA NUMBER AND NAME	APPLICATION AVAILABLE	DEADLINE FOR TRANSMITTAL OF APPLICATIONS	ESTIMATED RANGE OF AWARDS*	PROJECT PERIOD	FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
84.324B Special Education Research Training ▪ Postdoctoral Research Training	March 20, 2008	October 2, 2008	$160,000 to $200,000	Up to 4 years	Jacquelyn Buckley Jacquelyn.Buckley@ed.gov

*These estimates are annual amounts.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.