Unsolicited Grant Opportunities

Applicant Information

TIMELINE

A prospectus may be submitted at any time during the fiscal year. **However, to be assured consideration for funding in FY 2008 (ending September 30, 2008), the prospectus must be received by 8:00 pm Eastern time on February 29, 2008.**

CURRENT APPLICATION

The Institute of Education Sciences announces its interest in considering unsolicited applications for research, evaluation, statistics, and dissemination projects that would make significant contributions to the mission of the Institute. The Institute's mission is to conduct and support rigorous education statistics, research, and evaluation in order to provide reliable information about the condition of education, education practices that improve academic achievement, and the effectiveness of federal and other education programs. Unsolicited applications are defined as those that are *not* eligible for funding under the Institute's current grant competitions. The Institute's current grant competitions are those for the current fiscal year (FY2008), both open and closed, that are described at http://ies.ed.gov/funding/.

As an example of a permissible unsolicited application, the Institute could consider a proposal to conduct research on statistical techniques and research methodologies to address specific problems in education research because none of the Institute's competitions for the current year covered this content. In contrast, the Institute could not consider an unsolicited application to conduct research on the effectiveness of a mentoring program for teachers because this content was solicited in the Institute's competitions for Teacher Quality Research Grants.

Potential applicants should be aware that the Institute does *not* provide funds to support program delivery or the provision of services. In addition, activities supported by the Institute must be relevant to U.S. schools.

To Submit a Prospectus

Those interested in this opportunity to conduct field initiated research, evaluation, statistics, or dissemination projects should submit a short prospectus that will allow the Institute to decide whether further conversations with the potential applicant are warranted. The prospectus should include (1) a description of the proposed project (note, proposals to conduct research, evaluation, or statistics projects should include descriptions of the proposed methods and data analysis strategy), (2) the proposed timeline, (3) the proposed total budget (including both direct and indirect costs), and (4) the personnel. Please note that the proposed budget does not need to include line-item information, nor does it need to be broken down by project year.

The prospectus should be **no more than 6 double-spaced pages**, where a "page" is 8.5 inches x 11 inches, on one side only, with 1 inch margins at the top, bottom, and both sides, and using a font that is at least 12-point in height with no more than 15 characters per inch. As a practical matter, applicants who use a 12 point Times New Roman without compressing, kerning, condensing or other alterations typically meet these requirements. Please note that the References and budget do not count as part of the 6 double-spaced page limit.

The prospectus must be submitted via electronic mail to IESprospectus@ed.gov. The prospectus should be submitted in attachment form as a Word document or a pdf file. **To be assured consideration for funding in FY 2008 (ending September 30, 2008), the prospectus must be received by 8:00 pm Eastern time on February 29, 2008.**

Funding Available
The Institute expects that relatively low levels of funding will be available for these projects. Typical awards will be in the range of $75,000 to $200,000 (total cost) per year for 1 to 3 years. Larger budgets and longer award periods will be considered if a compelling case can be made for such support. The size of the award depends on the scope and significance of the project.

Notification of Decision
Because of the anticipated volume of submissions, the Institute is unable to respond to specific queries prior to the receipt of the prospectus (e.g., queries regarding appropriateness of topics or funding amounts). Potential applicants should submit the required prospectus. The Institute will acknowledge receipt of the prospectus via return email. The Institute will evaluate the prospectus to determine if the proposed project would make a significant contribution to the Institute's overall mission to advance evidence-based education. The Institute will notify the applicant via return email of its decision regarding the prospectus by April 30, 2008. Because of the anticipated volume of submissions, the Institute is unable to provide feedback on prospectuses that do not result in a request for a full proposal. If the decision is to consider the project further, a full proposal using the forms and format applicable to the Institute's regular research competitions will be required for external peer review. Funding decisions will be based on scientific merit as determined by the peer review, performance and use of funds under a previous federal award, contribution to the mission of the Institute, and availability of funds.