Applicant Information

TIMELINE
A prospectus may be submitted at any time during the fiscal year. **However, to be assured consideration for funding in FY 2015 (ending September 30, 2015), the prospectus must be received by 8:00 pm Eastern time on March 5, 2015.**

CURRENT APPLICATION
The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) announces its willingness to consider unsolicited applications for research, evaluation, and statistics projects that would make significant contributions to the mission of the organization. IES' mission is to expand fundamental knowledge and understanding of education and to provide education leaders and practitioners, parents and students, researchers, and the general public with unbiased, reliable, and useful information about the condition and progress of education in the United States; about education policies, programs, and practices that support learning and improve academic achievement and access to educational opportunities for all students; and about the effectiveness of Federal and other education programs.

Under this announcement, IES could consider **two different types** of unsolicited applications. The first type includes projects that are **not eligible under IES' current grant competitions**. IES' current grant competitions are those for the fiscal year (FY 2015), both open and closed, which are described at http://ies.ed.gov/funding/. For this type of application, **the applicant must demonstrate that the project was not eligible under one of IES' current grant competitions.**

The second type of unsolicited application includes research that can be carried out in a **short period of time** with limited resources to address **time-sensitive research questions**, where the window to obtain data and carry out a project is short and the project **was not feasible under IES' current grant competition timelines.** For this type of application, **the applicant must demonstrate that this project was not feasible under IES' regular funding cycle.**

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

As described below, IES uses a two-stage process to consider unsolicited grant applications. The first stage involves consideration of a 6-page prospectus. IES evaluates the prospectus to determine if it meets the eligibility requirements outlined below and if the proposed project would make a significant contribution to the organization's overall mission. If IES decides to consider the project further, the second stage involves the submission of a full proposal using the forms and format applicable to IES' regular research competitions. The full proposal is sent out for external peer review.

To Submit a Prospectus
Because of the anticipated volume of submissions, IES is unable to respond to specific queries prior to the receipt of the prospectus (e.g., queries regarding appropriateness of topics or funding amounts). Those interested in this opportunity to conduct field initiated research, evaluation, or statistics projects should submit a short prospectus that will allow IES to decide whether further pursuit of the project is warranted. The prospectus should include (1) a description of the proposed project, **including information about why the project would not be eligible under one of IES' current grant competitions or feasible under IES' regular funding cycle** (note that 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) a description of the roles and qualifications of the personnel. Please note that the

proposed budget does not need to include line-item information, nor does it need to be detailed 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 email to IESprospectus@ed.gov. The prospectus should be submitted in attachment form as a single Word document or PDF file. **To be assured consideration for funding in FY 2015 (ending September 30, 2015), the prospectus must be received by 8:00 pm Eastern time on March 5, 2015.**

Funding Available
IES expects that very little funding will be available for these projects (in FY 2014, IES funded three unsolicited projects). Typical awards will be in the range of $25,000 to $200,000 (total cost) over 1 to 3 years. The size of the award depends on the scope and significance of the project.

Notification of Decision
IES will acknowledge receipt of the prospectus via return email. IES will evaluate the prospectus to determine if it meets the eligibility requirements outlined above and if the proposed project would make a significant contribution to the organization's overall mission. If the prospectus is submitted by March 5, 2015, IES will notify the applicant via return email of its decision regarding the prospectus by May 8, 2015. Because of the anticipated volume of submissions, IES 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 IES' regular research competitions will be required for external peer review. Funding decisions will be based on scientific merit as determined by the external peer review, performance and use of funds under a previous federal award, contribution to the mission of IES, and availability of funds.