

TIMELINE

You may submit a prospectus at any time during the fiscal year. **However, to be assured consideration for funding in FY 2016 (ending September 30, 2016), your prospectus must be received by 8:00 pm Eastern time on March 8, 2016.**

CURRENT APPLICATION

The Institute of Education Sciences (the Institute) will consider unsolicited applications for research, evaluation, and statistics projects that would make significant contributions to the mission of the organization. The Institute's mission is to expand fundamental knowledge and understanding of education and to provide education leaders and practitioners, parents, 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, improve academic achievement, and increase access to education opportunities for all students; and about the effectiveness of Federal and other education programs.

Under this announcement, the Institute can consider applications for projects that are **not eligible under the Institute's current grant competitions**. The Institute's current grant competitions are those for the fiscal year (FY 2016), both open and closed, which are described at <http://ies.ed.gov/funding/>. **The applicant must demonstrate that the project was not eligible under one of the Institute's current grant competitions.**

The Institute's National Center for Education Research did not accept Development and Innovation (Goal 2) applications under the Education Research Grants competition for FY 2016, and the Institute **will not consider applications under this unsolicited announcement that in prior years would have been eligible under the Development and Innovation Goal of the Education Research Grant (CFDA 84.305) competition.**

The Institute does *not* provide funds for projects that consist solely of program delivery or the provision of services to students. Activities supported by the Institute must be relevant to U.S. schools.

The Institute uses a two-stage process to consider unsolicited grant applications.

1. If you are interested in this opportunity, submit a prospectus of no more than 6 pages. The Institute will evaluate the prospectus to determine if it meets the eligibility requirements and if the proposed project would make a significant contribution to the organization's overall mission.
2. If the Institute decides to consider the project further, you will submit a full proposal using the forms and format applicable to the Institute's regular research competitions. The Institute will send the full proposal out for external peer review. The Institute will make a funding decision based on scientific merit as determined by the external peer review, your performance and use of funds under previous federal awards, contribution of the project to the mission of the Institute, and availability of funds.

To Submit a Prospectus

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). If you are interested in this opportunity, submit a short prospectus that will allow the Institute to decide whether to further pursue the project. The prospectus should include (1) a description of the proposed project, **including information about why the project would not be eligible under one of the Institute's current grant competitions** (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. 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, if you use a 12 point Times New Roman without compressing, kerning, condensing or other alterations you will typically meet these requirements. References and budget do not count as part of the 6 double-spaced page limit.

You must submit the prospectus via email to IESprospectus@ed.gov. Submit the prospectus in attachment form as a single Word document or PDF file. **To be assured consideration for funding in FY 2016 (ending September 30, 2016), the prospectus must be received by 8:00 pm Eastern time on March 8, 2016.**

Funding Available

The Institute expects that very little funding will be available for these projects (in FY 2015, the Institute 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

1. The Institute will acknowledge receipt of the prospectus via return email. The Institute 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 you submit a prospectus by March 8, 2016, the Institute will notify you via return email of its decision regarding the prospectus by May 10, 2016. If the Institute decides to consider your 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. You will have 30 days from the date that the Institute notifies you of its interest in considering the project further to prepare and submit your full proposal.
2. The Institute will send your full proposal out for external peer review.
3. The Institute will make a funding decision based on scientific merit as determined by the external peer review of the full proposal, your performance and use of funds under previous federal awards, contribution of your project to the mission of the Institute, and availability of funds. You will be notified about the Institute’s funding decision within 8 weeks of submitting your full proposal. If the Institute decides not to fund your full proposal, you will be notified by email, and will be sent the external peer reviewers’ comments.