

TIMELINE

You may submit a prospectus at any time during the fiscal year. **However, to be assured consideration for funding in FY 2020 (ending September 30, 2020), your prospectus must be received by 8:00 pm Eastern time on March 3, 2020.**

CURRENT OPPORTUNITY

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. Our mission is to expand fundamental knowledge and understanding of education and to provide parents, education leaders and practitioners, 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. In addition, as appropriate to the type of project proposed and the status of our Standards for Excellence in Education Research (SEER) development at the time of application submission, we expect applicants to address as many SEER domains and questions as possible. Information about SEER is found here: <https://ies.ed.gov/seer.asp>

Under this announcement, we will consider applications for projects that are **not eligible under our FY2020 grant competitions**, both open and closed, described at <https://ies.ed.gov/funding/>. **The applicant must demonstrate that the project was not eligible under one of our FY2020 grant competitions.** In addition, we do *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 National Center for Education Research and the National Center for Special Education Research did not accept Replication Project Type applications under the Education Research (CFDA Number 84.305A) and Special Education Research (CFDA Number 84.324A) competitions in FY2020. **We will *not* consider applications under this unsolicited announcement that in FY2019 would have been eligible as Replication: Efficacy and Effectiveness applications under those competitions.**

We use a two-stage process to consider unsolicited grant applications.

1. If you are interested in this opportunity, submit a short prospectus. We 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 we decide to consider the project further, you will submit a full proposal using the forms and format applicable to our regular research competitions. We will send the full proposal out for external peer review.

To Submit a Prospectus

Because of the anticipated volume of submissions, we are unable to respond to specific questions prior to the receipt of the prospectus (e.g., questions regarding appropriateness of topics or funding amounts). If you are interested in this opportunity, submit a short prospectus that will allow us 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 our current grant competitions** and a description of the proposed method and data analysis strategy (if relevant),
2. information about how the project addresses the SEER domains and questions (or an explanation of why SEER isn't relevant to the type of project proposed),
3. the proposed timeline,

4. the proposed total budget (including both direct and indirect costs; does not need to include line-item information or to be detailed by project year), and
5. a description of the roles and qualifications of the personnel.

We **recommend** that the prospectus (not counting references and budget) be **no more than 6 double-spaced, single-sided pages**. To ensure legibility, we recommend that you use a font size of at least 12-point.

Submit the prospectus via email to IESprospectus@ed.gov in an attachment as a single Word document or PDF file. **To be assured consideration for funding in FY 2020 (ending September 30, 2020), the prospectus must be received by 8:00 pm Eastern time on March 3, 2020.**

Funding Available

We expect that little funding will be available for these projects (in FY 2019, we funded four unsolicited projects). Typical awards will be in the range of \$25,000 to \$200,000 (total cost) over 1 to 3 years. Larger awards will be considered if the scope of the proposed work requires additional funds. Applicants will need to provide a compelling justification for the amount of funding requested.

Notification of Decision

1. We will acknowledge receipt of the prospectus via return email. We 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 our overall mission. If you submit a prospectus by March 3, 2020, we will notify you via return email of our decision regarding the prospectus by May 5, 2020.
2. If we decide to consider your project further, a full proposal using the forms and format applicable to our regular research competitions will be required for external peer review. You will have 30 days from the date that we notify you of our interest in considering the project further to prepare and submit your full proposal.
3. We will send your full proposal out for external peer review.
4. We 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 (if applicable), contribution of your project to the mission of the Institute, and availability of funds. You will be notified about our funding decision within 8 weeks of submitting your full proposal. If we decide not to fund your full proposal, you will be notified by email and will be sent the external peer reviewers' comments.
5. If we decide not to fund your full proposal, but wish to consider a revised proposal, you will be provided information about preparing and submitting a revised proposal. We will send the revised proposal and the previous reviews out to external peer reviewers. The funding decision will be based on factors outlined above in item #4. You will be notified by email about the funding decision within 8 weeks of submitting your revised full proposal, and you will be sent the external peer reviewers' comments.