TIMELINE
You may submit a prospectus at any time during the fiscal year. **However, to be assured consideration for funding in FY 2021 (ending September 30, 2021), your prospectus must be received by 8:00 pm Eastern time on March 9, 2021.**

CURRENT OPPORTUNITY
The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) 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 FY2021 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 FY2021 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 IES must be relevant to U.S. schools.

We use a two-stage process to consider unsolicited grant applications.
1. First, submit a short prospectus. IES will evaluate the prospectus to determine if it meets the eligibility requirements and if the proposed project would make a significant contribution to our overall mission.
2. Next, if IES decides 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 (for example, 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 FY2021 grant competitions**, both open and closed, (described at https://ies.ed.gov/funding/) 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 and a compelling justification for the 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.

The prospectus **must 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. If you use 12-point Times New Roman you will typically meet these requirements. References and budget do not count as part of the 6 double-spaced page limit.

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 2021 (ending September 30, 2021), the prospectus must be received by 8:00 pm Eastern time on March 9, 2021.**

Funding Available
Award amounts depend on the scope of the proposed work. Over the last 5 years, the average total award was approximately $400,000, with a typical performance period lasting 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, and both IES and external peer reviewers will expect projects proposing larger budgets to demonstrate exceptional potential for resulting in products or activities that will significantly advance our mission.

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 (taking into account the proposed work and budget). If you submit a prospectus by March 9, 2021, we will notify you via return email of our decision regarding the prospectus by May 13, 2021.
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 IES, and availability of funds. We will notify you about our funding decision within 8 weeks of receiving your full proposal. If we decide not to fund your full proposal, we will notify you by email and send you the external peer reviewers' comments.
5. If we decide not to fund your full proposal but wish to consider a revised proposal, we will provide you with 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. We will notify you by email about the funding decision within 8 weeks of receiving your revised full proposal, and we will send you the external reviewers' comments.