

TIMELINE

You may submit a prospectus at any time during the fiscal year. **However, to be assured consideration for funding in FY 2025 (ending September 30, 2025), your prospectus must be received by 11:59 pm Eastern time on March 6, 2025.**

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.

Under this announcement, we will consider applications for projects that are **not eligible under our FY2025 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 FY2025 grant competitions.** A project that lacks student education outcomes and would be eligible under an FY2025 competition if student education outcomes had been included is not eligible as an unsolicited project under this announcement. 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.

IES will also not consider applications under this unsolicited announcement that in prior years would have been eligible under IES competitions or topics that are not being run in FY2025. This includes, but is not limited to, the National Center for Education Research's Postdoctoral Education Research Training program (irregularly competed as a topic under ALN 84.305B), and the National Center for Special Education Research's Postdoctoral Research and Methods Training programs (irregularly competed as topics under ALN 84.324B).

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

1. First, you will 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. This includes 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 problem that the project is designed to address.
2. a description of the proposed project and how its key outputs address your identified need.
3. a description of the project's potential to make a significant contribution to IES's mission.
4. **information about why the project would not be eligible under one of our FY2025 grant competitions**, both open and closed (described at <https://ies.ed.gov/funding/>).
5. a description of the proposed method and data analysis strategy (if relevant).
6. a description of how the work would be sustained beyond IES's initial award, if applicable.
7. the proposed timeline.

8. 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 a breakdown of costs by project year).
9. a description of the roles and qualifications of the personnel.

The prospectus narrative, including items 1 through 9 above, **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 any optional detailed budget information you wish to provide 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 2025 (ending September 30, 2025), the prospectus must be received by 11:59 pm Eastern time on March 6, 2025.**

Funding Available

Award amounts depend on the scope of the proposed work. Over the last 5 years, the average **total** award was approximately \$380,000, 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 need to provide a compelling justification for the amount of funding requested. 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 6, 2025, we will notify you via return email of our decision regarding the prospectus by May 8, 2025.
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.
5. **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.
6. 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.