

Funding Opportunity: FY 2019 IES NCER and NCSER Grant Competitions Announced

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC – May 21, 2018

The U.S. Department of Education’s (ED) Institute of Education Sciences (IES) has announced its fiscal year (FY) 2019 competitions for education research and special education research. Congressional appropriations for FY 2019 are currently unknown. Although the Trump Administration has proposed a decrease in overall funding for IES in FY 2019, Congress has generally discounted the Trump Administration’s proposed cuts to ED programs in the past. In the FY 2018 omnibus funding bill, IES received a slight increase. IES is expected to have enough funding in FY 2019 to make new awards.

The new funding notice explains that these awards will “provide national leadership in expanding fundamental knowledge and understanding of (1) developmental and school readiness outcomes for infants and toddlers with or at risk for a disability, (2) education outcomes for all students from early childhood education through postsecondary and adult education, and (3) employment and wage outcomes when relevant (such as for students who engaged in career and technical, postsecondary, or adult education).”

IES plans to host nine competitions in FY 2019 that address a range of relevant topic areas, including elevating research related to Career and Technical Education, which aligns with the Trump Administration’s priorities. The awards will be administered through the Institute’s major grant-awarding centers, the National Center for Education Research (NCER) and the National Center for Special Education Research (NCSER). Details on each of the centers’ priorities are outlined below.

NCER will administer five competitions for grants pertaining to specific topic areas. Competitions and topics are listed below:

- **Education research** –The education research competition invites applications that address one of the following topics:
 - Career and Technical Education
 - Cognition and Student Learning
 - Early Learning Programs and Policies
 - Education Leadership
 - Education Technology
 - Effective Teachers and Effective Teaching
 - English Learners
 - Improving Education Systems
 - Postsecondary and Adult Education
 - Reading and Writing
 - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education
 - Social and Behavioral Context for Academic Learning
 - Special Topics, including:
 - Social Studies;
 - Foreign Language Education
- **Education Research and Development Centers** – Applications for this competition must address one of two topics: Improving Rural Education or Writing in Secondary Schools.

- **Statistical and Research Methodology in Education** – Applications for this competition must address one of two topics: Statistical and Research Methodology Grants or Early Career Statistical and Research Methodology Grants.
- **Partnerships and Collaborations focused on Problems of Practice or Policy** – Applications for this competition must address one of two topics: Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships in Education Research or Evaluation of State and Local Education Programs and Policies.
- **Low-Cost, Short-Duration Evaluation of Education Interventions** – Applications must propose low-cost, short-duration evaluations of interventions.

NCSER will administer four competitions in the following research areas of interest:

- **Special education research** – The special education research program will consider proposals that address one of the following 11 topic areas:
 - Autism Spectrum Disorders
 - Cognition and Student Learning in Special Education
 - Early Intervention and Early Learning in Special Education
 - Families of Children with Disabilities
 - Professional Development for Teachers and School-Based Service Providers
 - Reading, Writing, and Language Development
 - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education
 - Social and Behavioral Outcomes to Support Learning
 - Special Education Policy, Finance, and Systems
 - Technology for Special Education
 - Transition Outcomes for Secondary Students with Disabilities.
 - Special Topics, including:
 - Career and Technical Education for Students with Disabilities
 - English Learners with Disabilities
 - Systems-Involved Students with Disabilities
- **Research Training in Special Education** – Under this topic, NCSER will only consider proposals focused on early career development and mentoring.
- **Low-Cost, Short-Duration Evaluation of Special Education Interventions** – Applications must propose low-cost, short-duration evaluations of interventions.
- **Research Networks Focused on Critical Programs of Policy and Practice** – Applications must focus on research on Multi-tiered Systems of Support.

Application Deadline:

- For *Education Research (84.305A)*, *Partnerships and Collaborations Focused on Problems of Practice or Policy (84.305H)*, *Statistical and Research Methodology in Education (84.305D)*, *Special Education Research (84.324A)*, and *Research Training Programs in Special Education (84.324B)*: Applications become available June 21, 2018; completed applications due by August 23, 2018.
- For *Education Research and Development Centers (84.305C)* and *Research Networks Focused on Critical Problems (84.324N)*: Applications become available June 21, 2018; completed applications due by August 9, 2018.
- *Low-cost, short-duration evaluation programs (84.305L and 84.324L)*: Applications become available January 10, 2019; completed applications due by March 7, 2019.

Total Funding and Award Size: Project period estimations range, depending on the program, from two to five years and approximate award sizes range from \$50,000 to \$1,000,000 annually. Actual number of awards and funding levels are dependent on FY 2019 appropriations.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants include nonprofit and for-profit organizations, public and private agencies, and institutions of higher education.

Sources and Additional Information:

- The Federal Register notice announcing the NCER and NCSEER competitions is available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/05/21/2018-10802/applications-for-new-awards-education-research-and-special-education-research-grant-programs>.
- The Request for Applications for each competition will be posted at <https://ies.ed.gov/funding/> on or before May 31.