

Funding Opportunity: FY 2020 IES NCER and NCSEER Grant Competitions Announced

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC – June 21, 2019

The U.S. Department of Education’s (ED) Institute of Education Sciences (IES) has announced its fiscal year (FY) 2020 competitions for education research and special education research. The new funding notice explains that these awards will “provide national leadership in expanding 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 learners from early childhood education through postsecondary and adult education, and (3) employment and wage outcomes when relevant (such as for those engaged in career and technical, postsecondary, or adult education).”

IES plans to host eight competitions in FY 2020 that address a range of relevant topic areas, including research related to education technology and STEM education, two topics of high interest to policymakers and agency officials. Career and Technical Education, which aligns with the Trump Administration’s priorities, remains a topic area of focus. While much of the funding call mimics last year’s topics and priorities, the FY 2020 notice introduces two new competitions focused on exploring systematic replication of findings in education and special education research.

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 (NCSEER). 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 Technology
 - Effective Instruction
 - English Learners
 - Improving Education Systems
 - Postsecondary and Adult Education
 - Reading and Writing
 - STEM Education
 - Social and Behavioral Context for Academic Learning
- **Research Training Programs in the Education Sciences** – Applications for this competition must address one of three topics: Predoctoral Interdisciplinary Research Training Program in the Education Sciences, Postdoctoral Research Training Program in the Education Sciences, or Methods Training for Education Researchers.
- **Education Research and Development Centers** – Applications for this competition must address one of two topics: Improving Opportunities and Achievement for English Learners in Secondary

School Settings, Improving Teaching and Learning in Postsecondary Institutions, or Improving Access, Instruction, and Outcomes in Gifted Education.

- **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.
- **Research Grants Focused on Systematic Replication** – Applications for this competition must address identifying what works in education through systematic replication. Specific interventions identified for replication are available at <https://ies.ed.gov/director/remarks/4-15-2019.asp>.

NCSER will administer three 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 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 Educators and School-Based Service Providers.
 - Reading, Writing, and Language Development.
 - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) 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, which include—
 - Career and Technical Education for Students with Disabilities.
 - English Learners with Disabilities.
 - Systems-Involved Students with Disabilities.
- **Research Training in Special Education** – Applications must address one of three topics: Postdoctoral Research Training Program in Special Education and Early Intervention, Early Career Development and Mentoring, or Methods Training Using Single Case Designs.
- **Research Grants Focused on Systematic Replication** – Applications must address identifying what works in special education through systematic replication. Specific interventions identified for replication are available at <https://ies.ed.gov/director/remarks/4-15-2019.asp>.

Application Deadline:

- For ***Education Research (84.305A), Research Training Programs in the Education Sciences (84.305B), Statistical and Research Methodology in Education (84.305D), Research Grants Focused on Systematic Replication (84.305R), Special Education Research (84.324A), Research Training Programs in Special Education (84.324B), and Research Grants Focused on Systematic Replication (84.324R)***: Applications become available July 11, 2019; completed applications due by August 29, 2019.
- For ***Education Research and Development Centers (84.305C)***: Applications become available July 11, 2019; completed applications due by September 26, 2019.

Total Funding and Award Size: Project period estimations range from three to five years, depending on the program, and approximate award sizes range from \$40,000 to \$2,000,000 annually. Actual number

of awards and funding levels are dependent on FY 2020 funding, which has not yet been finalized by Congress. The House of Representatives recently passed a spending bill that would fund IES at \$650 million for FY 2020, an increase of 5.6 percent over FY 2019 levels. The Senate has yet to introduce its proposal for ED funding.

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 NCSER competitions is available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/06/19/2019-13041/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 June 24.