Funding Opportunity: FY 2022 IES NCER and NCSER Grant Competitions Announced

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC - June 10, 2021

The U.S. Department of Education’s (ED) Institute of Education Sciences (IES) has announced its fiscal year (FY) 2022 competitions for education research and special education research. The funding notice explains that these awards will expand knowledge 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).” The research programs 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).

IES plans to host seven competitions in FY 2022, with funding support from both the already enacted American Rescue Plan (ARP) COVID relief bill and the anticipated FY 2022 appropriations for IES. NCER will have many of the usual topic areas in education research, including a continuation of research topics in career and technical education and civics education and social studies. NCSER’s competitions will be much different this year focusing exclusively on COVID-19 related special education research. NCER is also interested in COVID-19 related proposals but under its usual research topic areas, advising applicants to specifically notate a COVID focus within proposals, if relevant. NCER will also run a competition for early career faculty mentoring at Minority Serving Institutions. Details on the competitions 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 topic areas:
  - “Career and Technical Education
  - Civics Education and Social Studies
  - Cognition and Student Learning
  - Early Learning Programs and Policies
  - Effective Instruction
  - English Learners
  - Improving Education Systems
  - Postsecondary and Adult Education
  - Literacy
  - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education
  - Social and Behavioral Context for Academic Learning”

- **Education Research Training** – Applications for this competition must address one of three topics: Early Career Mentoring Program for Faculty at Minority-Serving Institutions, Postdoctoral...
Research Training Program in the Education Sciences, or Methods Training for Education Researchers.

- **Systematic Replication in Education** – Applications for this competition must address identifying what works in education through systematic replication.

- **Statistical and Research Methodology in Education** - Applications for this competition must address one of two topics: Regular Grants to support the development of methods, toolkits, guidelines, and syntheses or Early Career Grants.

- **Using Longitudinal Data to Support State Education Recovery Policymaking** – Applications must address State use of education longitudinal data systems as states and local education agencies reengage their students after COVID-19 disruptions.

NCSER will administer two competitions in FY 2022 both related to Research to Accelerate Pandemic Recovery in Special Education. There will be no additional competitions held in FY 2022, but if additional funding is available for special education research from Congress, NCSER will fund down the slate of FY 2021 proposals.

- **Pandemic Recovery in Special Education Research** – NCSER applications should “address a pandemic related problem, issue, program, policy, or practice that is important to a State or local education agency, has the potential to improve outcomes significantly and rapidly for students with or at risk for disabilities, and will provide actionable and timely results to districts and schools.”


**Proposal Deadlines:** Statistical and Research Methodology and Longitudinal Data to Support State Education Recovery applications are due August 12, 2021, while Education Research, Research Training, and Systematic Replication applications are due September 9, 2021. NCSER’s two Research to Accelerate Pandemic Recovery in Special Education application deadlines are August 2, 2021 and September 9, 2021.

**Total Funding and Award Size:** The project period for Education Research, Research Training, and Systematic Replication competitions is up to five years, with approximate award sizes ranging from $100,000 to $900,000. The project period for Statistical Methodology and Using Longitudinal Data to Support State Education Recovery competitions is up to three years, and approximate award sizes ranging from $40,000 to around $300,000. The project period for the two Research to Accelerate Pandemic Recovery in Special Education is up to four years, and award sizes ranging from $500,000 to either $750,000 or $1,000,000.

**Eligibility:** Eligible applicants include, but are not limited to, nonprofit and for-profit organizations, public and private agencies, institutions of higher education, and state education entities. For the Early Career Mentoring Program, eligible entities are Department of Education designated Minority-Serving Institutions.
Sources and Additional Information:

- The Federal Register notice announcing the NCER and NCSER competitions is available at https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/06/10/2021-12173/applications-for-new-awards-education-research-and-special-education-research-grant-programs.
- Later this month, the official Request for Applications for each competition and additional topic details are expected to be linked at https://ies.ed.gov/funding/.