DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Applications for New Awards; Education Research Grant Programs

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Education (Department) is issuing a notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2024 for the Research Training Programs in the Education Sciences, Research Networks Focused on Critical Problems of Education Policy and Practice, and Statistical and Research Methodology in Education Grant Programs, Assistance Listing Numbers (ALNs) 84.305B, 84.305D, and 84.305N. This notice relates to the approved information collection under OMB control number 4040-0001.

DATES: The dates when applications are available and the deadlines for transmittal of applications invited under this notice are indicated in the chart at the end of this notice and in the Requests for Applications (RFAs) that are posted at the following website: https://ies.ed.gov/funding.

ADDRESSES: For the addresses for obtaining and submitting an application, please refer to our Common Instructions for Applicants to Department of Education Discretionary Grant Programs, published in the *Federal Register* on December 7, 2022 (87 FR 75045) and available at www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/12/07/2022-

26554/common-instructions-for-applicants-to-department-of-education-discretionary-grant-programs. Please note that these Common Instructions supersede the version published on December 27, 2021.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The contact person associated with a particular research competition is listed in the chart at the end of this notice, as well as in the relevant RFA and application package.

     If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability and wish to access telecommunications relay services, please dial 7-1-1.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose of Program: In awarding the research grants, the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) intends to provide national leadership in expanding knowledge and understanding of (1) education outcomes for all learners from early childhood education through postsecondary and adult education, and (2) employment and wage outcomes when relevant (such as for those engaged in career and technical, postsecondary, or adult education). IES research grant programs are designed to provide interested individuals and the general public with reliable and valid information about education practices that support learning and improve academic achievement and access to education

opportunities for all learners. These interested

individuals include parents, educators, learners,

researchers, and policymakers. In carrying out its grant

programs, IES provides support for programs of research in

areas of demonstrated national need. In awarding research

training grant programs, IES aims to prepare individuals to

conduct rigorous and relevant education and special

education research that advances knowledge within the field

and addresses issues important to education policymakers

and practitioners.

Competitions in This Notice: The IES National Center for

Education Research (NCER) is announcing three competitions—

one competition in each of the following areas: education

research training; statistical and research methodology in

education; and research networks focused on critical

problems of education policy and practice.

The Research Training Programs in the Education

Sciences (ALN 84.305B). Under this competition, NCER will

consider only applications that address one of the

following topics:

- Early Career Development and Mentoring Program for

  Education Research

- Early Career Development and Mentoring Program for

  Faculty at Minority-Serving Institutions[1]

---

[1] To qualify as an MSI for the purpose of the Early Career Mentoring Program, the institution must be eligible to receive assistance under sections 316 through 320 of part A of title III, under part B of title

- Methods Training for Education Researchers

  <u>Statistical and Research Methodology in Education (ALN 84.305D)</u>. Under this competition, NCER will consider only applications that address one of the following topics:

- Core Grants (which supports the development of new and improved statistical and research methods and their dissemination to education researchers)

- Toolkits, Guidelines, Compendia, and Review Papers

  <u>Research Networks Focused on Critical Problems of Education Policy and Practice (ALN 84.305N)</u>. Under this competition, NCER will consider only applications that address one of the following topics:

- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Network, which includes:

    o Research Teams.

- Digital Learning Platforms Network, which includes:

    o Research Teams.

<u>Exemption from Proposed Rulemaking</u>: Under section 191 of the Education Sciences Reform Act, 20 U.S.C. 9581, IES is not subject to section 437(d) of the General Education

---

III, or under title V of the Higher Education Act of 1965. Information on eligibility under these authorities is available on the FY 2023 Eligibility Matrix at this link. MSIs include Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions (ANNH), American Indian Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCU), Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISI), Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI), Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), Predominantly Black Institutions (PBI), and Native American-Serving, Nontribal Institutions (NASNTI). Please note that institutions eligible only for the Department's Title III Part A Strengthening Institutions program (SIP) are not considered MSIs for the purpose of this competition unless they also meet the eligibility requirements for a specific MSI category.

Provisions Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232(d), and is therefore not required to offer interested parties the opportunity to comment on matters relating to grants.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 9501 et seq.

Note: Projects will be awarded and must be operated in a manner consistent with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in Federal civil rights laws.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations in 34 CFR parts 77, 81, 82, 84, 86, 97, 98, and 99. In addition, the regulations in 34 CFR part 75 are applicable, except for the provisions in 34 CFR 75.100, 75.101(b), 75.102, 75.103, 75.105, 75.109(a), 75.200, 75.201, 75.209, 75.210, 75.211, 75.217(a)-(c), 75.219, 75.220, 75.221, 75.222, 75.230, and 75.250(a). (b) The Office of Management and Budget Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) in 2 CFR part 180, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3485. (c) The Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards in 2 CFR part 200, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3474.

Note: The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to institutions of higher education only.

Note: The open licensing requirement in 2 CFR 3474.20 does not apply to these competitions.

II. Award Information

Types of Awards: Discretionary grants and cooperative
agreements.

Fiscal Information: Although Congress has not yet enacted
an appropriation for FY 2024, IES is inviting applications
for these competitions now so that applicants can have
adequate time to prepare their applications. The actual
level of funding, if any, depends on final congressional
action. IES intends to announce additional competitions
later in 2023.

Estimated Range of Awards: See chart at the end of this
notice. The size of the awards will depend on the scope of
the projects proposed.

Estimated Number of Awards: The number of awards made
under each competition will depend on the quality of the
applications received for that competition and the
availability of funds.

     IES may waive any of the following limits on awards
for the Research Networks Focused on Critical Problems of
Education Policy and Practice competition in the special
case that the peer review process results in a tie between
two or more grant applications, making it impossible to
adhere to the limits without funding only some of the
equally ranked applications. In that case, IES may make a
larger number of awards to include all applications of the
same rank.

For the Research Networks Focused on Critical Problems of Education Policy and Practice (ALN 84.305N), we intend to fund up to 5 Research Teams for the CTE Network and up to 8 Research Teams for the Digital Learning Platforms Network.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: See chart at the end of this notice.

III. Eligibility Information

     1. Eligible Applicants: For the Early Career Development and Mentoring Program for Faculty at Minority-Serving Institutions under the Research Training Programs in the Education Sciences competition (ALN 84.305B), applicants must be a minority-serving institution (MSI) located in the territorial United States that confers bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees in academic fields relevant to education. For the Methods Training for Education Researchers topic under the Research Training Programs in the Education Sciences competition (ALN 84.305B), applicants must be located in the territorial United States and have the ability and capacity to conduct training in scientific research methods for education research.

     For all other competitions in this notice, applicants that have the ability and capacity to conduct rigorous research are eligible to apply. Eligible applicants

include, but are not limited to, nonprofit and for-profit organizations and public and private agencies and institutions of higher education, such as colleges and universities.

2. a. Cost Sharing or Matching: These programs do not require cost sharing or matching.

b. Indirect Cost Rate Information: The Research Training Programs in the Education Sciences (ALN 84.305B) use a training indirect cost rate as provided for under 34 CFR 75.562. This limits indirect cost reimbursement to an entity's actual indirect costs, as determined in its negotiated indirect cost rate agreement, or eight percent of a modified total direct cost base, whichever amount is less. For more information regarding training indirect cost rates, see 34 CFR 75.562. For more information regarding indirect costs, or to obtain a negotiated indirect cost rate, please see www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/intro.html. The other grant programs announced here use an unrestricted indirect cost rate. For more information regarding indirect costs, or to obtain a negotiated indirect cost rate, please see www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/intro.html.

3. Subgrantees: Under 34 CFR 75.708(b) and (c) a grantee under this competition may award subgrants--to directly carry out project activities described in its application--to the following types of entities: nonprofit

and for-profit organizations and public and private

agencies and institutions of higher education. The grantee

may award subgrants to entities it has identified in an

approved application.

IV. Application and Submission Information

1. Application Submission Instructions: Applicants

are required to follow the Common Instructions for

Applicants to Department of Education Discretionary Grant

Programs, published in the *Federal Register* on December 7,

2022 (87 FR 75045) and available at

https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/12/07/2022-

26554/common-instructions-for-applicants-to-department-of-

education-discretionary-grant-programs, which contain

requirements and information on how to submit an

application. Please note that these Common Instructions

supersede the version published on December 27, 2021.

2. Other Information: Information regarding program

and application requirements for the competitions is in the

currently available IES Application Submission Guide and in

the NCER RFAs, which are available on the IES website at:

https://ies.ed.gov/funding/. The dates on which the

application packages for these competitions will be

available are indicated in the chart at the end of this

notice.

3. Content and Form of Application Submission:

Requirements concerning the content of an application are

contained in the RFA for the specific competition. The

forms that must be submitted are in the application package

for the specific competition.

   4.   Submission Dates and Times: The deadline date for

transmittal of applications for each competition is

indicated in the chart at the end of this notice and in the

RFAs for the competitions.

   We do not consider an application that does not comply

with the deadline requirements.

   5.   Intergovernmental Review: These competitions are

not subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in

34 CFR part 79.

   6.   Funding Restrictions: We reference regulations

outlining funding restrictions in the Applicable

Regulations section of this notice.

V. Application Review Information

   1.   Selection Criteria: For all its grant

competitions, IES uses selection criteria based on a peer

review process that has been approved by the National Board

for Education Sciences. The Peer Review Procedures for

Grant Applications can be found on the IES website at

https://ies.ed.gov/director/sro/peer_review/application_rev

iew.asp.

   For the 84.305B competition, peer reviewers of the

Early Career Development and Mentoring Program for Faculty

at Minority-Serving Institutions and the Early Career

Development and Mentoring Program for Education Research
will be asked to evaluate the significance of the
application, the quality of the research plan, the quality
of the career development plan, the qualifications and
experience of the personnel, the resources of the applicant
to support the proposed activities, and the quality of the
dissemination plan. For the 84.305B competition, peer
reviewers for Methods Training for Education Researchers
will be asked to evaluate the significance of the
application, the quality of the research training plan, the
qualifications and experience of the personnel, the
resources of the applicant to support the proposed
activities, and the quality of the dissemination plan.
These criteria are described in greater detail in the RFA.

For the 84.305D competition, peer reviewers will be
asked to evaluate the significance of the application, the
quality of the research plan, the qualifications and
experience of the personnel, the resources of the applicant
to support the proposed activities, and the quality of the
dissemination history and dissemination plan. These
criteria will be described in greater detail in the RFAs.

For the 84.305N competition, peer reviewers will be
asked to evaluate the significance of the application, the
quality of the research plan, the qualifications and
experience of the personnel, the resources of the applicant
to support the proposed activities, and the quality of the

dissemination history and dissemination plan. These

criteria will be described in greater detail in the RFA.

    For all IES competitions, applications must include

budgets no higher than the relevant maximum award as set

out in the relevant RFA. IES will not make an award

exceeding the maximum award amount as set out in the

relevant RFA.

    2. Review and Selection Process: We remind potential

applicants that in reviewing applications in any

discretionary grant competition, IES may consider, under 34

CFR 75.217(d)(3), the past performance of the applicant in

carrying out a previous award, such as the applicant's use

of funds, achievement of project objectives, compliance

with the IES policy regarding public access to research,

and compliance with grant conditions. IES may also

consider whether the applicant failed to submit a timely

performance report or submitted a report of unacceptable

quality.

    In addition, in making a competitive grant award, IES

also requires various assurances including those applicable

to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination

in programs or activities receiving Federal financial

assistance from the Department (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4,

108.8, and 110.23).

    3. Risk Assessment and Specific Conditions:

Consistent with 2 CFR 200.206, before awarding grants under

these competitions, the Department conducts a review of the risks posed by applicants. Under 2 CFR 200.208, IES may impose specific conditions and, under 2 CFR 3474.10, in appropriate circumstances, high-risk conditions on a grant if the applicant or grantee is not financially stable; has a history of unsatisfactory performance; has a financial or other management system that does not meet the standards in 2 CFR part 200, subpart D; has not fulfilled the conditions of a prior grant; or is otherwise not responsible.

4. <u>Integrity and Performance System</u>: If you are selected under these competitions to receive an award that over the course of the project period may exceed the simplified acquisition threshold (currently $250,000), under 2 CFR 200.206(a)(2) we must make a judgment about your integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards--that is, the risk posed by you as an applicant--before we make an award. In doing so, we must consider any information about you that is in the integrity and performance system (currently referred to as the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)), accessible through the System for Award Management. You may review and comment on any information about yourself that a Federal agency previously entered and that is currently in FAPIIS.

Please note that, if the total value of your currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement

contracts from the Federal Government exceeds $10,000,000, the reporting requirements in 2 CFR part 200, Appendix XII, require you to report certain integrity information to FAPIIS semiannually. Please review the requirements in 2 CFR part 200, Appendix XII, if this grant plus all the other Federal funds you receive exceed $10,000,000.

5. In General: In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget's guidance located at 2 CFR part 200, all applicable Federal laws, and relevant Executive guidance, the Department will review and consider applications for funding pursuant to this notice inviting applications in accordance with:

(a) Selecting recipients most likely to be successful in delivering results based on the program objectives through an objective process of evaluating Federal award applications (2 CFR 200.205);

(b) Prohibiting the purchase of certain telecommunication and video surveillance services or equipment in alignment with section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2019 (Pub. L. No. 115—232) (2 CFR 200.216);

(c) Providing a preference, to the extent permitted by law, to maximize use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States (2 CFR 200.322); and

(d)   Terminating agreements in whole or in part to the greatest extent authorized by law if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities (2 CFR 200.340).

VI.   Award Administration Information

1.   Award Notices: If your application is successful, we notify your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators and send you a Grant Award Notification (GAN); or we may send you an email containing a link to access an electronic version of your GAN. We may also notify you informally.

If your application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we notify you.

2.   Administrative and National Policy Requirements: We identify administrative and national policy requirements in the application package and reference these and other requirements in the Applicable Regulations section of this notice.

We reference the regulations outlining the terms and conditions of an award in the Applicable Regulations section of this notice and include these and other specific conditions in the GAN. The GAN also incorporates your approved application as part of your binding commitments under the grant.

3.   Grant Administration: Applicants should budget for an annual meeting of up to three days for project directors to be held in Washington, DC.

4. Reporting: (a) If you apply for a grant under one of the competitions announced in this notice, you must ensure that you have in place the necessary processes and systems to comply with the reporting requirements in 2 CFR part 170 should you receive funding under the competition. This does not apply if you have an exception under 2 CFR 170.110(b).

(b) At the end of your project period, you must submit a final performance report, including financial information, as directed by IES. If you receive a multiyear award, you must submit an annual performance report that provides the most current performance and financial expenditure information as directed by IES under 34 CFR 75.118. IES may also require more frequent performance reports under 34 CFR 75.720(c). For specific requirements on reporting, please go to www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html.

5. Performance Measures: To evaluate the overall success of its education research and special education research grant programs, IES annually assesses the percentage of projects that result in peer-reviewed publications and the number of IES-supported interventions with evidence of efficacy in improving learner education outcomes. Student academic outcomes include learning and achievement in academic content areas, such as reading, writing, math, and science, as well as outcomes that

reflect students' successful progression through the education system, such as course and grade completion; high school graduation; and postsecondary enrollment, progress, and completion. Social and behavioral competencies include social and emotional skills, attitudes, and behaviors that are important to academic and post-academic success. Employment and earnings outcomes include hours of employment, job stability, and wages and benefits, and may be measured in addition to student academic outcomes.

6. <u>Continuation Awards</u>: In making a continuation award under 34 CFR 75.253, IES considers, among other things: whether a grantee has made substantial progress in achieving the goals and objectives of the project; whether the grantee has expended funds in a manner that is consistent with its approved application and budget; whether a grantee is in compliance with the IES policy regarding public access to research; and if IES has established performance measurement requirements, whether the grantee has made substantial progress in achieving the performance targets in the grantee's approved application.

In making a continuation award, IES also considers whether the grantee is operating in compliance with the assurances in its approved application, including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal

financial assistance from the Department (34 CFR 100.4,

104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23).

VII. Other Information

Accessible Format: On request to the relevant program

contact person listed in the chart at the end of this

notice, as well as in the relevant RFA and application

package, individuals with disabilities can obtain this

document and a copy of the RFA in an accessible format.

The Department will provide the requestor with an

accessible format that may include Rich Text Format (RTF)

or text format (txt), a thumb drive, an MP3 file, braille,

large print, audiotape, or compact disc, or other

accessible format.

Electronic Access to This Document: The official version

of this document is the document published in the *Federal*

Register. You may access the official edition of the

Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations at

www.govinfo.gov. At this site you can view this document,

as well as all other documents of this Department published

in the *Federal Register*, in text or Portable Document

Format (PDF). To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat

Reader, which is available free at the site.

     You may also access documents of the Department

published in the *Federal Register* by using the article

search feature at www.federalregister.gov. Specifically,

through the advanced search feature at this site, you can

limit your search to documents published by the Department.

Mark Schneider,
Director,
Institute of Education Sciences.

ALN and Name	Application Package Available	Deadline for Transmittal of Applications	Estimated Range of Awards*	Project Period	For Further Information Contact
National Center for Education Research (NCER)					
<u>**84.305B Research Training Programs in the Education Sciences**</u> ▪ Early Career Development and Mentoring Program for Faculty at Minority-Serving Institutions ▪ Early Career Development and Mentoring Program for Education Research ▪ Methods Training for Education Researchers	September 28, 2023	January 11, 2024	$80,000 to $267,000	Up to 4 years	Katina Stapleton Katina.Stapleton@ed.gov (202) 245-6181
<u>**84.305D Statistical and Research Methodology in Education**</u> ▪ Core grants ▪ Toolkits, Guidelines, Compendia, and Review Papers Grants	September 28, 2023	January 11, 2024	$100,000 to $300,000	Up to 3 years	Charles Laurin Charles.Laurin@ed.gov (202) 987-0919
<u>**84.305N Research Networks Focused on Critical Problems of Education Policy and Practice**</u> • Digital Learning Platform Network Research Teams • Career and Technical Education Network Research Teams	October 26, 2023	January 11, 2024	$200,000-$500,000 $200,000-$800,000	Up to 2 years Up to 4 years	Erin Higgins Erin.Higgens@ed.gov (202) 987-1532 Corinne Alfeld Corinne.Alfeld@ed.gov (202) 321-1299

*These estimates are annual amounts.

<u>Note</u>: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.
<u>Note</u>: If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability and wish to access telecommunications relay services, please dial 7-1-1.

[FR Doc. 2023-19497 Filed: 9/8/2023 8:45 am; Publication Date: 9/11/2023]