

## **Funding Opportunity: ED Invites Applicants for FY 2023 Education, Innovation, and Research (EIR) Grants**

*Lewis-Burke Associates LLC – May 30, 2023*

The Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) within the Department of Education (ED) issued a notice inviting applications (NIA) for the Education, Innovation, and Research (EIR) program's FY 2023 competitions. The EIR program supports efforts to create, implement, and evaluate innovative, evidence-based solutions to academic challenges facing high-need students. The EIR program has three tracks: Early-Phase, Mid-Phase, and Expansion. Each track requires a different level of prior evidence of effectiveness and level of scale. During the implementation of an EIR project, grantees are encouraged to develop evidence of effectiveness and new strategies to improve student achievement and attainment. Applicants and grantees are also asked to develop organizational plans on how the project would continue through implementation after federal funding ends.

The EIR Program received a 21 percent boost in funding in the fiscal year (FY) 2023 budget and the Department has indicated strong interest in directing funding focused on social and emotional learning, as well as STEM education and computer science. For this competition, ED estimates having approximately \$273 million to split between the three phases. Additionally, ED is expected "to award an estimated \$87 million in funds for STEM projects and \$87 million in funds for social and emotional learning projects, contingent on receipt of a sufficient number of applications of sufficient quality." Each phase has an estimated period of performance of 60 months. Higher education institutions may apply as part of a consortium led by a state education agency (SEA), local education agency (LEA), the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), or as a non-profit organization recognized under 34 CFR 75.71.

ED will host a pre-application webinar on **June 1, 2023 at 2 PM ET**. Webinar details, additional resource materials, and a schedule of future webinars can be found at <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-discretionary-grants-support-services/innovation-early-learning/education-innovation-and-research-eir/fy-2023-competition/>.

All three tracks are also focused on projects that are consistent with the [Raise the Bar: Lead the World](#) initiative from ED that aims to transform pre-K-12 education through innovative and equitable learning strategies to support a globally competitive workforce. Further details regarding each of the competition phases and their specific requirements and priorities can be found below.

### **Early-Phase Grants**

Early-phase grants provide funding for the development, implementation, and feasibility testing of a program that, with previous research as the foundation, can improve student achievement and attainment. Continuous improvements to project design and implementation are expected and encouraged. This competition includes five absolute priorities and two competitive preference priorities. Applicants are required to address absolute priority one and at least one of the remaining absolute priorities. Competitive preference one is open to all applicants regardless of what additional absolute priority they choose, while competitive preference two is only an option when addressing absolute priority five. Please note that applicants that are interested in addressing multiple absolute priorities must submit separate applications. More information on this specific provision can be found [here](#).

- [Absolute Priority 1](#): Demonstrates a Rationale
- [Absolute Priority 2](#): Field-Initiated Innovations—General
- [Absolute Priority 3](#): Field-Initiated Innovations—Promoting Equity in Student Access to Educational Resources and Opportunities: STEM
- [Absolute Priority 4](#): Field-Initiated Innovations—Meeting Student Social, Emotional, and Academic Needs
- [Absolute Priority 5](#): Field-Initiated Innovations—Promoting Equity in Student Access to Educational Resources and Opportunities: Educator Recruitment and Retention
  - *Competitive Preference Priority 1*: Promoting Equity in Student Access to Educational Resources and Opportunities: Implementers and Partners
  - *Competitive Preference Priority 2*: Supporting a Diverse Educator Workforce and Professional Growth to Strengthen Student Learning. Only applicants that address Absolute Priority 5 may address and receive points under Competitive Preference Priority 2.

OESE expects to grant 17-38 awards in this competition with an average size award of \$4 million. Notice of intent to apply is due by **June 22, 2023**, and applications are due no later than **August 1, 2022**. Further information for the early-phase grants competition can be found [here](#).

### **Mid-Phase Grants**

Mid-phase grants provide funding for the evaluation and implementation of a program that has previously been implemented under an early-phase grant or another effort with similar criteria. Much like early-phase grants, this competition includes five absolute priorities and one competitive preference priority. Applicants are required to address absolute priority one and at least one of the remaining absolute priorities. The competitive preference priority is open to all applicants regardless of what additional absolute priority they choose. Please note that applicants that are interested in addressing multiple absolute priorities must submit separate applications. More information on this specific provision can be found [here](#).

- [Absolute Priority 1](#): Moderate Evidence
- [Absolute Priority 2](#): Field-Initiated Innovations—General
- [Absolute Priority 3](#): Field-Initiated Innovations—Promoting Equity in Student Access to Educational Resources and Opportunities: STEM
  - Within this absolute priority, the Department encourages applications to focus on the expansion in STEM education, including computer science, for underrepresented students.
- [Absolute Priority 4](#): Field-Initiated Innovations—Meeting Student Social, Emotional, and Academic Needs
- [Absolute Priority 5](#): Field-Initiated Innovations— Promoting Equity in Student Access to Educational Resources and Opportunities: Educator Recruitment and Retention
  - *Competitive Preference Priority 1*: This competitive preference encourages applicants from a diverse group of entities including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), Minority-Serving Institutions (MSI), and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU).

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OESE expects to grant between eight to 15 awards with an average funding award of \$8 million. Notice of intent to apply is due by **June 22, 2023**, and applications are due no later than **July 12, 2023**. Further information on the mid-phase grants competition can be found [here](#).

## Expansion Grants

Expansion grants provide funding for evaluation and implementation after being found to produce significant impacts through under the mid-phase grant program. These projects are encouraged to be implemented at the national level, helping specifically underserved and high-need students. This competition includes two absolute priorities, which applicants are required to address, and one competitive preference priority:

- Absolute Priority 1: Strong Evidence
- Absolute Priority 2: Field-Initiated Innovations—General
  - *Competitive Preference Priority 1*: This competitive preference encourages applicants from a diverse group of entities including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), Minority-Serving Institutions (MSI), and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU).

OESE expects to grant four to eight awards with each awardee receiving an average funding amount of \$15 million. Notice of intent to apply is due by **June 22, 2023**, and applications are due no later than **July 12, 2023**. Further information on the expansion grants competition can be found [here](#).