



Funding Opportunity: FY 24 IES NCER and NCSER Grant Competitions Announced

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC – July 21, 2023

The U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Institute of Education Sciences (IES) has announced its fiscal year (FY) 2024 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). Of note for this year, anticipated funding success rates may be impacted by the recent congressional debt ceiling deal, which rescinded \$44 million of unobligated American Rescue Plan funds from IES.

NCER previously announced the FY 2024 competitions for [Transformative Research in the Education Sciences](#) and [Using Longitudinal Data to Support State Education Policymaking](#), which are both due on August 17, 2023. Under this latest announcement, NCER will open another FY 2024 competition:

- **Education Research Competition** – NCER will only consider applications that address areas under 11 research topics under one of four project types: Measurement, Exploration, Development and Innovation, or Impact. This competition's topic areas are:
 - "career and technical education;
 - Civics education and social studies;
 - Cognition and student learning;
 - Early learning programs and policies;
 - Improving education systems;
 - Literacy;
 - Policies, practices, and programs to support English learners;
 - Postsecondary and adult education;
 - Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education;
 - Social emotional and behavioral context for teaching and learning;
 - Teaching, teachers, and the education workforce;"

NSCER will administer three competitions in FY 2024:

- **Special Education Research Competition** – NCSER encourages a broad range of research, with applications concentrating on one or more research areas and focusing on a general range of students with disabilities or a specific disability. For FY 2024 competition, the research must focus on one or more student outcomes under:
 - Development
 - School readiness
 - Literacy

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- STEM
- Social/Emotional/Behavioral
- Functional
- Secondary/Transition
- Postsecondary

Additionally, research proposals should include a secondary research topic, as appropriate, among:

- Cognition and Student Learning
- Early Intervention and Early Learning
- Educators and School-Based Service Providers
- Families of Children with Disabilities
- Reading, Writing, and Language 6. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
- Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Competence
- Systems, Policy, and Finance
- Transition to Postsecondary Education, Career, and/or Independent Living

Like NCER, Special Education Research Grants should fall under one of four project types: Measurement, Exploration, Development and Innovation, or Impact.

- **Special Education Research Training Competition** – Proposals must address Early Career Development and Mentoring.
- **Special Education Research and Development Center** – NCSER intends to fund one award for a research and development center on K-12 special education teacher workforce.

Proposal Deadline: All proposal for the competitions under this new announcement must be submitted no later than **September 21, 2023**, except for Special Education Research and Development Center, which can be submitted no later than **January 11, 2024**. Letters of Intent, which are optional but strongly recommended, are due August 10, 2023. The Special Education Research and Development Center Request for Application is not yet available.

Total Funding and Award Size: The Education Research grants maximum award for Measurement projects is \$2 million over four years; the maximum award for Exploration projects is \$1.7 million over four years; the maximum award for Development and Innovation projects is \$2 million over four years; and the maximum award for Impact projects is \$4 million over five years. The Special Education Research program maximum award for Measurement projects is \$2 million over four years; the maximum award for Exploration projects is \$1.7 million over four years; the maximum award for Development and Innovation projects is \$2 million over four years; and the maximum award for Impact projects is \$4 million over five years. The Special Education Research Training Program will have a performance period of up to four years with awards up to \$700,000. The Special Education R&D Center will be up to \$1 million over five years.



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.

Sources and Additional Information:

- The Federal Register notice announcing the NCER and NCSEER competitions is available at [Federal Register :: Applications for New Awards; Education Research and Special Education Research Grant Programs](#)
- The official Request for Applications for each competition and additional topic details are expected to be linked at [FY 2024 Requests for Applications \(ed.gov\)](#).
- On-demand and technical assistance webinars for the research programs are available at <https://ies.ed.gov/funding/webinars/index.asp>.