U.S. Department of Education Grants

In The Know!

Melissa T. Hallman
Grant Development Specialist
Darden College of Education
March 25, 2015
Training Objectives

- Organizational structure of U.S. Dept. of Education
- Mission v. Research-Based
- How to find funding
- How to apply
- Overview of review process
“Applying for a Department of Education grant is not a complicated process, but it does require that you provide specific information in specific formats, which allows the Department to consider your grant application fairly and completely.”

*Grantmaking at ED, U.S. Department of Education, 2010*
Types of Funding Awarded by ED

- Student Financial Assistance- funding of undergraduate or graduate students
- Formula Grants- directed by Congress to certain grantees; amount established by formulas based on criteria in legislation and program regulations
- Discretionary Grants- award to grantee based on competitive review process
  - Cooperative Agreements- agency has substantial involvement
Organizational Structure of U.S. Department of Education

Information on ED Programs (searchable)

http://www2.ed.gov/programs/landing.jhtml?src=In
Highlighted Offices

- Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE) programs are designed to increase access to quality postsecondary education.

Examples of Programs:
- support to improve postsecondary educational facilities and programs
- support for programs that recruit and prepare disadvantaged students for the successful completion of postsecondary education.
- promote the domestic study of foreign languages
- international affairs and support international education research and exchange activities.
Office of Postsecondary Education

Examples of Grants:

- **Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP):** This discretionary grant program is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

- **Upward Bound:** provides fundamental support to participants in their preparation for college entrance.
Highlighted Offices

- Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) programs are designed to assist state and local education agencies to improve the achievement of elementary and secondary school students and to assure equal access to services leading to such improvement for all children, particularly children who are economically or educationally disadvantaged.

- Examples of Programs:
  - financial assistance to support comprehensive education reform efforts
  - grants for projects that improve the quality of teaching in elementary and secondary schools
  - grants to support the use of proven methods of early reading instruction in classrooms and early childhood centers.
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE)

Examples of Grants:

- **Improving Teacher Quality State Grants**: formula grant that gives states the authority to distribute money among state projects that increase academic achievement by improving teacher and principal quality (usually administered by SCHEV)

- **Early Childhood Educator Professional Development Program**: purpose is to promote school readiness and improved learning outcomes of young children by providing high quality professional development programs to improve the knowledge and skills of early childhood educators and caregivers who work in early childhood programs located in high-poverty communities and who serve primarily children from low-income families
Highlighted Offices

- **Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS)** administers grants in three main areas: *special education, vocational rehabilitation, and research*. Special education programs are designed to meet the needs and develop the full potential of children with disabilities through the provision of special education and early intervention programs and services.

- Vocational rehabilitation grants reduce dependency and enhance the productive capabilities of persons with disabilities through the provision of independent living and vocational rehabilitation services.

- OSERS’s National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research conducts and supports rehabilitative and special education research and demonstration activities in order to increase knowledge about, foster innovation in, and improve the delivery of services for persons with disabilities.
Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS)

Examples of Grants:

- **Reading, Writing, and Language Development - Special Education Research**: contribute to improvement of reading and writing skills, language and vocabulary skills, and reading outcomes for students with identified disabilities and to prevent the development of learning disabilities among students at high risk for disabilities.

- **Secondary and Transition Services - Special Education Research**: contribute to the improvement of secondary and transition programs and outcomes for secondary (middle school and high school) students with disabilities.
Highlighted Offices

- Institute of Education Sciences (IES), the Department’s primary research office, supports research that contributes to improved academic achievement for all students, and particularly for those whose education prospects are hindered by inadequate education services and conditions associated with poverty, limited English proficiency, disability, and family circumstance.

- *IES conducts and supports scientifically valid research activities, including basic research and applied research, statistics activities, scientifically valid education evaluation, development, and dissemination.*
Institute of Education Sciences

Examples of Grants:

- **Education Research Grants**: areas such as effective teachers and effective teaching; mathematics and science education; and postsecondary and adult education
- **Special Education Research Programs**: areas such as autism spectrum disorders; reading, writing, and language development; and technology for special education
- **Evaluation of State Programs and Policies**
Mission-Based
V.
Research-Based
Mission-Based v. Basic Research-Based*

- The Department of Education is a mission-based agency that funds projects which advance the stated mission of the Department and each program.
- In addition, the ED also puts emphasis on need and very often includes a requirement for a Statement of Need in the Announcement/RFP, and can consider geographical need in the review process.

- Basic Research-Based agencies, such as the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health, fund based on the project.

Mission v. Research-Based?

• How do you define your project?
• Is your project more programmatic as opposed to basic or applied research or vice versa?
• Which office will your project fall under based on what you are desiring to accomplish? Does it fall under IES (research-based) or another office?
• Look at other projects that have been funded once you answer these questions to find the best fit.
U.S. Department of Education

- Mission-based agency

- Mission: To promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

- $68 billion budget in 2013 dropped to $43 billion in 2014
U.S Department of Education

Strategic Goals 2014:

- **Goal 1:** Increase college access, quality, and completion by improving postsecondary education and lifelong learning opportunities for youths and adults (Office of Postsecondary Education)

- **Goal 2:** Elementary and Secondary Education: Improve the elementary and secondary education system’s ability to consistently deliver excellent instruction aligned with rigorous academic standards while providing effective support services to close achievement and opportunity gaps, and ensure all students graduate high school college- and career-ready (Office of Elementary and Secondary Education)
U.S. Department of Education

Strategic Goals 2014:

- **Goal 3:** Improve the health, social-emotional, and cognitive outcomes for all children from birth through 3rd grade, so that all children, particularly those with high needs, are on track for graduating from high school college- and career-ready (Office of Elementary and Secondary Education)
Institute of Education Sciences

- Research arm of the Department of Education

- Mission: To provide rigorous and relevant evidence on which to ground education practice and policy and share this information broadly. By identifying what works, what doesn't, and why, we aim to improve educational outcomes for all students, particularly those at risk of failure.

- Budget of over $200 million
HOW TO FIND FUNDING
How to Find Funding

- Federal Register: [www.federalregister.gov](http://www.federalregister.gov)
  [https://www.federalregister.gov/agencies/education-department](https://www.federalregister.gov/agencies/education-department)
- U.S. Dept. of ED 2015 Grants Forecast
  [http://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/find/edlite-forecast.html](http://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/find/edlite-forecast.html)
- U.S. Department of ED funding tab
- IES website funding opportunities tab
How to Find Funding

- Grants.gov find grant opportunities tab
  http://www.grants.gov/applicants/find_grant_opportunities.jsp
- PIVOT
  http://pivot.cos.com/funding_main
- Office of Research Education Listserv

The funding agencies associated with this listserv can include, but are not limited to, Department of Education (including the Institute of Education Sciences), NSF, National Education Association, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH-Education-related) + state agencies and private and public foundations.

Sign Up: http://list.odu.edu/mailman/listinfo/grantsfoa-edu
The Department of Education was established by the Department of Education Organization Act (65) of October 17, 1979.

The U.S. Department of Education is the agency of the federal government that establishes policy for, administers and coordinates most federal assistance to education. It assists the president in executing his education policies for the nation and in implementing laws enacted by Congress. The Department’s mission is to serve America’s students—to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

This agency has published 8,062 articles since 1994.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OESE CFDA No. and Name</th>
<th>Application Notice</th>
<th>Link to Notice</th>
<th>Application Deadline</th>
<th>Deadline for Intergovernmental Review</th>
<th>Estimated Average Size/Number of Awards</th>
<th>Program Contact Person</th>
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<tr>
<td>84.215F - Carol White Physical Education Program</td>
<td>2/28/2013</td>
<td></td>
<td>4/12/2013</td>
<td>6/12/2013</td>
<td>$470,000/75</td>
<td>Carlotta Kyser Program&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:Carlotta.Kyser@ed.gov">Carlotta.Kyser@ed.gov</a>&lt;br&gt;Telephone: (202) 245-7871&lt;br&gt;Fax: (202) 245-7166</td>
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<td>84.215T - Educational Facilities Clearinghouse</td>
<td>7/1/2013</td>
<td></td>
<td>8/5/2013</td>
<td>9/24/2013</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Amy Bank&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:Amy.Bank@ed.gov">Amy.Bank@ed.gov</a>&lt;br&gt;Telephone: (202) 245-7862&lt;br&gt;FAX: (202) 485-0041</td>
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<td>84.299A Indian Education Demonstration Grants for Indian Children</td>
<td>12/20/2012 (77 FR 75420)</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>PDF&lt;br&gt;TXT</td>
<td>2/19/2013</td>
<td>4/19/2013</td>
<td>$290,000/8</td>
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<td>84.299B Indian Education Professional Development Grants</td>
<td>1/25/2013 (78 FR 5424)</td>
<td>P</td>
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<td>3/1/2013</td>
<td>4/30/2013</td>
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<td>84.366A Enhanced Assessments Grants</td>
<td>4/11/2013</td>
<td></td>
<td>6/10/2013</td>
<td>8/9/2013</td>
<td>$5,000,000/2</td>
<td>Collette Roney&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:Collette.Roney@ed.gov">Collette.Roney@ed.gov</a>&lt;br&gt;Telephone: (202) 260-7784&lt;br&gt;Fax: (202) 401-5245</td>
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<td>84.412A Race To The Top- Early Learning Challenge</td>
<td>8/19/2013</td>
<td></td>
<td>10/18/2013</td>
<td>12/17/2013</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Tammy Proctor&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:Tammy.Proctor@ed.gov">Tammy.Proctor@ed.gov</a>&lt;br&gt;Telephone: (202) 250-3793&lt;br&gt;FAX: (202) 205-4521</td>
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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Steps to Applying for IES Grants

1. Identify a current funding opportunity that matches your research interests and identify the relevant Letter of Intent and application deadlines.
2. Register for a funding opportunities webinar to learn more about the application process and choosing an appropriate funding opportunity.
3. Download the appropriate Request for Application, application submission guide, and application package.
4. Submit your (optional but strongly encouraged) Letter of Intent.
3. Submit your application to Grants.gov before the application deadline.

Note: See "Other IES Funding Opportunities" for IES grants that follow different application procedures.

Funding Opportunities for Research and Research Training

The Institute of Education Sciences’ overarching priority is research that contributes to school readiness and improved academic achievement for all students, and particularly for those whose education prospects are hindered by inadequate education services and conditions associated with poverty, race/ethnicity, limited English proficiency, disability, and family circumstance. Please read an Overview of IES Research and Research Training Grant Programs for background information before proceeding. Please note that not all IES research and research training programs are offered each funding year and that the requirements for research and research training programs may change from one year to the next.

The FY 2013 Research and Research Training competitions are now closed.

For notification of the release of the Request for Applications for FY 2014, please sign up for the IES Funding newsflash at http://ies.ed.gov/newsflash. Click the plus sign next to "General IES News and Information" to subscribe to Funding Opportunities Newsflashes.

In FY 2013, the Institute supported the following research and research training programs (announced in the Federal Register on March 6, 2012):

Research Programs
- Education Research Programs (84.305A)
- Special Education Research Programs (84.324A)
- Statistical and Research Methodology in Education (84.305D)
- Special Education Initiative: Accelerating the Academic Achievement of Students with Learning Disabilities Research Initiative (84.304D)
### Search Funding Results

#### Your Search: (Postsecondary OR education)

#### Filtered by: (Sponsor Type: Federal, U.S.)

**Advanced Search**  **Save Search**  **Refine Search**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Submission type</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Limited Submission</td>
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<td>Other internal coordination</td>
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<td>Top funding types</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research</td>
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<td>Program or Curriculum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collaboration or Coop</td>
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<td>Training or Scholarships</td>
<td>00 Mar 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contract or Tender</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal, U.S.</td>
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<td>Top requirements</td>
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<td>Early Childhood or Pre-K</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Childhood Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science Education</td>
<td>93</td>
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</table>
How to Apply
How to Apply

- ED publication: *Grantmaking at ED* (great resource and this is the correct link but currently “under construction”)
  http://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/about/grantmaking/index.html

- Find a funding opportunity that is a good fit
  - Fit the opportunity to your project or program, not the project or program to the opportunity or amount of funding

- Determine if you are eligible to apply
  - Federal Register announcement
  - Specific request for proposals
  - Program specifications
How to Apply

- If available, go to the program page on the ED website which can contain information on everything from prior awards in that program to the Federal Register announcement to the budget for funding for that year’s competition
GRANTS
ARTS IN EDUCATION—MODEL DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION GRANTS PROGRAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Funding Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eligibility</td>
<td>Low-Cost, High-Quality Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apply</td>
<td>FAQs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards</td>
<td>Contacts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Applicant Information

TIMELINE

Application available: February 20, 2013
Deadline for Notice of Intent to Apply: March 22, 2013
Deadline to Submit Applications: April 22, 2013
Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: June 20, 2013

Your application must be fully uploaded and submitted by midnight of the specified deadline. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. When we receive your application, we will notify you if we are rejecting your application. Your application is due to be submitted by the grants.gov system no later than 11:59:59 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. We do not consider an application that does not comply with the deadline requirements. When we receive your application from grants.gov, we will notify you if we are rejecting your application.

For information (including dates and times) about how to submit your application electronically, or in paper format by mail or hand delivery if you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, please refer to section IV.7, Other Submission Requirements in the Notice Inviting Applications.

APPLICATION PACKAGES

- You can obtain an application package via the Internet or from the...
How to Apply

- Contact the Program Officer for the opportunity you are interested in to see if your idea is a good fit!
  1. Send an email with a one-page summary of your project and request a time for a phone call to discuss your project
  2. Did I mention contact the Program Officer?
How to Apply: Details*

- Few or No established application dates (except in IES)

- Minimum 30-day notice required from announcement of opportunity to submission deadline

- Electronic submission process: usually Grants.gov

*Piechowski, Margaret, SRA International, 2011
How to Apply: Proposal Components*

*Typical Proposal Components:
1. Need for project
2. Objectives
3. Quality of project design
4. Quality of project personnel
5. Quality of management plan
6. Quality of project evaluation
7. Adequacy of resources (budget and budget narrative included as part of proposal narrative)

*Piechowski, Margaret, SRA International, 2011
Review Process
Review Process: Application Reviewers*

- Application reviewers typically come from outside the agency, however in some instances employees or contractors of ED (or other Federal agencies) may serve.

- Typically three non-federal reviewers.

- Chosen by ED program officers from ED database.
Review Process*

1. Applications are submitted by 4:30pm Washington, D.C. time on date due
2. ED staff conducts internal review of application submitted to determine that all requirements are met
3. Applications are assigned to reviewers
4. Reviewers read and score applications individually
5. Reviewers score applications based only on criteria stated in the Federal Register notice or application package
Review Process: Scoring*

- Total possible score of 100 points
- Each required section has specific point value
- Program officer conducts panel discussion to reconcile outlying scores
- Each reviewer must list strengths and weaknesses

*Piechowski, Margaret, SRA International, 2011
Review Process

6. After applications are individually scored, an internal review is conducted to make sure scores were completed correctly

7. ED program department averages scores given by all reviewers to an application

8. That average score is used to determine its rank order among all applications eligible for review

9. A determination is made of how many applications can be funded with available appropriations

10. A cost-analysis is done on those applications above the demarcation line for funding
Review Process

10. A formal “slate” is created of applications recommended and the funding levels recommended

11. The “slate” is forwarded to the Principal Officer of the program office

12. Award notices are issued to successful applicants

13. Applicant receives three reviews with individual scores and comments

14. Cover letter indicates total score, cut-off score, and funding decision

BUT... Remember the “Mission” Basis?
Review Process

- Although the application reviewers can only use the criteria in the notice or application package, Principal Officers utilize additional criteria in some cases to determine funded projects, including:

1. The number of high quality applications submitted;
2. The level of appropriations available;
3. A program may have a geographic distribution requirement;
4. Need;
5. Past performance on federal grants and projects.

Did I mention it is a good idea to contact the Program Officer?

*Grantmaking at ED, U.S. Department of Education, 2010*
Funding Decisions: How long do I have to wait?

Funding decisions usually take about four to six months....
QUESTIONS?