Grant Opportunities at the Institute of Education Sciences

Allen Ruby, Ph.D.
Associate Commissioner
Policy & Systems Division
National Center for Education Research
Take Away

• IES has a small number of education grant programs
  – Matrix of topics/goals within grant programs
  – Range of work: exploration, development, evaluation
  – Focus is on improving student outcomes
  – Competitions are held twice a year (6/24/10 and 9/16/10)
  – Competitive peer review using an absolute standard

• Take advantage of available information
  – http://ies.ed.gov (Request For Applications, abstracts of projects, webinars, resources for researchers webpage)
  – Program officer (listed in RFA)
IES Structure

Office of the Director

Standards & Review

National Board for Education Sciences

National Center for Education Statistics
National Center for Education Evaluation
National Center for Education Research
National Center for Special Ed Research
Overall Research Objectives

• Develop or identify education interventions (practices, programs, policies and approaches) that enhance academic achievement and that can be widely deployed

• Identify what does not work and thereby encourage innovation and further research

• Understand the processes that underlie variations in the effectiveness of education interventions
Final Outcomes of Interest are for Students

**Preschool**
- School readiness
- Developmental outcomes for infants and toddlers with disabilities

**Kindergarten through Grade 12**
- Academic outcomes in reading, writing, math and science
- Behaviors, interactions, and social skills that support learning in school and successful transitions to post-school opportunities
- High school graduation
- Functional skills for independent living of students with disabilities

**Postsecondary:** enrollment, persistence, and completion

**Adult Education:** reading, writing, and math (basic, secondary, and EL)
## Key Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Deadline</th>
<th>Letter of Intent Deadline</th>
<th>Application Package Deadline</th>
<th>Start Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/24/10</td>
<td>4/29/10</td>
<td>4/29/10</td>
<td>3/1/11 to 9/1/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/16/10</td>
<td>7/19/10</td>
<td>7/19/10</td>
<td>7/1/11 to 9/1/11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Research and Research Training Grant Programs

- Education Research Grant Programs
- Special Education Research Grant Programs
- Statistical and Research Methodology in Education
- Evaluation of State and Local Education Programs and Policies
- Postdoctoral Research Training Grant Programs
- National Research and Development Centers
Education Research Grants Programs (84.305A)

- Reading and Writing
- Mathematics and Science Education
- Cognition and Student Learning
- Teacher Quality (Reading & Writing; Math & Science)
- Social and Behavioral Context for Academic Learning
- Education Leadership
- Education Policy, Finance, and Systems
- Postsecondary Education
- English Learners
- Early Learning Programs and Policies
- Education Technology
- Adult Education
- Organization and Management of Schools and Districts
- Analysis of Longitudinal Data to Support State & Local Education Reform
Special Education Research Programs (84.324A)

- Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education
- Reading, Writing, and Language Development
- Mathematics and Science Education
- Social and Behavioral Outcomes to Support Learning
- Cognition and Student Learning in Special Education
- Professional Development for Teachers and Related Service Providers
- Special Education Policy, Finance, and Systems
- Transition Outcomes for Special Education Secondary Students
- Autism Spectrum Disorders
5 Research Goals

1. Exploration: examine relationship between malleable factors and education outcomes

3. Development and Innovation: iteratively develop new or improved education interventions

4. Efficacy & Replication: evaluate the efficacy and feasibility of an intervention
   - Efficacy Follow-up Studies

5. Scale-up Evaluation: evaluate the impact & feasibility of interventions at scale
   - Scale-up Follow-up Studies

6. Measurement: develop and validate assessments
Exploration

• Explore malleable factors that are associated with better student learning and education outcomes
  – Malleable factor: something that can be changed by the education system - student, teacher, or school characteristics, or an education program or policy
• Explore factors that mediate or moderate the relationship between malleable factors and student outcomes
• Small primary data studies, secondary analyses, and meta-analyses
Development and Innovation

- Develop new interventions (e.g., instructional practices, curricula, teacher professional development, policies)
- Demonstrate the feasibility of the intervention for implementation in an authentic education delivery setting
- Collect pilot data on promise of intervention to achieve intended outcomes
Efficacy and Replication

• Test whether or not fully developed interventions are effective under specified conditions and with specific types of students

• Take place under supportive conditions, e.g., homogenous sample, high assistance

• Studies using random assignment to intervention and comparison conditions are preferred where feasible

• New this year: Efficacy follow-up studies
Scale-up Evaluation

- Test whether interventions are effective when implemented *under typical conditions*.
- As implemented by practitioners and with sufficiently diverse samples to support generalizability.
- Studies using randomized assignment to treatment and comparison conditions are preferred whenever they are feasible.
- Added this year: Scale-up follow-up studies
Measurement

• Develop and validate assessments or other measurement tools
  – Typically to be used by practitioners (e.g., screening, progress monitoring, and outcome assessment) but can also be for researcher use
  – Validation of non-student measures must involve student outcomes (e.g. Teacher Quality)
  – Program specific, e.g., cost-accounting under Education Policy, Finance, and Systems

• Not for evaluating an assessment used as an intervention

• The measure is the primary product
Maximum Grant Duration and Typical Size

Grants include both direct and indirect costs

- **Exploration**: 2 years, $100,000 to $350,000 per yr 10%
  - Up to 4 years & $400,000 for primary data collection
- **Development**: 3 years, $150,000 to $500,000 per yr 50%
- **Efficacy**: 4 years, $250,000 to $750,000 per yr 26%
  - Follow-up: 3 years, $150,000 to $400,000 per yr
- **Scale-up**: 5 years, $500,000 to 1.2 million per yr 2%
  - Follow-up: 3 years, $250,000 to $600,000 per yr
- **Measurement**: 4 years, $150,000 to $400,000 per yr 12%
Information Sources

• IES website: http://ies.ed.gov
• Obtain IES Request for Applications
  – Describes type of research that can be done and substance of what to include in application
  – http://ies.ed.gov/funding
• IES Grants.Gov Application Submission Guide
  – Step by step instructions on how to apply
  – http://ies.ed.gov/funding
• Obtain Application from and Submit Application to
  – www.grants.gov
  – 84.305A (regular education) & 84.324A (special education)
• Initial IES Contact (feel free to contact)
  – Allen.Ruby@ed.gov
• Handout includes information covered in this presentation