There is consensus among economists and policy researchers that public investments in science and engineering yield very high annual rates of return to society. Furthermore, the activities supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) - fundamental research and education based at academic institutions - are generally viewed as among the most productive of all Federal investments.

The Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences at NSF (SBE) supports the research that underlies such findings, as well as other research that builds fundamental knowledge of human behavior, interaction, and social and economic systems, organizations and institutions. It does this through its Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS), Division of Social and Economic Sciences (SES), and SBE Office of Multidisciplinary Activities (SMA).

To improve understanding of science and engineering, SBE provides tools for tracking the human and institutional resources vital to building the nation's science and engineering infrastructure. It does this through its National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES), which is the nation's primary source of data on the science and engineering enterprise.

The mission of EHR is to achieve excellence in U.S. science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education at all levels and in all settings (both formal and informal) in order to support the development of a diverse and well-prepared workforce of scientists, technicians, engineers, mathematicians and educators and a well-informed citizenry that have access to the ideas and tools of science and engineering. The purpose of these activities is to enhance the quality of life of all citizens and the health, prosperity, welfare and security of the nation.

Goals

1. Prepare the next generation of STEM professionals and attract and retain more Americans to STEM careers.

2. Develop a robust research community that can conduct rigorous research and evaluation that will support excellence in STEM education and that integrates research and education.

3. Increase the technological, scientific and quantitative literacy of all Americans so that they can exercise responsible citizenship and live productive lives in an increasingly technological society.
4. Broaden participation (individuals, geographic regions, types of institutions, STEM disciplines) and close achievement gaps in all STEM fields.

**Capacity-Building Strategies**

1. Identify effective ways to prepare and support teachers and faculty who can inspire and challenge students in the STEM disciplines and to provide them with effective materials and strategies to promote and assess learning;

2. Invest in research on learning, facilitating the translation of research into practice, and create supportive learning environments and STEM pathways by developing models of reform/systemic change at both institutional and multi-institutional levels through networking, partnerships, alliances and collaborations.

3. Ensure that the STEM community is broadly representative of the nation’s individuals, geographic regions, types of institutions and STEM disciplines; and,

4. Identify effective ways (formal and informal) to address the STEM knowledge requirements of adults so that they can be productive members of the workforce and informed and active citizens.

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**U.S. Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences (IES)**

**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](http://ies.ed.gov/funding/) for background information before proceeding. Please note that not all of 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.

**IES Research and Research Training Grant Programs: Important Dates and Deadlines**

The Institute of Education Sciences accepts applications twice each year for its research and research training grant programs — generally, the third Thursday in June and the third Thursday in September. Current due dates are:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition Round</th>
<th>Letter of Intent</th>
<th>Application Package Available on</th>
<th>Application Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>April 19, 2012</td>
<td>April 19, 2012</td>
<td>June 21, 2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although the Institute accepts applications for most programs in both June and September, some programs receive applications only once each year.

**Grant Program and Receipt of Applications**

**NCER Deadlines:**
- Statistical and Research Methodology in Education (84.305D): June only
- Education Research Programs (84.305A): June and September
- Research Training Programs in the Education Sciences (84.305B): September only
- Evaluation of State and Local Education Programs and Policies (84.305E): September only
- Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships in Education Research (84.305H): September only

**NCSER Deadlines:**
- Special Education Research programs (84.324A): June and September
- Accelerating the Academic Achievement of Students with Learning Disabilities Research Initiative (84.324D): September only
- Research Training Program in Special Education: Early Career Development and Mentoring (84.324B): September only

**Note:** For FY 2013, the Institute does not anticipate competing the Predoctoral Interdisciplinary Research Training Program in the Education Sciences (84.305B), the Postdoctoral Research Training Program in Special Education (84.324B), the National Research and Development Centers (84.305C), or the Special Education Research and Development Centers (84.324C).

**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 (84.324D) NEW
- Evaluation of State and Local Education Programs and Policies (84.305E)
- Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships in Education Research (84.305H) NEW

**Research Training Programs**
• Research Training Programs in the Education Sciences (84.305B)
  o Postdoctoral Research Training Program in the Education Sciences
  o Researcher and Policymaker Training Program in the Education Sciences

• Research Training Program in Special Education (84.324B)
  o Early Career Development and Mentoring Program

Other IES Funding Opportunities
• Grants for Statewide, Longitudinal Data Systems
• Unsolicited Grant Opportunities

Spencer Foundation

Research Grants

http://spencer.org/content.cfm/research

The Foundation's research grants are organized under four areas of inquiry that identify broad topics we believe have fundamental and abiding importance for educational improvement.

• The Relation Between Education and Social Opportunity
• Organizational Learning in Schools, School Systems, and Higher Education Systems
• Teaching, Learning, and Instructional Resources
• Purposes and Values of Education

We also welcome proposals that do not fit one of the four areas listed through our Field-Initiated Proposal program.

The Foundation’s Strategic Initiatives reflect our commitment to specific, measureable investigations that range from five to ten years.

• The New Civics Initiative
• Data Use and Educational Improvement
• Philosophy in Educational Policy and Practice

We also support short-term projects that address particular questions relevant to our work, as well as Exploratory Projects that have potential of developing into strategic initiatives.

• Forum for Excellence and Innovation in Higher Education
• Joint Project for the Measurement of Classroom Quality
• Joint Project for Undergraduate Education
• Educational Inequality Task Force
How to apply

http://spencer.org/content.cfm/how-to-apply

Areas of Inquiry

- Small Grant Proposal Guidelines ($0-$40,000)
- Major Grant Proposal Guidelines ($40,001 - $500,000)

The New Civics Initiative

- Small Grant Proposal Guidelines ($0-$40,000)
- Major Grant Proposal Guidelines ($40,001 - $350,000)

Initiative on Philosophy in Education Policy and Practice

- Small Grant Proposal Guidelines ($0-$40,000)

Initiative on Data Use and Educational Improvement

- Evidence for the Classroom RFP