request retired pay, designate beneficiaries, and make a Survivor Benefit Plan election. In an average calendar year, approximately 66,800 members of the Uniformed Service will complete this form. The spouses of retiring members of the Uniformed Services are only required to complete Part V of this form if the Service member declines or reduces his or her level of under the Survivor Benefit Plan.

Dated: May 9, 2018.

Shelly E. Finke,
Alternate OSD Federal Register, Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The information collection requirement is necessary to obtain applicable retirement information from Uniformed Service members and allow those members to make certain retired pay and survivor annuity elections prior to retirement from service or prior to reaching eligibility to receive retired pay. The form will also allow eligible members covered by the Blended Retirement System to make a voluntary election of a partial lump sum of retired pay, as required by Section 1415 of title 10, United States Code.

Affected Public: Individuals or Households.

Annual Burden Hours: 16,700.
Number of Respondents: 66,800.
Responses per Respondent: 1.
Annual Responses: 66,800.
Average Burden per Response: 15 minutes.

Frequency: As required.

Every member of the Uniformed Services who retires or reaches the age of eligibility to begin receiving retired pay, in the case of members of the Reserves and National Guard, will voluntarily complete this form to

Correction
In FR Doc. 2018–09417, we are revising the sentence beginning on page 19551 in the middle column, at line 17 from the top of the page, under the heading “Content and Form of Application Submission” to delete the words “through Grants.gov” and insert in their place “at EAIProgram@ed.gov”.


Accessible Format: Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document and a copy of the pre-application and the application package in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc) on request to the program contact person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.

Electronic Access to This Document: The official version of this document is the document published in the Federal Register. You may access the official edition of the Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations via the Federal Digital System at www.gpo.gov/fdsys. At this site you can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the Federal Register, in text or Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site.

You also may access documents of the Department published in the Federal Register by using the article search feature at www.federalregister.gov. Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.


Frank T. Brogan,
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and delegated the duties of the Assistant Secretary, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development, delegated the duties of the Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education.

[FR Doc. 2018–10799 Filed 5–18–18; 8:45 am]
Education Research Grant Programs, Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) numbers 84.305A, 84.305C, 84.305D, 84.305H, 84.305L, 84.324A, 84.324B, 84.324L, and 84.324N.

DATES: The dates when applications are available and the deadlines for transmittal of applications invited under this notice are indicated in the chart at the end of this notice and in the Requests for Applications (RFAs) that are posted at the following websites: https://ies.ed.gov/funding, https://www.ed.gov/programs/edresearch/index.html, and https://www.ed.gov/programs/specialedresearch/index.html.

ADDRESSES: For the addresses for obtaining and submitting an application, please refer to our Common Instructions for Applicants to Department of Education Discretionary Grant Programs, published in the Federal Register on February 12, 2018 (83 FR 6003) and available at www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-02-12/pdf/2018-02558.pdf.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The contact person associated with a particular research competition is listed in the chart at the end of this notice, as well as in the relevant RFA and application package.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) or a text telephone (TTY), call the Federal Relay Service, toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose of Program: In awarding these grants, the Institute of Education Sciences (Institute) intends to provide national leadership in expanding fundamental knowledge and understanding of (1) developmental and school readiness outcomes for infants and toddlers with or at risk for a disability, (2) education outcomes for all students from early childhood education through postsecondary and adult education, and (3) employment and wage outcomes when relevant (such as for students who engaged in career and technical, postsecondary, or adult education). The Institute’s research grant programs are designed to provide interested individuals and the general public with reliable and valid information about education practices that support learning and improve academic achievement and access to education opportunities for all students. These interested individuals include parents, educators, students, research-practitioner policymakers. In carrying out its grant programs, the Institute provides support for programs of research in areas of demonstrated national need.

Competitions in This Notice: The Institute will conduct nine research competitions in FY 2019 through two of its centers:

The Institute’s National Center for Education Research (NCER) will hold a total of five competitions—one competition in each of the following areas: Education research; education research and development centers; statistical and research methodology in education; partnerships and collaborations focused on problems of practice or policy; and low-cost, short-duration evaluation of education interventions.

The Institute’s National Center for Special Education Research (NCER) will hold a total of four competitions—one competition in each of the following areas: Special education research; research training programs in special education; low-cost, short-duration, and low-cost, short-duration evaluation of special education interventions; and research networks focused on critical problems of policy and practice in special education.

NCER Competitions

The Education Research Competition. Under this competition, NCER will consider only applications that address one of the following topics:

• Education Leadership.
• Education Technology.
• Effective Teachers and Effective Teaching.
• English Learners.
• Improving Education Systems.
• Postsecondary and Adult Education.
• Reading and Writing.
• Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education.
• Social and Behavioral Context for Academic Learning.
• Special Topics, which include—
  Social Studies.
• Foreign Language Education.
• The Education Research and Development Centers Competition. Under this competition, NCER will consider only applications that address one of the following two topics:
  • Improving Rural Education.
  • Writing in Secondary Schools.

The Statistical and Research Methodology in Education Competition. Under this competition, NCER will consider only applications that address one of the following two topics:

• Statistical and Research Methodology Grants.
• Early Career Statistical and Research Methodology Grants.

The Partnerships and Collaborations Focused on Problems of Practice or Policy Competition. Under this competition, NCER will consider only applications that address one of the following two topics:

• Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships in Education Research.
• Evaluation of State and Local Education Programs and Policies.

The Low-Cost, Short-Duration Evaluation of Education Interventions Competitions. Under this competition, NCER will consider only applications that address low-cost, short-duration evaluation of education interventions.

NCSER Competitions

The Special Education Research Competition. Under this competition, NCSER will consider only applications that address one of the following topics:

• Autism Spectrum Disorders.
• Cognition and Student Learning in Special Education.
• Early Intervention and Early Learning in Special Education.
• Families of Children with Disabilities.
• Professional Development for Teachers and School-Based Service Providers.
• Reading, Writing, and Language Development.
• Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education.
• Social and Behavioral Outcomes to Support Learning.
• Special Education Policy, Finance, and Systems.
• Technology for Special Education.
• Transition Outcomes for Secondary Students with Disabilities.
• Special Topics, which include—
  • Career and Technical Education for Students with Disabilities.
• English Learners with Disabilities.
• Systems-Involved Students with Disabilities.

The Research Training Programs in Special Education Competition. Under this competition, NCSER will consider only applications that address early career development and mentoring.

The Low-Cost, Short-Duration Evaluation of Special Education Interventions Competitions. Under this competition, NCSER will consider only applications that address low-cost, short-duration evaluation of special education interventions.

The Research Networks Focused on Critical Problems of Policy and Practice in Special Education Competition. Under this competition, NCSER will consider only applications that address research on Multi-Tiered Systems of Support under the following topic:
The Institute may waive any of the requirements concerning the content of an application are contained in the RFA for the specific competition. The forms that must be submitted are in the application package for the specific competition.

4. Submission Dates and Times: The deadline date for transmittal of applications for each competition is indicated in the chart at the end of this notice and in the RFAs for the competitions.

We do not consider an application that does not comply with the deadline requirements.

5. Intergovernmental Review: These competitions are not subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in CFR part 79.

6. Funding Restrictions: We reference regulations outlining funding restrictions in the Applicable Regulations section of this notice.

V. Application Review Information

1. Selection Criteria: For all of its grant competitions, the Institute uses selection criteria based on a peer-review process that has been approved by the National Board for Education Sciences. The Peer Review Procedures for Grant Applications can be found on the Institute’s website at https://ies.ed.gov/director/sro/peer_review/application_review.asp.

For the 84.305A, 84.305D, 84.324A, and 84.324N competitions, peer reviewers will be asked to evaluate the significance of the application, the quality of the research plan, the qualifications and experience of the personnel, and the resources of the applicant to support the proposed activities. These criteria are described in greater detail in the RFAs.

For the 84.324B competition, peer reviewers will be asked to evaluate the significance of the application, the quality of the research plan, the qualifications and experience of the personnel, and the resources of the applicant to support the proposed activities. These criteria are described in greater detail in the RFA.

For the 84.305C competition, peer reviewers will be asked to evaluate the significance of the application, the quality of the research plan, the qualifications and experience of the personnel, and the resources of the applicant to support the proposed activities. These criteria are described in greater detail in the RFA.

For the 84.305H, 84.305L, and 84.324L competitions, peer reviewers...
will be asked to evaluate the significance of the application, the quality of the partnership, the quality of the research plan, the qualifications and experience of the personnel, and the resources of the applicant to support the proposed activities. These criteria are described in greater detail in the RFAs.

For all of the Institute’s competitions, applications should include budgets no higher than the relevant maximum award as set out in the relevant RFA. The Institute will not make an award exceeding the relevant maximum award amount as set out in the relevant RFA.

2. Review and Selection Process: We remind potential applicants that in reviewing applications in any discretionary grant competition, the Institute may consider, under 34 CFR 75.217(d)(3), the past performance of the applicant in carrying out a previous award, such as the applicant’s use of funds, achievement of project objectives, and compliance with grant conditions. The Institute may also consider an applicant failed to submit a timely performance report or submitted a report of unacceptable quality.

In addition, in making a competitive grant award, the Institute also requires various assurances including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department of Education (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23).

3. Risk Assessment and Specific Conditions: Consistent with 2 CFR 200.205, before awarding grants under these competitions the Department conducts a review of the risks posed by applicants. Under 2 CFR 3474.10, the Institute may impose specific conditions and, in appropriate circumstances, high-risk conditions on a grant if the applicant or grantee is not financially stable; has a history of unsatisfactory performance; has a financial or other management system that does not meet the standards in 2 CFR part 200, subpart D; has not fulfilled the conditions of a prior grant; or is otherwise not responsible.

4. Integrity and Performance System: If you are selected under this competition to receive an award that over the course of the project period may exceed the simplified acquisition threshold (currently $150,000), under 2 CFR 200.205(a)(2) we must make a judgment about your integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards—that is, the risk posed by your past performance. Before we make an award. In doing so, we must consider any information about you that is in the integrity and performance system (currently referred to as the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)), accessible through the System for Award Management. You may review and comment on any information about yourself that a Federal agency previously entered and that is currently in FAPIIS.

Please note that, if the total value of your currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from the Federal Government exceeds $10,000,000, the reporting requirements in 2 CFR part 200, Appendix XII, require you to report certain integrity information to FAPIIS semiannually. Please review the requirements in 2 CFR part 200, Appendix XII, if this grant plus all the other Federal funds you receive exceed $10,000,000.

VI. Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices: If your application is successful, we notify your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators and send you a Grant Award Notification (GAN); or we may send you an email containing a link to access an electronic version of your GAN. We may notify you informally, also.

If your application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we notify you.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements: We identify administrative and national policy requirements in the application package and reference these and other requirements in the Applicable Regulations section of this notice.

We reference the regulations outlining the terms and conditions of an award in the Applicable Regulations section of this notice and include these and other specific conditions in the GAN. The GAN also incorporates your approved application as part of your binding commitments under the grant.

3. Grant Administration: Applicants should budget for an annual two-day meeting for project directors to be held in Washington, DC.

4. Reporting: (a) If you apply for a grant under one of the competitions announced in this notice, you must ensure that you have in place the necessary processes and systems to comply with the reporting requirements in 2 CFR part 170 should you receive funding under the competition. This does not apply if you have an exception under 2 CFR 170.110(b).

(b) At the end of your project period, you must submit a final performance report, including financial information, as directed by the Institute. If you receive a multiyear award, you must submit an annual performance report that provides the most current performance and financial expenditure information as directed by the Institute under 34 CFR 75.118. The Institute may also require more frequent performance reports under 34 CFR 75.720(c). For specific requirements on reporting, please go to www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html.

5. Performance Measures: To evaluate the overall success of its education research and special education research grant programs, the Institute annually assesses the percentage of projects that result in peer-reviewed publications, the number of newly developed or modified interventions with evidence of promise for improving student education outcomes, and the number of Institute-supported interventions with evidence of efficacy in improving student outcomes including school readiness outcomes for young children and student academic outcomes and social and behavioral competencies for school-age students. School readiness outcomes include pre-reading, reading, pre-writing, early mathematics, early science, and social-emotional skills that prepare young children for school. Student academic outcomes include learning and achievement in core academic content areas (reading, writing, math, and science) and outcomes that reflect students’ successful progression through the education system (e.g., course and grade completion; high school graduation; postsecondary enrollment, progress, and completion). Social and behavioral competencies include social and emotional skills, attitudes, and behaviors that are important to student’s academic and post-academic success.

Additional education outcomes for students with or at risk of a disability (as defined in the relevant RFA) include developmental outcomes for infants and toddlers (birth to age three) pertaining to cognitive, communicative, linguistic, social, emotional, adaptive, functional, or physical development; and developmental and functional outcomes that improve education outcomes, transition to employment, independent living, and postsecondary education for students with disabilities.

6. Continuation Awards: In making a continuation award under 34 CFR 75.253, the Institute considers, among other things: Whether a grantee has made substantial progress in meeting the goals and objectives of the project; whether the grantee has expended funds in a manner that is consistent with its approved application and budget; and, if the Institute has established performance measurement requirements, whether the grantee has...
met the performance targets in the grantee’s approved application.

In making a continuation award, the Institute also considers whether the grantee is operating in compliance with the assurances in its approved application, including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23).

VII. Other Information

Accessible Format: Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document and a copy of the RFA in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc) on request to the appropriate program contact person listed in the chart at the end of this notice.

Electronic Access to This Document: The official version of this document is the document published in the Federal Register. You may access the official edition of the Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations via the Federal Digital System at: www.gpo.gov/fdsys. At this site you can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the Federal Register, in text or Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site.

You may also access documents of the Department published in the Federal Register by using the article search feature at: www.federalregister.gov. Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.


Mark Schneider,
Director, Institute of Education Sciences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CFDA No. and name</th>
<th>Application package available</th>
<th>Deadline for transmittal of applications</th>
<th>Estimated range of awards *</th>
<th>Project period</th>
<th>For further information contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Center for Education Research (NCER)</strong></td>
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<td>84.305A Education Research.</td>
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<td>- Career and Technical Education</td>
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<td>- Cognition and Student Learning</td>
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<td>- Early Learning Programs and Policies</td>
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<td>- Education Leadership</td>
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<td>- English Learners</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Improving Education Systems</td>
<td>June 21, 2018 ........... August 23, 2018 ...........</td>
<td>$100,000 to $760,000 ...........</td>
<td>Up to 5 years ....</td>
<td>Molly Faulkner-Bond <a href="mailto:Molly.Faulkner-Bond@ed.gov">Molly.Faulkner-Bond@ed.gov</a></td>
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<td>- Postsecondary and Adult Education</td>
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<td>- Social Studies</td>
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<td>- Foreign Language Education</td>
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<td>84.305C Education Research and Development Centers.</td>
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<td>- Improving Rural Education</td>
<td>June 21, 2018 ........... August 9, 2018 ...........</td>
<td>$1,000,000 to $2,000,000 ....</td>
<td>Up to 5 years ....</td>
<td>Corinne Alfed <a href="mailto:Corinne.Alfed@ed.gov">Corinne.Alfed@ed.gov</a></td>
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<td>- Writing in Secondary Schools</td>
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<td>84.305D Statistical and Research Methodology in Education.</td>
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<td>- Statistical and Research Methodology Grants</td>
<td>June 21, 2018 ........... August 23, 2018 ...........</td>
<td>$40,000 to $300,000 ..........</td>
<td>Up to 3 years ....</td>
<td>Phill Gagne <a href="mailto:Phill.Gagne@ed.gov">Phill.Gagne@ed.gov</a></td>
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<td>- Early Career Statistical and Research Methodology Grants</td>
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<td>84.305H Partnerships and Collaborations Focused on Problems of Practice or Policy.</td>
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<td>84.305L Low-Cost, Short-Duration Evaluation of Education Interventions.</td>
<td>January 10, 2019 ........... March 7, 2019 ...........</td>
<td>$50,000 to $125,000 ..........</td>
<td>Up to 2 years ....</td>
<td>Phill Gagne <a href="mailto:Phill.Gagne@ed.gov">Phill.Gagne@ed.gov</a></td>
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| **National Center for Special Education Research (NCSER)** |
| 84.324A Special Education Research. | | | |
Notice of Applications; Portland Natural Gas Transmission System

Take notice that on May 7, 2018, Portland Natural Gas Transmission System (Portland Natural Gas), 700 Louisiana Street, Suite 700, Houston, TX 77002–2700, filed an application under section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) (15 U.S.C. section 717 f(c)) and Parts 157 of the Commission’s rules and regulations for Phase II of the Portland XPress Project. Portland Natural Gas requests authorization to increase the certificated capacity on its jointly-owned system from Westbrook, Maine, to Dracut, Massachusetts, by 11.321 million cubic feet per day (MMcf/d), and approval of a lease between Portland Natural Gas and Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, L.L.C., effective November 1, 2019, all as more fully described in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. The filing may also be viewed on the web at http://www.ferc.gov using the “eLibrary” link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC at FERCOnlinesupport@ferc.gov or call toll-free, (866) 208–3676 or TTY, (202) 502–8659.

Portland Natural Gas states that it’s Phase II of the Portland XPress Project would expand gas service delivery options for the New England market. Portland Natural Gas proposes no construction or modifications to its existing system facilities in connection with this request, and as such, there are no costs associated with the project except for the lease payment as further described in the application.

Any questions regarding this application should be directed to Robert Jackson, Manager, Certificates & Regulatory Administration, Portland Natural Gas Transmission System, 700 Louisiana Street, Suite 700, Houston, Texas 77002–2700, or call (832) 320–5487, or email: robert.jackson@transcanada.com.

Pursuant to section 157.9 of the Commission’s rules (18 CFR 157.9), within 90 days of this Notice, the Commission staff will either: Complete its environmental assessment (EA) and place it into the Commission’s public record (eLibrary) for this proceeding; or issue a Notice of Schedule for Environmental Review. If a Notice of Schedule for Environmental Review is issued, it will indicate, among other