



INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY-BASED  
APPROACHES FOR ASSESSING  
CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES  
(ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBER 84.327V)

**PRE-APPLICATION ORIENTATION MEETING**

# Note Regarding Webinar

- Slides are for guidance only and information has been summarized due to logistics of the webinar
- Please read the entire notice inviting applications, instructions, and all other references or related statutes, regulations, instructions, etc.
- Please review the recorded webinar titled “[Applying for Office of Special Education Programs Discretionary Grants](#)” for additional information related to submitting an application

# Application Timelines

- NIA published in the Federal Register March 3, 2022.
- Applications due no later than 11:59:59 p.m. Eastern Time on May 2, 2022.

# Application Package

- Dear Applicant Letter
- Notice Inviting Applications
  - *Federal Register Notice*
  - Grants.gov System Submission Procedures and Tips for Applicants
- Priority Description and Selection Criteria
- General Information
- Required Forms

# Program Information

**Purpose**

**Eligible Applicants**

**Number of Awards**

**Funding Levels**

**Project Period**

- ▶ Educational Technology, Media, and Materials for Individuals with Disabilities Program (ETechM2 Program)
- ▶ **Purpose:** To improve results for students with disabilities by
  - 1) promoting the development, demonstration, and use of technology;
  - 2) supporting educational media activities designed to be of educational value in the classroom for students with disabilities;
  - 3) providing support for captioning and video description that is appropriate for use in the classroom; and
  - 4) providing accessible educational materials to students with disabilities in a timely manner.

# Innovative Technology-Based Approaches for Assessing Children with Disabilities

The purpose of this priority is to fund **two** cooperative agreements to establish and operate projects on Innovative Technology-Based Approaches for Assessing Children with Disabilities (projects).

# Eligible Applicants

- ▶ State educational agencies (SEAs) and State lead agencies under Part C of the IDEA;
- ▶ LEAs, including public charter schools that are considered LEAs under State law;
- ▶ Institutes of Higher Education (IHEs);
- ▶ other public agencies;
- ▶ private nonprofit organizations;
- ▶ freely associated States and outlying areas;
- ▶ Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations; and
- ▶ for-profit organizations.



# CFDA 84.327V

- **Focus Area A:** Innovative Technology-Based Approaches for Assessing Infants, Toddlers, and Preschool-Age Children with Disabilities
- **Focus Area B:** Innovative Technology-Based Approaches for Assessing School-Age Children with Disabilities.

\* OSEP may fund out of rank order high-quality applications to ensure that projects are funded in both focus areas.

# Award Information

- Awards are for a maximum of \$500,000 per year for up to three years.
- This program uses an unrestricted indirect cost rate.
- This program does not include any program-specific limitation on administrative expenses.

**\$1M**

**2 awards expected**

# Priority Definition:

## Assessment / Assessing:

- ▶ Formal and informal methods
- ▶ to collect individualized data on children's strengths and needs; developmental, academic, and functional skills; and learning progress
- ▶ to inform individualized family service plans (IFSPs) and individualized education programs (IEPs), eligibility determinations, instruction, and interventions.

## Not within scope:

- ▶ Program-wide or school-wide assessments (large-scale State and district wide assessments)
- ▶ Universal screening
- ▶ Development or validation of procedures for technology-based administration of published standardized assessment tools.

# Competition Information

**Expected Project Outcomes and Activities**

**Application Narrative and Selection Criteria**

**Project Assurances**

**General Requirements**

# Expected Project Outcomes (a)

- ▶ Increased body of knowledge on equitable and innovative approaches for implementing and integrating technology into informal and formal assessments to gather valid and reliable information on children's strengths and needs; developmental, academic, and functional skills; and learning progress to inform IFSPs and IEPs, eligibility determinations, instruction, and interventions.

# Expected Project Outcomes (b)

- ▶ Increased awareness of existing and project-developed tools, methods, and frameworks to support informed, systematic decision-making for technology-based approaches to assessments by early intervention service providers, school districts, educators, and families.

# Narrative & Selection Criteria

<b>Narrative Sections:</b>	<b>Selection Criteria:</b>
Significance	Significance of the Project
Quality of Project Services	Quality of the Project Design
Adequacy of Resources and Quality of Project Personnel	Adequacy of Resources and Quality of the Management plan
Quality of the Management Plan	Adequacy of Resources and Quality of the Management plan
Quality of the Project Evaluation	Quality of the Project Evaluation



# Significance: NIA Narrative

## Demonstrate how the proposed project will...

- ▶ Address the need in the field for knowledge and decision-making frameworks to support the effective use of technology-based approaches to assessments of children with disabilities.
- ▶ Develop the knowledge base to increase the capacity of local and State early intervention and special education systems to make informed decisions on technology-based approaches to assessment and indicate the importance of systems developing this capacity.



# Significance: Selection Criteria (0-15 points)

## **In determining the significance of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:**

- i. The potential contribution of the proposed project to increased knowledge or understanding of educational problems, issues, or effective strategies.
- ii. The extent to which specific gaps or weaknesses in services, infrastructure, or opportunities have been identified and will be addressed by the proposed project, including the nature and magnitude of those gaps or weaknesses.
- iii. The extent to which the proposed project involves the development or demonstration of promising new strategies that build on, or are alternatives to, existing strategies.

# Quality of Project Services: NIA Narrative

## Demonstrate how the proposed project will...

- ▶ Ensure equal access and treatment for members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.
- ▶ Achieve its goals, objectives, and intended outcomes.
- ▶ Use a conceptual framework (and provide a copy in Appendix A) to develop project plans and activities;

# Quality of Project Services: NIA Narrative (cont'd)

## Demonstrate how the proposed project will...

- ▶ Be based on current research and make use of evidence-based practices (EBPs).
- ▶ Develop products and provide services that are of sufficient intensity and duration to achieve the intended outcomes of the proposed project.
- ▶ Develop products and implement services that maximize efficiency.
- ▶ Develop a dissemination plan that describes how the applicant will systematically distribute information to varied intended audiences, using a variety of dissemination strategies.

# Quality of the Project Design: Selection Criteria (0-35 points)

**In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:**

- i. The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the proposed project are clearly specified and measurable.
- ii. The extent to which the design of the proposed project includes a thorough, high-quality review of the relevant literature, a high-quality plan for project implementation, and the use of appropriate methodological tools to ensure successful achievement of project objectives.

# Quality of the Project Design (0-35 points) , cont'd

**In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors (cont'd):**

- iv. The extent to which the design of the proposed project reflects up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice.
- v. The extent to which the design of the proposed project is appropriate to, and will successfully address, the needs of the target population or other identified needs.
- vi. The extent to which performance feedback and continuous improvement are integral to the design of the proposed project.

## Demonstrate how ...

- ▶ The proposed project will encourage applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability, as appropriate;
- ▶ The proposed key project personnel, consultants, and subcontractors have the qualifications and experience to carry out the proposed activities and achieve the project's intended outcomes;
- ▶ The applicant and any key partners have adequate resources to carry out the proposed activities; and
- ▶ The proposed costs are reasonable in relation to the anticipated results and benefits.

# Quality of the Management Plan: NIA Narrative

## Demonstrate how ...

- ▶ The proposed management plan will ensure that the project's intended outcomes will be achieved on time and within budget.
- ▶ Key project personnel and any consultants and subcontractors will be allocated and how these allocations are appropriate and adequate to achieve the project's intended outcomes;
- ▶ The proposed management plan will ensure that the products and services provided are of high quality, relevant, and useful to recipients; and

## Demonstrate how ...

- ▶ The proposed project will benefit from a diversity of perspectives, including those of families, educators, TA providers, researchers, and policy makers, among others, in its development and operation.
- ▶ This must include how the proposed project will engage a technical work group (TWG) comprised of individuals with expertise in assessment of children with disabilities, including those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and technology-based approaches to assessment to provide technical advice and engage with stakeholders throughout the project period.



**In determining the adequacy of resources and the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:**

- i. The adequacy of support, including facilities, equipment, supplies, and other resources, from the applicant organization or the lead applicant organization.
- ii. The relevance and demonstrated commitment of each partner in the proposed project to the implementation and success of the project.
- iii. The extent to which the time commitments of the project director and principal investigator and other key project personnel are appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives of the proposed project.

**In determining the adequacy of resources and the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors (cont'd):**

- iv. How the applicant will ensure that a diversity of perspectives are brought to bear in the operation of the proposed project, including those of parents, teachers, the business community, a variety of disciplinary and professional fields, recipients or beneficiaries of services, or others, as appropriate.
- v. The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.

# Quality of the Project Evaluation: NIA Narrative

**Include a detailed and complete description of the evaluation activities and measures to be incorporated into the proposed project's research plan and knowledge development activities. The description must include...**

- ▶ Formative and summative evaluation questions, including important process and outcome evaluation questions.
- ▶ A formative evaluation plan to address evaluation questions, consistent with the project's logic model,
- ▶ A summative evaluation plan, including a timeline and staff assignments

**In determining the quality of the proposed project evaluation, the Secretary considers the following factors:**

- i. The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the proposed project.
- ii. The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes.

# Quality of the Project Evaluation (0-20 points), cont'd

## **In determining the quality of the proposed project evaluation, the Secretary considers the following factors (cont'd):**

- iii. The extent to which the methods of evaluation provide for examining the effectiveness of project implementation strategies.
- iv. The extent to which the methods of evaluation include the use of objective performance measures that are clearly related to the intended outcomes of the project and will produce quantitative and qualitative data to the extent possible.

# Selection Criteria

- Significance of the Project (15 points)
- Quality of the Project Design (35 points)
- Adequacy of resources and quality of the management plan (30 points)
- Quality of the project evaluation (20 points)

## As you review the requirements, keep in mind:

- ▶ “Universal, general TA” means technical assistance and information provided to independent users through their own initiative, resulting in minimal interaction with project staff.
- ▶ Include how the proposed project will engage a technical work group (TWG) comprised of individuals with expertise in assessment of children with disabilities, including those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and technology-based approaches to assessment to provide technical advice and engage with stakeholders throughout the project period.

# General Requirements & Assurances

- Make positive efforts to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities
- Involve individuals with disabilities, or parents of individuals with disabilities ages birth through 26, in planning, implementing, and evaluating the project
- Maintain high-quality website including posting annual progress toward meeting project goals.
- Budget for attendance at virtual kick-off meeting and in-person Project Director's meeting
- Include, in Appendix A, an assurance to assist OSEP with the transfer of pertinent resources and products during the transition to a new award at the end of this award period, as appropriate.



# Subgrants and contracts

- ▶ A grantee under this competition **may not** award subgrants to entities to directly carry out project activities described in its application.
- ▶ Under 34 CFR 75.708(e), a grantee **may** contract for supplies, equipment, and other services in accordance with 2 CFR part 200.

# Submission Information

**Application Submission**

**Submission Tips**

**Ineligible Applications**

**Application Tips**

# Application Submission

- ▶ Applications must be submitted electronically using Grants.gov.
- ▶ Applications may not be submitted via email.
- ▶ Applications must be submitted **no later than 11:59:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on May 2, 2022**
- ▶ Application narrative sections and all other attachments to the application must be uploaded as a PDF read-only, non-modifiable format (preferred) or Microsoft Word file.

# Submission Tips

- ▶ Register early. Grants.gov may take five or more business days to complete. Be sure that your registration with the System for Award Management (SAM) is current.
- ▶ Submit early. Don't wait until the last day to submit your application. Grants.gov will put a date/time stamp on your application and then process it after it is fully uploaded.
- ▶ Verify submission is ok. Verify that Grants.gov received your submission on time and that it was validated successfully.

# Application Tips

- ▶ Maximum funding levels for each grant are noted in the notice.
- ▶ Recommended organization, page limits, spacing, and font sizes facilitate the application review process.
- ▶ Read-only, non-modifiable PDF files facilitate the consolidating of application elements and review process.
- ▶ Read carefully “Grants.gov Submission Procedures and Tips for Applicants” found in section B of the application package.

# Ineligible Applications

- ▶ Duplicate applications
- ▶ Applications received after deadline (May 2, 2022, at 11:59:59 p.m., Eastern Time).
- ▶ Applications not addressing the published priority.

Rebecca Sheffield

[Rebecca.Sheffield@ed.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Sheffield@ed.gov)

202-245-6725

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION