

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON STATE DATA COLLECTION:
**THE RHONDA WEISS NATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
CENTER TO IMPROVE STATE CAPACITY TO COLLECT, REPORT,
ANALYZE, AND USE ACCURATE IDEA DATA IN ACCESSIBLE
FORMATS (ACCESSIBLE DATA CENTER)**

ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBER CFDA 84.373Q

APPLICANT ORIENTATION

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

Today's Topics

- General Information
- Key Terms
- Absolute Priority & Purpose
- Selection Criteria
- Submission Information
- Contacts



GENERAL INFORMATION



Application Timelines

- NIA published in the Federal Register July 12, 2022.
- Applications due no later than 11:59:59 p.m. Eastern Time on August 22, 2022.

Award Information

Estimated Available Funds: \$3,000,000

Contingent upon the availability of funds and the quality of applications, we may make additional awards in FY 2023 from the list of unfunded applications from this competition

Maximum Award: We will not make an award exceeding **\$3,000,000** for a single budget period of 12 months

Project Period: ***Up to 60 months***

Estimated Number of Awards: **1**

Eligible Applicants

- SEAs
- State LAs under Part C of the IDEA
- LEAs, including public charter schools that are considered LEAs under State law
- IHEs
- Other public agencies
- Private nonprofit organizations
- Freely associated States and outlying areas
- Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations
- For-profit organizations



KEY TERMS



Open Licensing

Unless an exception applies, if you are awarded a grant under this competition, **you will be required to openly license to the public grant deliverables created in whole, or in part, with Department grant funds.** When the deliverable consists of modifications to pre-existing works, the license extends only to those modifications that can be separately identified and only to the extent that open licensing is permitted under the terms of any licenses or other legal restrictions on the use of pre-existing works.

For additional information on the open licensing requirements please refer to [2 CFR 3474.20](#).

Universal Technical Assistance

“Universal, general TA” means TA and information provided to independent users through their own initiative, resulting in minimal interaction with Accessible Data Center staff and including one-time, invited or offered conference presentations by Accessible Data Center staff.

This category of TA also includes information or products, such as newsletters, guidebooks, or research syntheses, downloaded from the Accessible Data Center's website by independent users.

Brief communications by Accessible Data Center staff with recipients, either by telephone or email, are also considered universal, general TA.

Targeted Technical Assistance

“Targeted, specialized TA” means TA services based on needs common to multiple recipients and not extensively individualized. A relationship is established between the TA recipient and one or more Accessible Data Center staff.

This category of TA includes one-time, labor-intensive events, such as facilitating strategic planning or hosting regional or national conferences. It can also include episodic, less labor-intensive events that extend over a period of time, such as facilitating a series of conference calls on single or multiple topics that are designed around the needs of the recipients.

Facilitating communities of practice can also be considered targeted, specialized TA.

Intensive Technical Assistance

“Intensive, sustained TA” means TA services often provided on-site and requiring a stable, ongoing relationship between Accessible Data Center staff and the TA recipient.

“TA services” are defined as negotiated series of activities designed to reach a valued outcome. This category of TA should result in changes to policy, program, practice, or operations that support increased recipient capacity or improved outcomes at one or more systems levels.

Logic Model and Conceptual Framework

- ▶ Logic model (as defined in 34 CFR 77.1) by which the proposed project will achieve its intended outcomes that depicts, at a minimum, the goals, activities, outputs, and intended outcomes of the proposed project;
- ▶ Use a conceptual framework (and provide a copy in Appendix A) to develop project plans and activities, describing any underlying concepts, assumptions, expectations, beliefs, or theories, as well as the presumed relationships or linkages among these variables, and any empirical support for this framework;
- ▶ *Note:* The following websites provide more information on logic models and conceptual frameworks:
 - https://osepideasthatwork.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/ConceptualFramework_Updated.pdf
 - www.osepideasthatwork.org/resources-grantees/program-areas/ta-ta/tad-project-logic-model-and-conceptual-framework .

Evidence-Based Practices

For purposes of these requirements, “evidence-based practices” (EBPs) means, at a minimum, demonstrating a rationale (as defined in [34 CFR 77.1](#)) based on high-quality research findings or positive evaluation that such activity, strategy, or intervention is likely to improve student outcomes or other relevant outcomes.

ABSOLUTE PRIORITY & PURPOSE



Absolute Priority

For FY 2022 and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applications from this competition, this priority is an absolute priority. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), **we consider only applications that meet this priority.**

Purpose

The purpose the priority is to establish the Rhonda Weiss National Technical Assistance Center to Improve State Capacity to Collect, Report, Analyze, and Use Accurate IDEA Data in Accessible Formats (Accessible Data Center)

The Accessible Data Center will increase the capacity of States to collect, report, analyze, and use the IDEA Part B and Part C data reported under IDEA sections 616 and 618 in accessible formats by:

- 1) developing an openly licensed software program** that allows States to report and publish data products that are accessible, usable, and manipulatable by persons with disabilities, particularly those with blindness, visual impairments, motor impairments, and intellectual disabilities, as well as by those persons without disabilities; and
- 2) providing TA** on accessible data reporting and publication.

Funding for the program is authorized under section 611(c)(1) of IDEA. This section gives the Secretary authority to reserve not more than 1/2 of 1 percent of the amounts appropriated under Part B for each fiscal year to provide technical assistance (TA) activities authorized under section 616(i) of IDEA to improve the capacity of States to meet the data collection and reporting requirements under Parts B and C of IDEA.

The Center is named in remembrance of Rhonda Weiss, who was a senior attorney with the U.S. Department of Education, a staunch advocate for disability rights, and a champion for ensuring equity and accessibility for persons with disabilities.

For more information on Rhonda Weiss and her work to ensure equity and accessibility for persons with disabilities please see www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2021/12/13/blind-government-lawyer-disabilities-rights/

The Accessible Data Center must achieve, at a minimum, the following expected outcomes:

- a) Improved accessibility** of the IDEA Part B and Part C data reported and published under IDEA sections 616 and 618;
- b) Increased capacity** of States to collect, report, analyze, and use high-quality IDEA Part B and Part C data in **accessible** formats;
- c) Development** of an **open license, accessible software program**, for the publication of **dynamic data products** (consistent with the open licensing requirement in 2 CFR 3474.20); and
- d) Development and documentation** of a knowledge base related to the **accessible reporting** and **dynamic presentation** of data.

Required Technical Assistance

In addition, the Accessible Data Center must provide a range of targeted and general TA products and services.

Such TA must include, at a minimum--

- a) Working with the Department to develop open-source electronic tools to assist States in reporting their IDEA data in accessible formats that allow for dynamic visualizations that can be manipulated for persons with and without disabilities. The tools must utilize accessibility best practices, exceed all Federal accessibility requirements, and be designed to accommodate continued enhancements to meet States' changing needs and updates in accessibility best practice;

- b) Developing a plan to maintain appropriate functionality of the open-source electronic tools described in paragraph (a) as changes are made to data collections, reporting requirements, accessibility best practices, and accessibility requirements;
- c) Developing universal TA products, including a user manual and instructions, and conducting training with State staff on use of the open-source electronic tools; and
- d) Developing white papers and presentations that include tools and solutions to challenges in the collection, reporting, analysis, and use of IDEA data in accessible formats.

Selection Criteria

Selection Criteria Overview

- Significance of the Project (10 points)
- Quality of Project Services and Design (35 points)
- Quality of Project Evaluation (15 points)
- Adequacy of Resources and Quality of Project Personnel (15 points)
- Quality of the Management Plan (25 points)

Scoring - Significance of the Project (0-10 points)

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

- i. 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.
- ii. The importance or magnitude of the results or outcomes likely to be attained by the proposed project.

Quality of Project Services and Design (0-35 points)

In determining the quality of project services, the Secretary considers the quality and sufficiency of strategies for ensuring equal access and treatment for eligible project participants who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.

In addition, 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 there is a conceptual framework underlying the proposed research or demonstration activities and the quality of that framework.
- iii. The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project reflect up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice.

Quality of Project Services and Design (continued)

- iv. The extent to which the training or professional development services to be provided by the proposed project are of sufficient quality, intensity, and duration to lead to improvements in practice among the recipients of those services.
- v. The extent to which the TA services to be provided by the proposed project involve the use of efficient strategies, including the use of technology, as appropriate, and the leveraging of non-project resources.

Quality of Project Evaluation (0-15 points)

In determining the quality of the 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 provide for examining the effectiveness of project implementation strategies.
- iii. The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes.
- 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.

Adequacy of Resources and Quality of Project Personnel (0-15 points)

In determining the quality of project personnel, the Secretary considers the extent to which the applicant encourages 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.

In addition, the Secretary considers the following factors:

- i. The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of the project director or principal investigator.
- ii. The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel.
- iii. The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of project consultants or subcontractors.
- iv. The qualifications, including relevant training, experience, and independence, of the evaluator.

Adequacy of Resources and Quality of Project Personnel (continued)

- v. The adequacy of support, including facilities, equipment, supplies, and other resources, from the applicant organization or the lead applicant organization.
- vi. The relevance and demonstrated commitment of each partner in the proposed project to the implementation and success of the project.
- vii. The extent to which the budget is adequate to support the proposed project.
- viii. The extent to which the costs are reasonable in relation to the objectives, design, and potential significance of the proposed project.



Quality of the Management Plan (0-25 points)

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

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.
- iii. The adequacy of mechanisms for ensuring high-quality products and services from the proposed project.
- iv. How the applicant will ensure that a diversity of perspectives is 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.

Additional Application Requirements

- Include, in Appendix A, personnel-loading charts and timelines, as applicable, to illustrate the management plan described in the narrative
- Include, in the budget, attendance at required events
- Include, in the budget, a line item for an annual set-aside of 5 percent of the grant amount to support emerging needs that are consistent with the proposed project's intended outcomes
- Maintain a high-quality website, with an easy-to-navigate design, that meets government or industry-recognized standards for accessibility; and
- Include, in Appendix A, an assurance to assist OSEP with the transfer of pertinent resources and products and to maintain the continuity of services to States during the transition to this new award period and at the end of this award period

General Requirements

- Recipients of funding under this competition must make positive efforts to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities (see section 606 of IDEA).
- Applicants for, and recipients of, funding must, with respect to the aspects of their proposed project relating to the absolute priority, involve individuals with disabilities, or parents of individuals with disabilities ages birth through 26, in planning, implementing, and evaluating the project (see section 682(a)(1)(A) of IDEA).

Submission Information

Application Package

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

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html>



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 August 22, 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.

Format and Page Limit Recommendations:

- A page is 8.5 x 11 (on one side only) with 1” margins.
- Double space all text in the application narrative including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, reference citations, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, graphs and screen shots.
- Use a font that is 12 point or larger. Times New Roman, Courier, Courier New or Arial is recommended.
- We recommend that you limit the **application narrative** to no more than 70 pages.

Submission Tips

- ▶ Register early. Grants.gov registration takes many steps, including registration with the System for Award Management (SAM, www.sam.gov). Registration on SAM usually takes 7-10 business days to complete but can take several weeks. After registration, it takes an additional 24-48 hours for active SAM registrations to be available on Grants.gov.
 - Your organization needs to update its SAM registration annually, be sure that your registration is current
 - Ensure your organization has obtained a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)

Submission Tips (continued)

- ▶ Submit early. Don't wait until the last day to submit your application. Grants.gov will put a date/time stamp on your application after it is fully uploaded. If Grants.gov rejects your application you will need to resubmit before the deadline.
- ▶ Verify submission is ok. Verify that Grants.gov received your submission on time and that it was validated successfully.

Thank You

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Grants.gov Support Desk:

1-800-518-4726, support@grants.gov

Grants.gov training:

<https://grants-portal.psc.gov/Welcome.aspx?pt=Grants>

Recording of this pre-application webinar recording can be found at:

<https://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/osep/new-osep-grants.html>