

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY, MEDIA, &
MATERIALS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES
PROGRAM:
**NATIONAL CENTER ON TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS IN LOCAL
EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES
(ALN 84.327T)**

FY 2023 APPLICANT INFORMATION SESSION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS (OSEP)

Note Regarding Webinar



- ▶ Slides are for guidance only and information has been summarized due to logistics of the session format.
- ▶ Please read the entire Notice Inviting Applications (NIA).
- ▶ Review the Common Instructions for Applicants to Department of Education Discretionary Grant Programs, published in the Federal Register on December 7, 2022 (87 FR 75045) supersede previous versions.
- ▶ Review the recorded webinar titled "Applying for Office of Special Education Programs Discretionary Grants" for additional information related to submitting your application.



- ▶ Purpose of the OSEP Technology Program
- ▶ Key Terms
- ▶ Absolute Priority & Purpose
- ▶ Application Requirements
- ▶ Additional Information
- ▶ General Requirements
- ▶ Selection Criteria

Purpose of the ETechM2 Program



Improve results for children with disabilities by:

- (1) promoting the development, demonstration, and use of technology;
- (2) supporting educational activities designed to be of educational value in the classroom;
- (3) providing support for captioning and video description that is appropriate for use in the classroom; and
- (4) providing accessible educational materials to children with disabilities in a timely manner.



► **Evidence-based** means that at a minimum, evidence that demonstrates a rationale where a key project component included in the project's logic model is informed by research or evaluation findings that suggest the project component is likely to improve relevant outcomes.

- ▶ **Framework** refers to the theories, knowledge base, policies, and practices that form the basic conceptual structure of effective systems. A framework is a guide to increase the capacity of LEAs to understand, improve, and implement effective systems.
- ▶ **Systems** refers to interrelated components (e.g., funding, professional development, data collection, accountability, and quality improvement) that need to be in place to support the identification, procurement, deployment, and effective use of assistive and instructional technology.

- ▶ **Assistive Technology Device** is defined by Section 602 of IDEA as “any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of a child with a disability.”
- ▶ **Instructional Technology** is defined as technology processes and resources that facilitate learning and improve student performance for all students.

- ▶ Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) published in the Federal Register – **December 19, 2022.**
- ▶ Applications due no later than 11:59:59 p.m. Eastern Time on **March 6, 2023.**

The purpose of this priority



- ▶ To establish and operate a National Center on Technology Systems in Local Educational Agencies
- ▶ This award will be a cooperative agreement.



- a) Increased knowledge of providers and decision-makers in LEAs about evidence-based assistive and instructional technology tools and practices (EBPs) for students with disabilities and their families
- b) Increased effective use of assistive and instructional technology in LEAs within comprehensive and sustainable SEA-aligned systems as applicable;

- c) Increased partnerships between LEAs and community stakeholders to support sustainable and comprehensive systems; and
- d) Increased capacity of providers and decision-makers to sustain comprehensive LEA and State-aligned systems for the effective use of assistive and instructional technology by students with disabilities and their families

- ▶ Significance
- ▶ Quality of Project Services
- ▶ Quality of the Project Evaluation
- ▶ Adequacy of Resources and Quality of Project Personnel
- ▶ Quality of the Management Plan

How the project will --

- 1) Address the need for LEAs to build capacity to develop and sustain systems for the equitable and effective use of assistive and instructional technology by students with disabilities and their families
- 2) Improve outcomes in equitable and effective use of assistive and instructional technology by students with disabilities and their families and indicate the likely magnitude or importance of the improvements.

How the project will --

- 1) Ensure equal access and treatment for members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.
- 2) Achieve its goals, objectives and intended outcomes.
 - Provide measurable intended outcomes
 - Logic model in Appendix A

How the project will --

- 3) Use a conceptual framework (provide 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
- 4) Be based on current research and make use of evidence-based assistive and instructional technology tools and practices (EBPs)

How the project will --

- 5) Develop products and provide services that are of high quality and sufficient intensity and duration to achieve the intended outcomes of the proposed project
 - Increase the capacity of providers and decision-makers to use the framework in LEAs
 - Provide universal technical assistance that includes dissemination of the framework
 - Provide targeted, specialized technical assistance to a minimum of 8 LEAs
 - Provide intensive, sustained technical assistance to a minimum of 2 LEAs

How the project will --

- 6) Develop products and implement services that maximize efficiency such as technology, collaboration and non-project resources or initiatives to reach project's outcomes.
- 7) Develop a dissemination plan that describes how the applicant will systematically distribute information, products, and services to varied intended audiences, using a variety of dissemination strategies, to promote awareness and use of the Center's products and services.

The evaluation plan must --

- 1) Articulate **Formative and summative** evaluation questions, including important process and outcome evaluation questions to refine the framework and continuously improve the project's products and services.
- 2) Describe how progress in and fidelity of implementation as well as project outcomes, will be measured to answer the evaluation questions.

The evaluation plan must --

- 3) Describe strategies for analyzing data and how data collected as part of this plan will be used to inform and improve service delivery over the course of the project and to refine the proposed logic model and evaluation plan, including subsequent data collection;
- 4) Provide a timeline for conducting the evaluation and include staff assignments for completing the plan.
- 5) Dedicate sufficient funds in each budget year to cover the costs of developing or refining the evaluation plan in consultation with a “third-party” evaluator.

Demonstrate how –

- 1) 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;
- 2) Key project personnel, consultants, and subcontractors have the qualifications and experience to carry out the proposed activities and achieve the project's intended outcomes;

Demonstrate how –

3. Applicant and any key partners have adequate resources to carry out the proposed activities; and
4. The proposed costs are reasonable in relation to the anticipated results and benefits.

- 1) The proposed management plan will ensure that the project's intended outcomes will be achieved on time and within budget. To address this requirement, the applicant must describe--
 - **Clearly defined responsibilities** for key project personnel, consultants, and subcontractors, as applicable; and
 - **Timelines and milestones** for accomplishing the project tasks;
- 2) The plan must address how 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;

- 3) The proposed management plan will ensure that the products and services provided are of high quality, relevant, and useful to recipients; and
- 4) 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.

- Applicant must also include--
 - Personnel-loading charts and timelines, as applicable, to illustrate the management plan described in the narrative; and
- In the budget, attendance at the following:
 - A one and one-half day kick-off meeting in Washington, DC, or virtually after receipt of the award.
 - A two and one-half-day project directors' conference in Washington, DC, or a virtual conference during each year of the project period.
 - One annual two-day trip to attend Department briefings, Department-sponsored conferences, and other meetings, as requested by OSEP.
 - A one-day intensive OSEP review meeting during the last half of the second year of the grant project period.
- Set-aside a budget of five percent per year to support emerging needs that are identified with OSEP after award is received.

- a) Must make positive effort to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities in project activities (section 606 IDEA)

- b) Must involve individuals with disabilities or parents of individuals with disabilities ages birth through 26 in planning, implementing, and evaluating the projects (see section 682(a)(1)(A) of IDEA).

Eligible Applicants:

- State Educational Agencies
- Local Educational Agencies, including public charter schools that operate as LEAs under State law
- Institutions of Higher Education
- Other public agencies;
- Private nonprofit organizations;
- Freely associated States and outlying areas;
- Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations; and
- For-profit organizations.

Award Information:

Maximum Award: We will not make an award exceeding \$700,000 for a single budget period of 12 months.

Estimated Number of Awards: **1**

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

Applicants must provide a budget for **all 5 years (60 months)**

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.

Selection Criteria

- a. Significance **(15 points)**
- b. Quality of the Project Services **(30 points)**
- c. Quality of the Project Evaluation **(20 points)**
- d. Adequacy of Resources and Quality of the Project Personnel **(20 points)**
- e. Quality of Management Plan **(15 points)**

- ▶ The Secretary considers the significance of the proposed project:
 - The significance of the problem or issue to be addressed;
 - The likelihood that the proposed project will result in system change or improvement;
 - The extent to which the proposed project is likely to build local capacity to provide, improve, or expand services that address the needs of the target population; and
 - The potential replicability of the proposed project or strategies, including, as appropriate, the potential for implementation in a variety of settings.

- ▶ The Secretary considers the quality of the project services of the proposed project:
 - 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.
 - Extent to which the services to be provided are appropriate to the needs of the intended recipients or beneficiaries of those services;
 - Extent to which the services to be provided reflect up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice;
 - Impact of services to be provided on the intended recipients of those services;

- ▶ The Secretary considers the quality of the project services of the proposed project:
 - Extent to which the training or professional development services 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;
 - Extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project involve the collaboration of appropriate partners for maximizing the effectiveness of project services; and
 - 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 (20 points)

- ▶ The Secretary considers the evaluation of the proposed project:
 - Extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the proposed project;
 - 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;
 - Extent to which the methods of evaluation provide for examining the effectiveness of project implementation strategies;
 - Extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes; and
 - Extent to which the proposed project plan includes sufficient resources to conduct the project evaluation effectively.

▶ The Secretary considers the Adequacy of Resources and Quality of the Project Personnel of the proposed project:

- 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.
- Qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel; project consultants or subcontractors;
- Adequacy of support, including facilities, equipment, supplies, and other resources, from the applicant organization or the lead applicant organization;
- Relevance and demonstrated commitment of each partner in the proposed project to the implementation and success of the project; and
- Extent to which the costs are reasonable in relation to the objectives, design, and potential significance of the proposed project.

- ▶ The Secretary considers the Quality of Management Plan of the proposed project:
 - 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;
 - 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;
 - 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; and
 - Adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project.

Anita.Vermeer@ed.gov

202-987-0155

Grants.gov Support Desk

Email at: support@grants.gov

1-800-518-4726

Grants.gov training:

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

OSEP

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

Home: www.ed.gov/osers/osep

Blog: <https://sites.ed.gov/osers>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/ED_Sped_Rehab

YouTube: www.youtube.com/c/OSERS