

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY, MEDIA, & MATERIALS FOR
INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM:
**DEVELOPMENT OF INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY TOOLS OR
APPROACHES TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH
DISABILITIES
(ALN 84.327R)**

FY 2023 APPLICANT INFORMATION SESSION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS (OSEP)

Note Regarding Information Session



- ▶ 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 the version published on December 27, 2021.
- ▶ 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
- ▶ Absolute Priority & Purpose
- ▶ Key Terms
- ▶ Application Requirements
- ▶ Additional and General Requirements
- ▶ Award Information and Eligible Applicants
- ▶ 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.



- ▶ **Absolute Priority 1:** Supporting Technology-Based Approaches to Transition Experiences for Secondary Students with Sensory Disabilities.
- ▶ **Absolute Priority 2:** Field-Initiated Projects to Develop Innovative Technology for Individuals with Disabilities.
- ▶ Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), we consider only applications that meet either **Absolute Priority 1** or **Absolute Priority 2**.
- ▶ Applicants may apply under both absolute priorities but **must submit separate applications**.
- ▶ Applicants must clearly identify if the proposed project addresses **Absolute Priority 1** or **Absolute Priority 2**.

For the purposes of this priority, “evidence-based” means, at a minimum, evidence that demonstrates a rationale (as defined in 34 CFR 77.1), 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.

- ▶ Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) published in the Federal Register – **February 13, 2023.**
- ▶ Applications due no later than 11:59:59 p.m. Eastern Time on **April 14, 2023.**

Purpose of Absolute Priorities

- 1) **Supporting Technology-Based Approaches to Transition Experiences for Secondary Students with Sensory Disabilities:** The purpose of this priority is to fund projects to establish and operate evidence-based transition experience programs that integrate accessible technology-based tools and approaches to support secondary students with sensory disabilities.
- 2) **Field-Initiated Projects to Develop Innovative Technology for Individuals with Disabilities:** The purpose of this priority is to fund field-initiated projects to develop accessible innovative technology to increase outcomes for individuals with disabilities receiving early intervention under Part C of IDEA or special education under Part B of IDEA, including those with the highest support needs.

Absolute Priority 2

Field-Initiated Projects to Develop Innovative Technology for Individuals with Disabilities

- a) Increased student-centered learning approaches that leverage technology to address learner variability (e.g., universal design for learning, K–12 competency-based education, project-based learning, or hybrid/blended learning) and increased provision of high-quality learning content, applications, or tools that take into account race, ethnicity, culture, language, and disability to address students' social, emotional, mental health, or academic needs.
- b) Increased engagement for individuals with disabilities and, where appropriate, families of individuals with disabilities in educational, functional, or supplemental activities that extend learning time or increase independence.

- c) Increased use of technology to enable evidence-based approaches to personalized learning for students with disabilities in the classroom or support supplemental activities that extend learning time and increase student and, where appropriate, parent engagement.
- d) Increased use of technology to expand the number and proportion of underserved students with disabilities who enroll in postsecondary readiness education programs, which may include strategies related to college or technical school preparation, awareness, application, selection, advising, counseling, and enrollment.

Application Requirements: Absolute Priority 2

Significance

Describe how the innovative technology proposed for development by the project will--

- (1) Accomplish at least one of the required outcomes;
- (2) Maximize the academic, social, and functional skills of individuals with disabilities and improve their access to evidence-based learning experiences; and
- (3) Address each of the selection criteria for this section.

Application Requirements: Absolute Priority 2

Quality of Project Design and Services

▶ Demonstrate how the proposed 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. To meet this requirement, the applicant must describe how it will --

- Identify the needs of the target population; and
- Ensure that the innovative technology proposed for development will meet the needs of the target population;

(2) Utilize and refine a design process that moves the innovative technology from idea to implementation;

▶ Demonstrate how the proposed project will—

(3) Develop and refine the vision, plan, and innovation to achieve the intended project outcomes. To meet this requirement, the applicant must provide--

(i) Measurable intended project outcomes; and

(ii) In Appendix A, the 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;

► Demonstrate how the proposed project will—

(4) Be based on current research and make use of EBPs. To meet this requirement, the applicant must describe how the proposed project will incorporate current research and practices in the development of the innovative technology;

(5) 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 innovative technology; and

(6) Address each of the selection criteria for this section.

Application Requirements: Absolute Priority 2

Quality of the Project Evaluation

- ▶ Include an evaluation plan for the project.
- ▶ The evaluation plan must:
 - Articulate formative and summative evaluation questions, including important process and outcome evaluation questions. These questions should be related to the project's proposed logic model required in paragraph (b)(3) of this notice;
 - Describe how project outcomes will be measured to answer the evaluation questions. Specify the measures and associated instruments or sources for data appropriate to the evaluation questions. Include information regarding reliability and validity of measures where appropriate;
 - Describe strategies for analyzing data and how data collected as part of this plan will be used to inform and improve the project and to refine the proposed logic model and evaluation plan, including subsequent data collection;

► The evaluation plan must:

- Provide a timeline for conducting the evaluation and include staff assignments for completing the plan. The timeline must indicate that the data will be available annually for the annual performance report (APR);
- Dedicate sufficient funds in each budget year to cover the costs of developing or refining the evaluation plan, as well as the costs associated with the implementation of the evaluation; and
- Address each of the selection criteria for this section.

Application Requirements: Absolute Priority 2

Adequacy of Resources & Quality of Project Personnel

- ▶ The applicant must 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;
 - The proposed costs are reasonable in relation to the anticipated results and benefits; and
 - The proposed project will address each of the selection criteria for this section.

Application Requirements: Absolute Priority 2

Quality of the Management Plan

- ▶ The applicant must demonstrate how--
 - 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;
 - 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 applicant must demonstrate how--
 - The proposed management plan will ensure that the products and resources provided are of high quality, relevant, and useful to recipients;
 - The proposed project will benefit from a diversity of perspectives, including those of families, educators, researchers, and policy makers, among others, in its development and operation; and
 - The proposed project will address each of the selection criteria for this section.

Additional Requirements

Absolute Priority 1

AND

Absolute Priority 2

- ▶ Personnel-loading charts and timelines
- ▶ Budget for attendance at all meetings and events as outlined in the Notice Inviting Applications
- ▶ If proposed, maintain a high-quality website, with an easy-to-navigate design, that meets government or industry-recognized standards for accessibility and includes relevant information about the project's annual progress toward meeting project outcomes; and
- ▶ An assurance to assist OSEP with the transfer and dissemination of pertinent resources and products at the end of this award period, as appropriate.

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

- ▶ Awards will be Cooperative Agreements
- ▶ Estimated Range of Awards: **\$450,000 to \$500,000 per year.**
- ▶ Maximum Award: We will not make an award exceeding **\$500,000** for a single budget period of 12 months.
- ▶ Estimated Number of Awards: **4**
- ▶ Project Period: **Up to 60 months**

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.

- ▶ 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 50 pages.

- ▶ Significance **(15 points)**
- ▶ Quality of Project Design and Services **(30 points)**
- ▶ Quality of the Project Evaluation **(15 points)**
- ▶ Adequacy of Resources and Quality of the Project Personnel **(20 points)**
- ▶ Quality of the Management Plan **(20 points)**

Contact Information & Thank You



Absolute Priority 2: Christina.Diamond@ed.gov

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>



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