

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY, MEDIA, &  
MATERIALS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

PROGRAM:

**STEPPING UP TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTATION  
(ALN 84.327S)**

**FY 2024 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)
- ▶ 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 & Eligible Applicants
- ▶ Absolute Priority & Purpose of Stepping Up Technology
- ▶ Key Terms
- ▶ Application Requirements
- ▶ Selection Criteria
- ▶ Budget and Additional Requirements
- ▶ Additional Information

# 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.

# 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.



# The purpose and funding of this priority:

Absolute priority:

- ▶ Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to Meet Individual Needs of Students with Disabilities Through Learning and Assessment.
- ▶ To fund four cooperative agreements for four projects.
- ▶ Estimated Range of Awards: **\$350,000 to \$375,000 per year** for five years.

The term “**artificial intelligence**” or “AI” has the meaning set forth in 15 U.S.C. 9401 (3): a machine-based system that can, for a given set of human-defined objectives, make predictions, recommendations, or decisions influencing real or virtual environments. Artificial intelligence systems use machine- and human-based inputs to perceive real and virtual environments; abstract such perceptions into models through analysis in an automated manner; and use model inference to formulate options for information or action.

**Educators** Include teachers, early childhood providers, administrators, paraprofessionals, and other providers.

**Setting** An instructional setting can be an environment that is regulated by the public school or an “early childhood education program,” as defined under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, within the local educational agency (LEA)

**Site** is a public-school building or an “early childhood education program,” as defined under the Higher Education Act, within the local educational agency (LEA)



For purposes of this priority, “**Promising evidence** means that there is evidence of the effectiveness of a key project component in improving a relevant outcome, based on a relevant finding from one”... of three factors.

- ▶ See Footnote on page A-11 of the Application package.
- ▶ Note: **Evidence of Effectiveness form** can be found in the application package on page E-32.

## Open Licensing Requirements:

- ▶ 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.

- ▶ Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) published in the Federal Register – **March 1, 2024.**
- ▶ Applications due no later than 11:59:59 p.m. Eastern Time on **April 30, 2024.**

Note: Sam.gov can take 2 weeks to process

- ▶ Reviews will be completed by July 1, 2024
- ▶ Awards will be made no later than September 30, 2024

## Applications from New Potential Grantees (0 or 3 points):

- ▶ Applicant has not had an active discretionary grant under the 84.327S program in the five years before the deadline date for submission of applications under the program.
- ▶ For the purpose of this priority, a grant or contract is active until the end of the grant's or contract's project or funding period, including any extensions of those periods that extend the grantee's or contractor's authority to obligate funds.

# Expected Outcomes

# Minimum Expected Outcomes (Total of 5)



- a) Improved student outcomes using an evidence-based technology-based tool or approach that integrates AI;
- b) Improved educator use and knowledge of an evidence-based technology-based tool or approach using AI to deliver effective instruction to students with disabilities;



# Minimum Expected Outcomes (Total of 5)



- c) Improved educator collaboration and professional learning opportunities focusing on improving outcomes for student with disabilities using an evidence-based technology-based tool or approach using AI;
- d) Improved educator and family engagement regarding the use of an evidence-based technology-based tool or approach using AI to support student learning; and
- e) Sustained use of the evidence-based technology-based tool or approach using AI by aligning its use with existing instructional priorities and initiatives.



# Must Describe Requirements ....



# Applicants must describe the--

- a) Evidence-based technology-based tool or approach that is ready to use at the time of the application submission. If the AI component is not yet completed, describe how this will be integrated within the first year and how it will enhance the current developed technology-based tool or approach;
- b) Outcomes of students with disabilities that will be improved by implementing the technology-based tool or approach using AI;

# Applicants must describe the --

- c) Approach to increase educators' use and knowledge of the technology-based tool or approach using AI to improve the outcomes of students with disabilities in an instructional setting; and
- d) Fully **accessible** products and resources that will help educators and families to effectively use and implement the technology-based tool or approach using AI

(See for example, [NIST AI Risk Management Framework](#)— information on managing risks across the AI lifecycle).

# Narrative Requirements and Selection Criteria

Significance

Quality of the Project Services

Quality of the Project Evaluation

Adequacy of Resources and Quality of the Project Personnel

Quality of the Management Plan

# Significance

▶ Address the need for a technology-based tool or approach that integrates AI

(1) Verify that the developed technology-based tool or approach and core components of the intervention are based on at least promising evidence;

(2) Describe how AI will be used with the identified technology-based tool or approach and describe the potential to improve student outcomes;

(3) Describe the current impact and reach of the technology-based tool or approach that is currently developed and include the population of users and, if the applicant has received any Federal funding within the last three years related to this technology-based tool or approach, describe how the funding impacted the reach and current use;

▶ Address the need for a technology-based tool or approach that integrates AI

(4) Identify how the technology-based tool or approach using AI will improve educators' pedagogy and their capacity to deliver effective instruction for students with disabilities in PK–12 instructional settings;

(5) Identify how the technology-based tool or approach using AI will improve parent/family engagement/partnership to support student learning;

(6) Present applicable national, State, regional, or local data demonstrating the need for the identified technology-based tool or approach using AI to enhance the outcomes for students with disabilities;

► Address the need for a technology-based tool or approach that integrates AI

(7) Identify how the proposed technology-based tool or approach using AI aligns with current policies, procedures, and practices used by educators to enhance the outcomes for students with disabilities; and

(8) Identify systemic barriers, gaps, or challenges, including challenges to using the identified technology-based tool or approach using AI.

# Selection Criteria

## Significance (15 points)

- (1) The Secretary considers the significance of the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the significance of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:
  - (i) The significance of the problem or issue to be addressed by the proposed project;
  - (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 potential contribution of the proposed project to increased knowledge or understanding of educational problems, issues, or effective strategies; and
  - (iv) The potential replicability of the proposed project or strategies, including, as appropriate, the potential for implementation in a variety of settings.



# Quality of Project 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--

- (i) Identify the target population, including students with disabilities and their educators, that the applicant will service, the need that population has for the technology-based tool or approach, and the intended recipients for ongoing professional learning and coaching support; and
- (ii) Ensure that **products and resources** meet the needs of the intended recipients of the grant;

- ▶ Demonstrate how the proposed project will—
- ▶ (2) Utilize a design process for the implementation approach that promotes sustainability of the technology-based tool or approach using AI beyond the life of the project;
- ▶ (3) Achieve its goals, objectives, and intended outcomes. To meet this requirement, the applicant must provide measurable intended project outcomes;

► Demonstrate how the proposed project will—

(4) Be based on current research. To meet this requirement, the applicant must—

(i) Describe how the proposed project will align with current research, policies, and practices related to the benefits, services, or opportunities that are available using the technology-based tool or approach;

(ii) Describe how the proposed project will incorporate current and evidence-based research and practices, including research and practices relating to accessibility and usability, to guide the development and delivery of its products and resources; and

(iii) Document that the technology-based tool or approach to be used by the proposed project is developed, has been tested and shown to have promising evidence, and addresses, at a minimum, the following principles of universal design for learning:

- Multiple means of representation so that information can be delivered in more than one way (e.g., specialized software and websites, screen readers that include features such as text-to-speech, changeable color contrast, alterable text size, or selection of different reading levels);
- Multiple means of expression that allow knowledge to be exhibited through options (e.g., writing, online concept mapping, or speech-to-text programs, where appropriate); and
- Multiple means of engagement to stimulate interest in and motivation for learning (e.g., individual or group learning experiences or activities, learner choice)

▶ Demonstrate how the proposed project will—

(5) Develop and implement products and resources that are of high quality and sufficient intensity and duration to achieve the intended outcomes of the proposed project. To address this requirement, the applicant must—

(i) Provide a plan for recruiting and selecting sites from a variety of instructional settings that include the targeted population including students with disabilities, which must include the following

▶ Two Product and Resource Development sites

▶ Three Pilot Sites

▶ Five Dissemination Sites

- *Note: A site may not serve in more than one category ( i.e., development, pilot, dissemination);*

- ▶ Demonstrate how the proposed project will—
- ▶ (ii) Describe how the project will incorporate components from implementation science to select sites for continued use of the technology-based tool or approach using AI and support and sustain such continued use at the selected site;
- ▶ (iii) Provide a plan to systematically disseminate information about the technology-based tool or approach using AI to varied audiences throughout the project period. To address this requirement the applicant must describe—

# Project Services (slide 7 of 7)

- ▶ Demonstrate how the proposed project will—
  - ▶ (A) The variety of dissemination strategies the project will use throughout the five years of the project to promote awareness and use of its technology-based tool or approach using AI;
  - ▶ (B) How the project will tailor dissemination strategies across all years of technology refinements and to ensure that, by the end of year two, the technology-based tool or approach can be accessed by, is reaching, and is used by intended recipients;
  - ▶ (C) Dissemination efforts that will go beyond conference presentations and articles and reach intended audiences to support implementation and scale up and increase the use of the technology-based tool or approach using AI by intended users;
  - ▶ (D) How the project's dissemination plan is connected to the proposed outcomes of the project; and
  - ▶ (E) How the project will ensure that all digital products and all external communications are routinely evaluated for and, if necessary, remediated to meet or exceed government or industry-recognized standards for accessibility; and
- ▶ (iv) Provide assurances that all products or tools developed with project funds will be open educational resources



# Selection Criteria

## Quality of Project Services (30 points).

- (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project, 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.
- (3) In addition, the Secretary considers the following factors:
  - (i) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project reflect up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice;
  - (ii) 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;
  - (iii) The 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;
  - (iv) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project are appropriate to the needs of the intended recipients or beneficiaries of those services; and
  - (v) The likely impact of the services to be provided by the proposed project on the intended recipients of those services.

# Quality of the Project Evaluation

► The evaluation plan must:

(1) Provide a logic model or conceptual framework that depicts, at a minimum, the goals, activities, project evaluation, methods, performance measures, outputs, and intended outcomes of the proposed project;

(2) Provide a plan, linked to the proposed project's logic model or conceptual framework, for a formative evaluation of the proposed project's activities. The plan must describe how the formative evaluation will use clear performance objectives to ensure continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project, including objective measures of progress in implementing the project and ensuring the quality of products and resources;

(3) Describe a plan or method for assessing—

- (i) The development and pilot sites' educator training use and needs and the knowledge and availability of dedicated on-site technology training personnel;
- (ii) The readiness of pilot sites to pilot or try-out the technology-based tool or approach using AI, including, at a minimum, their current infrastructure, technology or instructional alignment, available resources, and ability to build capacity;
- (iii) Whether the technology-based tool or approach using AI has achieved its intended outcomes; and
- (iv) The ongoing professional learning needs of educators to implement with fidelity;

- (4) Describe a plan to collect formative and summative data from the professional learning to refine and evaluate the products and resources;
- (5) Describe a plan or method for assessing whether dissemination efforts are increasing the knowledge and use by the intended users of the technology-based tool or approach using AI and the developed products and resources;
- (6) Describe a plan to collect summative data to report on the quality, relevance, usefulness, and efficacy of the technology-based tool or approach using AI and its products and resources; and

(7) Provide an assurance that, by the end of the project period, the project will provide—

(i) Information supported by the project evaluation on the products and resources, including accessibility features, that will enable other sites to implement and sustain implementation of the technology-based tool or approach using AI;

(ii) Information in the project's final performance report, including implementation data, on how intended users ( e.g., educators, families, and students) utilized the technology-based tool or approach using AI; how the technology-based tool or approach was implemented with fidelity; and the effectiveness of the technology-based tool or approach using AI in improving outcomes for students with disabilities;

(iii) Data on how the technology-based tool or approach using AI changed educators' practices; and

(iv) A plan for continuing to disseminate or scale up the technology-based tool or approach using AI and accompanying products beyond the sites directly involved in the project.

# Selection Criteria

## Quality of the project evaluation (20 points).

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the evaluation to be conducted of the proposed project.

(2) 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 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;

(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 will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes; and

(v) The extent to which the evaluation plan clearly articulates the key project components, mediators, and outcomes, as well as a measurable threshold for acceptable implementation.

# Adequacy of Resources & Quality of Project Personnel



► The applicant must demonstrate how –

(1) Proposed project will encourage applications for employment and project activity opportunities 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) 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 and how the proposed project team will include qualified experts on topics such as technology, education theory, practice, research methods, and scale-up or commercialization to support sustainability and dissemination;

(3) Applicant and any key partners have adequate resources to carry out the proposed activities; and

(4) Proposed costs are reasonable in relation to the anticipated results and benefits.

# Selection Criteria

## Adequacy of resources and quality of project personnel (20 points)

(1) The Secretary considers the adequacy of resources for the proposed project and the quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project.

(2) 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.

(3) In addition, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel;

(ii) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of project consultants or subcontractors;

(iii) The adequacy of support, including facilities, equipment, supplies, and other resources, from the applicant organization or the lead applicant organization;

(iv) The relevance and demonstrated commitment of each partner in the proposed project to the implementation and success of the project; and

(v) 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

- ▶ The applicant must demonstrate how--
- ▶ (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—
  - ▶ (i) Clearly defined responsibilities for key project personnel, consultants, and subcontractors, as applicable; and
  - ▶ (ii) Timelines and milestones for accomplishing the project tasks;

- ▶ The applicant must demonstrate how--
- ▶ (2) 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 resources 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, researchers, and policy makers, among others, in its development and operation.

# Selection Criteria

## Quality of the management plan (15 points)

- (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project.
- (2) 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) 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
  - (iv) The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project.

# Selection Criteria Review

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

# Additional Requirements and Information



- ▶ Applicants must provide a budget for **all 5 years (60 months)**
- ▶ Budget for attendance at all meetings and events as outlined in the Notice Inviting Applications
  - (i) A one-day kick-off meeting in Washington, DC, after receipt of the award, and an annual planning meeting in Washington, DC
  - (ii) A three-day project directors' conference in Washington, DC, annually
  - (iii) One annual trip, to attend Department briefings, Department-sponsored conferences, and other meetings, as requested by OSEP.

- ▶ Logic Model or Conceptual Framework
- ▶ Personnel-loading charts and timelines
- ▶ 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).

- ▶ A grantee under this competition may award subgrants—to directly carry out project activities described in its application—to the following types of entities: IHEs, nonprofit organizations suitable to carry out the activities proposed in the application, and other public agencies.
- ▶ The grantee may award subgrants to entities it has identified in an approved application or that it selects through a competition under procedures established by the grantee.

\*Note: “*Approved application*” is what you are awarded with and discussed at your initial kick-off meeting with OSEP.

- ▶ Estimated Range of Awards: **\$350,000 to \$375,000 per year.**
- ▶ Maximum Award: We will not make an award exceeding \$375,000 for a single budget period of 12 months.
- ▶ Estimated Number of Awards: **4**
- ▶ Project Period: **Up to 60 months**
- ▶ Applicants must provide a budget for **all 5 years (60 months)**

- ▶ 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.

- ▶ Proposed award starting date: August 1, 2024
- ▶ Development vs implementation
- ▶ Dissemination and Scale up
- ▶ Budgeting and timeline schedules

# Sites and Example Schedule 1

- ▶ \*Note: This is just a basic outline of an example. Projects may propose their own schedule and should provide more details.
- ▶ Year 1: Product and resource development (2 sites)
- ▶ Year 2: Pilot Study (2 sites)
- ▶ Year 3: Pilot Study (1 site) and begin dissemination activities
- ▶ Year 4: Dissemination Study (5 sites)
- ▶ Year 5: Scale up and Dissemination activities

- ▶ \*Note: This is just a basic outline of an example. Projects may propose their own schedule and should provide more details.
- ▶ Year 1: Product and resource development (2 sites)
- ▶ Year 2: Pilot Study (1 site)
- ▶ Year 3: Pilot Study (2 sites)
- ▶ Year 4: Dissemination Study (5 sites)
- ▶ Year 5: Scale up and Dissemination activities



# Budget Sample 1

- ▶ \*Note: This is just a basic outline of an example. Projects may propose their own schedule and should provide more details.  
As written in the NIA up to \$200,000 of funds awarded in the first budget period for project development activities, including technology enhancement
- ▶ Year 1 \$200,000 on technology enhancements + \$150,000 on other
- ▶ Year 2 \$375,000
- ▶ Year 3 \$375,000
- ▶ Year 4 \$375,000
- ▶ Year 5 \$350,000

# Budget Sample 2

- ▶ \*Note: This is just a basic outline of an example. Projects may propose their own schedule and should provide more details.  
As written in the NIA up to \$200,000 of funds awarded in the first budget period for project development activities, including technology enhancement
- ▶ Year 1 \$100,000 on technology enhancements + \$175,000 on other
- ▶ Year 2 \$350,000
- ▶ Year 3 \$375,000
- ▶ Year 4 \$375,000
- ▶ Year 5 \$350,000

# Section 427 GEPA Statement



## NOTICE TO ALL APPLICANTS: EQUITY FOR STUDENTS, EDUCATORS, AND OTHER PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES

Section 427 of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) ([20 U.S.C. 1228a](#)) applies to applicants for grant awards under this program.

**ALL APPLICANTS FOR NEW GRANT AWARDS MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN THEIR APPLICATIONS TO ADDRESS THIS PROVISION IN ORDER TO RECEIVE FUNDING UNDER THIS PROGRAM.**

Please respond to the following requests for information:

1. Describe how your entity's existing mission, policies, or commitments ensure equitable access to, and equitable participation in, the proposed project or activity.

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2. Based on your proposed project or activity, what barriers may impede equitable access and participation of students, educators, or other beneficiaries?

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3. Based on the barriers identified, what steps will you take to address such barriers to equitable access and participation in the proposed project or activity?

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4. What is your timeline, including targeted milestones, for addressing these identified barriers?

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Notes:

Applicants must respond to each question on the standard form for the General Education Provisions Act and submit the form with its grant application package.

For Grants.gov application submissions:

The updated form is integrated into Grants.gov and no longer needs to be uploaded as PDF.

The form is electronic and each text box response allows 4,000 characters.

An error message is received if a response is missing and the form can not be saved.



# GEPA Form Instructions



- ▶ Applicants may *identify any barriers that may impede equitable access and participation in* the proposed project or activity, including, but not limited to, barriers based on economic disadvantage, gender, race, ethnicity, color, national origin, disability, age, language, migrant status, rural status, homeless status or housing insecurity, pregnancy, parenting, or caregiving status, and sexual orientation.
- ▶ Applicants are *not required to have mission statements or policies that align with equity* in order to submit an application.
- ▶ Applicants may have *already included some or all this required information in the narrative sections of their applications or their State Plans*. In responding to this requirement, for each question, applicants *may provide a cross-reference to the section(s) and page number(s)* in their applications or State Plans that includes the information responsive to that question on this form or may restate that information on this form.



# GEPA Form Instructions continued



- ▶ Applicants must respond to each question using the associated text box. Each text box *allows approximately 4000 characters*; therefore, if copying and pasting into the text box from another document be sure to check that everything copied.
- ▶ Applicants should *use the “check for errors” button* before they save the form. Applicants will receive an error message if any response is missing and will not be able to submit the application due to the missing information.
- ▶ Applicants that have *already undertaken steps* to address barriers must *still provide an explanation and/or description of the steps* already taken in each text box, as appropriate, to satisfy the GEPA Section 427 requirement.
- ▶ Applicants that *believe no barriers exist* must *still provide an explanation and/or description* to each question to *validate that perception*, as appropriate, to satisfy the GEPA Section 427 requirement.



- ▶ You must provide the UEI on your application that was used when you registered as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) on Grants.gov.
- ▶ This UEI is assigned to your organization in SAM at the time your organization registers in SAM. If you do not enter the UEI assigned by SAM on your application, Grants.gov will reject your application.
- ▶ If you have questions resources are available at [FSD.gov](https://www.fsd.gov) or contact General Services Administration at: [entityvalidation@gsa.gov](mailto:entityvalidation@gsa.gov)

- ▶ Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) published in the Federal Register – **March 1, 2024.**
- ▶ **Applications due** no later than 11:59:59 p.m. Eastern Time on **April 30, 2024.**  
Note: Sam.gov can take 2 weeks to process if you need a Unique Entity Identifier
- ▶ Reviews will be completed by July 1, 2024
- ▶ All applicants will be notified of their review and given feedback
- ▶ Awards will be made no later than September 30, 2024

- ▶ Read the entire notice to ensure your proposal aligns with the information that is required and requested.
  - Read the **footnotes** to understand the definitions to align your proposal.
  - Refer to the five **outcomes** and align them with your framework or logic model.
  - Clearly describe your **evidence** (of at least promising) and how it relates to the technology tool or approach that is already developed and if applicable how any modifications may or may not impact the evidence.
- ▶ Ensure you give yourself time to get other pieces in place such as UEI, G5/G6 submissions, etc.



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

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