

Grant Title: INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES - EDUCATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER PROGRAM: NATIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER ON DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND INSTRUCTION (84.305C)

Funding Opportunity Number: CFDA Number: 84.305C.

Agency/Department: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences (IES).

Area of Research: To strengthen the evidence base and help policymakers and practitioners improve student outcomes.

Release and Expiration: Release Date: April 23, 2013.

Application Deadline: September 4, 2013. Letter of Intent Due Date: June 6, 2013.

Amount: The maximum award for an R&D Center on Developmental Education Assessment and Instruction is \$10,000,000 (total cost = direct costs + indirect costs).

Length of Support: The maximum duration of an R&D Center on Developmental Education Assessment and Instruction is 5 years.

Eligible Applicants: Eligible applicants include, but are not limited to, non-profit and for-profit organizations and public and private agencies and institutions, such as colleges and universities.

Summary: The Institute seeks to create a national Research and Development Center on Developmental Education Assessment and Instruction to conduct research that will 1) document current practices, 2) identify promising programs and support further innovation, and 3) rigorously evaluate the effectiveness of programs that are already serving large numbers of students or that have the potential to be expanded, and assess the scalability of these programs (e.g., cost-effectiveness, ease of implementation). The institute also seeks to engage in leadership and outreach activities that will 4) convene policymakers, practitioners, and researchers interested in improving developmental education and 5) assist efforts by States, colleges, and universities to bring effective models to scale. Though there is widespread dissatisfaction with developmental education assessment and instruction as conventionally delivered, there is not much evidence on the impact of alternative approaches. With the exception of summer bridge programs and learning communities, most evaluations have been limited to one or two sites and have relied on quasi-experimental methods. Finally, there has been relatively little attention to the scalability of alternative strategies for developmental education assessment and instruction (e.g., whether they can be implemented easily and are cost-effective). In response, the Institute is establishing a National Research and Development Center for Developmental Education Assessment and Instruction to strengthen the evidence base and help policymakers and practitioners improve student outcomes. There are three major components of the focused program of research for the Center: one descriptive study and two evaluation studies. The goal of the descriptive study is to provide policymakers with better information on developmental education practices (both assessments and instruction) that are currently being used. The goal of the evaluation studies is to determine whether particular instructional practices or assessments are more likely to lead to improved student outcomes (e.g., reading proficiency, progression through developmental programs). The Institute expects that the Center will be prepared to start the descriptive study at the beginning of the performance period and that one of the two evaluation studies will start soon thereafter. The second study may follow at a later point and build off of the findings from one of the other studies.

Detailed Information: http://ies.ed.gov/funding/pdf/2014_84305C.pdf