Grant Title: INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES - RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAMS IN THE EDUCATION SCIENCES: METHODS TRAINING FOR EDUCATION RESEARCHERS (84.305B)

Funding Opportunity Number: CFDA Number: 84.305B.

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

Area of Research: Support training of current education researchers to maintain and upgrade their methodological skills.

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

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

Amount: The maximum amount of the award is $1,000,000 (total cost = direct + indirect costs). The Institute does not intend for the maximum award to be interpreted as suggesting that only large projects are to be funded under the Methods Training topic. The Institute is interested in applications proposing high-quality training that can be done for much smaller amounts of funding (e.g., $50,000)

Length of Support: The maximum length of the grant is 3 years.

Eligible Applicants: Eligible applicants include institutions in the United States and its territories including nonprofit and for-profit organizations and public and private agencies and institutions, such as colleges and universities.

Summary: The Institute's training programs are intended to help ensure that researchers have the skills to produce research that is rigorous in method as well as relevant and accessible to education stakeholders such as practitioners and policymakers. Methods Training for Education Researchers (Methods Training) is intended to support training of current education researchers to maintain and upgrade their methodological skills. The focus on improving the rigor of education research has led to an ongoing development and adaptation of methods concerning the design of education studies and analysis of the data collected. The Institute currently supports two such projects which provide summer workshops on cluster randomized trials and quasi-experimental designs for education researchers. These projects also prepared videos of the workshops that are shared online for non-attendees (see http://ies.ed.gov/funding/videos.asp). The Institute is interested in funding additional projects on these and other methodological issues (of similar or smaller scope). Examples of other training topics might include training researchers in (1) the formation and analysis of longitudinal data sets based on State or district administrative data, (2) iterative and design-based processes used in the development and implementation of education interventions, (3) cost and cost-effectiveness analysis for education research, and (4) methods for working with education practitioners and policymakers when conducting research. The Institute is open to the use of other formats in addition to the summer workshop especially those that provide ongoing training over a longer period and can be directly applied to the real-world issues faced by participants. The Institute expects the grantee to provide the following at the end of a Methods Training project: 1. A description of the training program as realized over the course of the grant including descriptions of all key components discussed in the original application. 2. Data demonstrating the program's success in recruiting and training participants and their perceived value of the training. 3. A fully specified description of measures used to track the progress of participants through the training program. 4. A determination of the program's success in preparing participants with the appropriate skills described in the original application including the following: the participants' use of the methods taught in in a Methods Training project; opportunities for non-participants to benefit from the project (e.g., online videos of the training, availability of comprehensive training materials); and analysis of the cost per participant training including recruitment efforts. 5. Recommendations for future training programs.

Detailed Information: http://ies.ed.gov/funding/pdf/2014_84305B.pdf