Accompanying Directions for IES Education Research Grants RFP

The Institute of Education Sciences largely supports several different types of research – exploratory (which could be correlational), intervention (experimental, quasi-experimental or regression discontinuity) research, and methodological (measurement) research on instrument development. The IES is interested in funding a wide variety of topical areas – reflected by the 13 topics on pp. 11 – 36 of the RFP. Your first step should be to select one of these 13 topical areas that mirrors your interests and an area of study about which you have read and thought throughout your Ph. D. program.

The IES also supports five different kinds of grant proposals for each of the 13 topical areas, described on pp. 7 – 9 of the RFP. The first – Exploratory Research – can be correlational or descriptive research designed to help identify potentially best practices in education. The next three – Development and Innovation, Efficacy and Replication, and Scale-Up Evaluation – are focused on increasingly more elaborate intervention research. The fifth – Measurement – supports validation research on education measurement (instrument development). Your second step should be to select one of these five types of research on which you want to develop your proposal.

Your third step would be to read the specific requirements for the selected topical focus, select your defining research question, and then go to the Part III Instructions (starting on p. 37) and select the kind of grant proposal you want to write after reading the detailed descriptions of what each is designed to support and how that support aligns with your own research question. You should make sure you attend to the selection criteria at the end of the description of each kind of proposal.

Finally, your fourth step would be to go to Section 24 – Application Content and Formatting Requirements on pp. 70 – 73. Follow the proposal formatting guidelines all the way through Section D – Project Narrative. You need not add any of the Appendices unless you want to, but you do need to add a reference list at the end of your proposal, though not as a separate document. You also do not need to develop a budget for your proposal – just the summary/abstract, the narrative, and the references.