

Education Innovation and Research (EIR)



Mid-phase

FY23 Grant Competition Applicant Resource

Nonprofit &
Rural Entities





| What is EIR?

EIR supports the exploration of **INNOVATIVE** approaches to addressing persistent challenges facing K-12 education in the United States in a way that **other educators can build upon**.

EIR sits at the **intersection of innovation and evidence**, seeking innovative projects that:



Explore

new ways of addressing persistent challenges, designed that other educators can build upon them



Sustain, Replicate & Scale

successful evidence-based practices in new schools, districts, and states, or with new demographics of students, and address barriers to scale, such as cost structures and implementation fidelity



Build Evidence

on effective educational practices to improve achievement for high-need students by expanding existing innovative education practices

EIR Grants – Common Elements

There are common elements that apply to all EIR grants, noted below:



Target

high need students*



Build

the knowledge base of effective practices



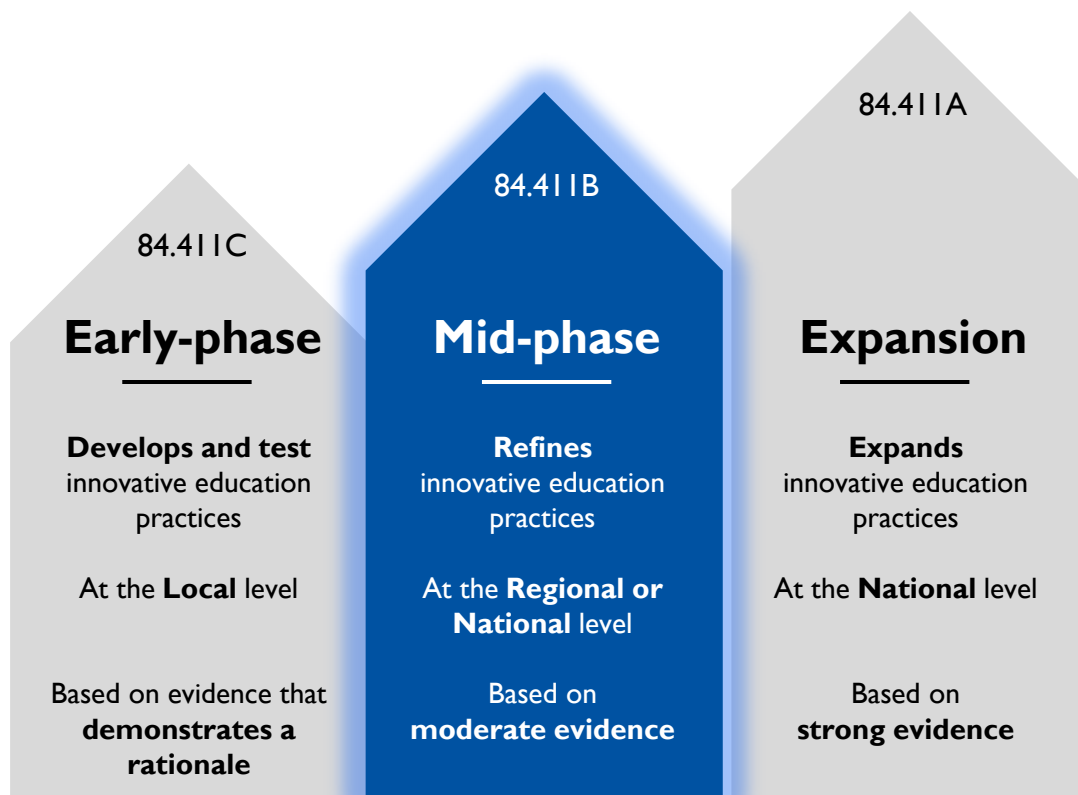
Evaluate

projects to measure the impact of the innovation with new populations and in new settings, identify the core element for replication, and examine the cost effectiveness



EIR Grant Types

EIR grants are designed in a tiered structure. The tiers are differentiated by the level of evidence required to support the ability of the project to produce the proposed project outcome. This document focuses on **Mid-phase**.



*Note: EIR applicants provide their own definition of “high need.” Previous grantees have defined high-need as economically disadvantaged, rural, underrepresented, and underperforming, though this is not exhaustive.



Evidence Explained

Each EIR tier requires a different level of evidence ([definitions linked here](#)) to support proposed projects.



Early-phase

Demonstrates
a Rationale

means that a key project component included in the project's logic model is informed by research or evaluation that suggest the project component is likely to improve relevant outcomes

Logic model means a framework that identifies key project components of the proposed project

Mid-phase

Moderate
Evidence

means that there must be evidence from at least one well designed and well implemented quasi-experimental study

Quasi-experimental means a study using a design that attempts to approximate an experimental study by identifying a comparison group that is similar to the treatment group in important respect

Expansion

Strong
Evidence

means that there must be evidence from at least one well designed and well implemented experimental study

Experimental study means a study that compares outcomes between two groups that are otherwise equivalent except for their assignment to either a treatment group receiving a project component or a control group that does not

How Can I Find Qualifying Evidence?

A good starting place is the Institute of Education Sciences' What Works Clearinghouse (WWC). Evidence from WWC gives you information on the evidence tier, making it simpler to understand if it meets the requirements for the Mid-Phase projects.

- [Finding Evidence on What Works Clearinghouse Webinar](#).
- Review the [What Works Clearinghouse](#) to determine if there is an intervention report, practice guide, or individual study that has already been reviewed

Evidence does not have to already exist in WWC. See below for additional resources that may be helpful in finding relevant evidence:

- [ERIC](#) - a comprehensive, easy-to-use, searchable, Internet-based database of education research and information.
- [National Library of Education](#) - serves as the federal government's primary education information resource to the public, education community, and other government agencies.



Funding & Eligibility

The Department estimates making between 8 and 15 awards for the EIR Mid-phase grant program. The maximum award is \$8,000,000 for a 5-year project period.



*Applicants may receive **grants up to \$8 million** to expand innovative education practices that build evidence on effective ways to improve achievement for high-need students*

Eligible Applicants are:

1 A local educational agency (LEA)

Note: An LEA includes a public charter school that operates as an LEA, Bureau of Indian Education schools, and education service agencies.

2 A State educational agency (SEA)

3 The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)

4 A consortium of SEAs or LEAs

5 A nonprofit organization

Note: An institute of higher education (IHE) that has a 501(c)(3) status would also qualify as a nonprofit organization and could be a lead applicant for an EIR grant.

6 A broader consortium

Any of the first five entities in consortium with (1) a nonprofit organization (2) a business (3) an Educational Service Agency or (4) an IHE

Note: The Department is not bound by any of the above estimates.



Rural Applicants

The Department must, consistent with the number and quality of applications received, use at least 25% of EIR funds to make awards to applicants serving rural areas.



To qualify as a rural applicant, two requirements must be met:

1. The applicant is:

- An LEA with an urban-centric district locale code of 32, 33, 41, 42, or 43
- A consortium of such LEAs;
- An educational service agency or a **nonprofit organization in partnership with such an LEA**;
- A grantee described in the first two bullets in partnership with an SEA

2. A majority of the schools to be served by the program are designated with a locale code of 32, 33, 41, 42, or 43 or a combination of such codes

Please click [here](#) to determine locale code(s).



Rural Example



Description: A consortium of LEAs is scaling from an EIR Early-phase award that aimed to increasing school leader effectiveness by providing evidence based professional development activities that build the capacity of principals to be effective organizational leaders of schoolwide instructional improvements. The project includes research-based, cohesive, on-going group and individual training for principals, I-on-I coaching for principals to improve organizational routines and practices, and principal network meetings for peer support aimed at addressing problems of practice.

Moderate Evidence standard: The project is supported with evidence from two quasi-experimental research studies, both of which demonstrated significant impact on student learning in ELA and math.

Rural requirement: The consortium of LEAs are predominantly rural and will serve a total of 130 schools located throughout Illinois, ensuring equitable participation with a minimum of 51% of participants coming from traditionally underserved rural LEAs.



[The Awards page](#) includes a list and descriptions of previously funded projects.

Note: The examples shared in this document are solely for the information of the reader and are not an endorsement by the Department of any particular approach to implementing an EIR project.



Nonprofit Applicants



Nonprofit means that it is owned and operated by one or more corporations or associations whose net earnings do not benefit, and cannot lawfully benefit, any private shareholder or entity. Note, a private IHE that is a nonprofit organization may apply for an EIR grant. A public IHE that has 501(c)(3) status would also qualify as a nonprofit organization and may apply for an EIR grant.

If you are a nonprofit organization, you may demonstrate your nonprofit status by providing:

1. proof that the Internal Revenue Service currently recognizes the applicant as an organization to which contributions are tax deductible under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code;
2. a statement from a State taxing body or the State attorney general certifying that the organization is a nonprofit organization operating within the State and that no part of its net earnings may lawfully benefit any private shareholder or individual;
3. a certified copy of the applicant's certificate of incorporation or similar document if it clearly establishes the nonprofit status of the applicant; or
4. any item described above if that item applies to a State or national parent organization, together with a statement by the State or parent organization that the applicant is a local nonprofit affiliate.



Nonprofit Example



Description: An educational technology nonprofit is utilizing an instructional systems approach that leverages technology to drive measurable, statistically-significant improvements in student science state test scores.

Both teachers and students learn virtually using an online educator learning platform interfacing with GoogleClassroom to support and track students mastery of Next Generation Science and College and Career Readiness in Science standards.

Moderate Evidence standard: The nonprofit used prior funding to demonstrate effectiveness in improving student learning for middle school students in a recently completed implementation of their systems approach. The approach was tested and found to have a statistically significant impact on student scores.

Rural: The nonprofit partnered with rural school districts in Kentucky that had the appropriate locale code.



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How to Apply

The process can feel daunting, but preparing your organization properly and using Department of Education resources that are available will help make the applying more straightforward.

Q How to /



Preparation



Brainstorm project ideas



Search for evidence aligned to those ideas



Engage potential partners and implementation sites

Applying

1

Review the Notice Inviting Applications

- The application package and forms will be available on the [EIR program website](#) once the application period has opened.

2

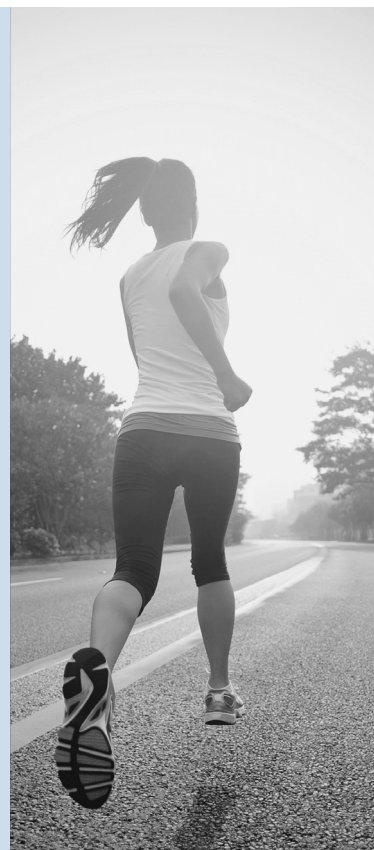
Ensure that you have an active UEI (Unique Entity Identifier) number

- Entities who are not registered in SAM.gov will be assigned a UEI when they register
- To register in SAM.gov, click on the “Get Started” link under the “Register Your Entity...” heading in [SAM.gov](#).

3

Apply for the EIR grant!

- Visit the government-wide website, <http://www.grants.gov>.
- Enter “84.41 IB” in the search bar in the upper right.
- Click on the Opportunity Number in the search results and follow instructions after hitting “Apply.”



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- It is strongly encouraged to familiarize yourself with grants.gov and **strongly recommend that you register and submit early.**
- Visit the [program website](#) at for helpful information, frequently asked questions, dates of future webinars or workshops, and clarifications.

FAQs & Resources

Common questions can be seen below but if you have additional questions, please visit the program website or reach out directly via the contact information below.



Do I have to begin with EIR by first applying to the Early-phase opportunity?

No, applicants may apply to the Mid-phase grant without first having applied or completed the Early-phase grant. Applicants will still be expected to meet all of the requirements of the Mid-phase application (see NIA), including the basis in moderate evidence.

How can a project be innovative if it also must be evidenced-based?

A project's "innovation" can be focused at the level of a project component. For example, you might have a project component that is based on evidence, but your application proposes a "spin" that includes an additional component that is new and innovative.

If my organization is a current EIR grantee can I apply for another EIR grant to "move up a tier" (e.g., from Early-phase to Mid-phase)?

Yes. The EIR tiered approach encourages applicants to scale upon innovative approaches. Applicants must still meet all requirements of the Mid-phase program, including a basis in moderate evidence.

Helpful Links



[Program Website](#)



[EIR Recorded Webinar](#)



[Notice Inviting Applications \(NIA\)](#)

Point of Contact

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