



National Council on Economic Education

Excellence in Economic Education

Funded by The United States Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement
Advancing K-12 Economic & Financial Education Nationwide, Award #:U215B050005-08

2008 Request for Proposals (RFP) Research Programs

BACKGROUND

The United States Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement has designated the National Council on Economic Education (NCEE) as the agency to implement the *Excellence in Economic Education* (EEE) Program during 2008-2009. The goal of the grant is to promote economic and financial literacy among all K-12 students by: increasing students' knowledge of, and achievement in, economics to enable them to become more productive and informed citizens; strengthening teachers' understanding of economics to enable the teachers to increase student mastery of economic principles and the practical application of those principles; encouraging economic education research and development; disseminating effective instructional materials; promoting the replication of best practices and exemplary programs that foster economic literacy; assisting states in measuring the impact of education in economics; and leveraging and expanding increased private and public support for economic education partnerships at the national, state and local levels.

As part of the *Excellence in Economic Education* federal grant, funding is available for the NCEE to award sub-grants on a competitive basis to qualified organizations for project activities that relate to the above-mentioned goals.

Applicants are required to show how they will match the federal grant with an *equal* amount of funds from *non-federal* funding. Matching funds may be in the form of cash or in-kind; in-kind payments may include plant, equipment, and services, and must be fairly evaluated. All funds from this grant must be used to supplement and not supplant other federal, state, and local government funds expended to support activities appropriate for this grant.

PROGRAMS

The NCEE intends to provide grant funding to organizations that work with K-12 students for the following activities.

- Evaluation of Impact of Economic and Financial Literacy Education on Students (IS)
- Economic and Financial Literacy Education Research (GR)

The program schedule, description of eligible organizations, and the guidelines for the activities follow.

SCHEDULE

Schedule for Application Process:	
Due date to submit questions regarding applications	Friday, July 25, 2008
Online Proposal Due	Monday, September 15, 2008
Partner Letter of Collaboration Due	Monday, September, 2008
Notification of Grant Award/Denial	Tuesday, October 28, 2008

Schedule for Funded Projects	
Decision / Letter of Agreement Due	Friday, November 14, 2008
Interim Report Due	Friday, October 2, 2009
Final Report Due	Friday, June 4, 2010

ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS

Any state education agency, local education agency, or state or local economic, personal finance, or entrepreneurial education organization that works with K-12 students may respond to this RFP.

Eligible **Grantee Organizations** serve K-12 students, and categories include:

- a. a state educational agency^{*}
- b. a local educational agency[†]
- c. a state/local organization promoting economic education
- d. a state/local organization promoting personal finance education
- e. a state/local organization promoting entrepreneurship education
- f. an organization promoting personal finance or entrepreneurial education

The NCEE strongly encourages including an implementing partner, although it is not required. Eligible **Partner Organizations** include:

- a. a private sector entity
- b. an institution of higher education
- c. a state educational agency
- d. a local educational agency
- e. an organization promoting economic development
- f. an organization promoting educational excellence
- g. an organization promoting personal finance or entrepreneurial education

QUESTIONS

Questions related to all aspects of the application process will be accepted between the RFP issue date and Friday, July 25, 2008. After this time, a list of questions and answers will be posted to the application website for your reference. Please submit all questions to Kevin Gotchet at kgotchet@ncee.net.

^{*} *State Educational Agency* means the state board of education or other agency or officer primarily responsible for the supervision of public elementary and secondary schools in a state. In the absence of this officer or agency, it is an officer or agency designated by the Governor or state law. For a complete listing of eligible SEAs please go to this site: http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/Programs/EROD/org_list.cfm?category_ID=SEA

[†] *Local Educational Agency* means:

- a. A public board of education or other public authority legally constituted within a state for either administrative control of or direction of, or to perform service functions for, public elementary or secondary schools in:
 1. A city, county, township, school district, or other political subdivision of a state; or
 2. Such combination of school districts or counties a state recognizes as an administrative agency for its public elementary or secondary schools; or
- b. Any other public institution or agency that has administrative control and direction of a public elementary or secondary school.
- c. The term also includes any other public institution or agency that has administrative control and direction of a vocational education program.



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Evaluation of Impact of Economic and Financial Literacy Education on Students

Application Guidelines and Project Narrative Form

Applicants wishing to apply for funding under the **Evaluation of Impact of Economic and Financial Literacy Education on Students** program will develop a research project that calls for conducting evaluations of the impact of economic and financial literacy education on students. Grants funded in this category will involve measuring student learning from the teaching of economics and/or personal finance as a course or part of a course.

Such activities might include, but are not limited to measuring *pre-college* student learning from the teaching of economics and/or personal finance as a course, part of a course, unit of instruction, or curriculum project. Preferences will be given to sub-grantees who propose to conduct a scientifically-based research study that in many cases would include a control group. Preferences will also be given to those sub-grantees who have published research previously on these topics and who indicate that they will submit the findings of this study for publication in scholarly journals or for presentation at professional conferences.

NCEE anticipates awarding approximately six grants of \$20,000 to \$25,000 each in this funding category.

The proposal should have three sections that discuss the: (1) research question; (2) methodology and analysis; and (3) likely results. Please enter the information for your proposed project activity in the online application facility at <http://www.ncee.net/ea/manage>.

1. Research Question:

- **Problem and Hypotheses:** State in clear and simple language the problem or sub-problems to be investigated. Present the likely hypotheses.
- **Review of the Literature:** Select key studies and explain how they are related to the problem. If the study is based on a theoretical model, then describe the model.

2. Methodology and Analysis:

- **Research Design:** Describe the major features. Preference will be given to those studies using scientific research methods (see National Research Council, *Scientific Research in Education*, National Academy Press, Washington DC 2002) (www.nap.edu).
- **Data Sources and Sampling:** Describe the data source. If the data were collected by someone else, describe its origins. If data are to be collected, describe the procedures.
- **Measurement of Variables:** Describe the instruments to be used to collect data and the reliability and validity of the measures.
- **Analytical or Statistical Methods:** Describe the analytical or statistical methods that are likely to be used with the data.

3. Likely Results:

- **Outcomes:** Make a final statement about why this research study is important and what the likely outcomes will be. Specify how the research will be presented to other researchers and the plan for publication.
- **Limitations:** Note whether there are important limitations and, if so, identify them.



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Economic and Financial Literacy Research

Application Guidelines and Project Narrative Form

Applicants wishing to apply for funding under the **Economic and Financial Literacy Research Program** will develop a research project that calls for conducting research on economics and/or financial education. The context of the research for this RFP is general and does not need to focus on measuring student learning from the teaching of economics and/or personal finance as a course or part of a course. Proposals may include, *but are not limited to*, data collection for a new project and/or evaluation of data collected on such topics as: how class size affects student learning or pedagogy; how type of pedagogy affects learning of students with different learning styles; comparing student performance based on gender, race, socio-economic status, age, gender of teacher; the relationship between school or district support for economic education and student learning or attitude toward economics; or the relationship between parental involvement and student learning or attitude toward economics.

NCEE anticipates awarding approximately six grants of \$20,000 to \$25,000 each in this funding category.

The proposal should have three sections that discuss the: (1) research question; (2) methodology and analysis; and (3) likely results. Please enter the information for your proposed project activity in the online application facility at <http://www.ncee.net/ea/manage>.

1. Research Question:

- Problem and Hypotheses: State in clear and simple language the problem or sub-problems to be investigated. Present the likely hypotheses.
- Review of the Literature: Select key studies and explain how they are related to the problem. If the study is based on a theoretical model, then describe the model.

2. Methodology and Analysis:

- Research Design: Describe the major features. Preference will be given to those studies using scientific research methods (see National Research Council, *Scientific Research in Education*, National Academy Press, Washington DC 2002). (www.nap.edu)
- Data Sources and Sampling: Describe the data source. If the data were collected by someone else, describe the origins. If data are to be collected, describe the procedures.
- Measurement of Variables: Describe the instruments to be used to collect data and the reliability and validity of the measures.
- Analytical or Statistical Methods: Describe the analytical or statistical methods that are likely to be used with the data.

3. Likely Results:

- Outcomes: Make a final statement about why this research study is important and what the likely outcomes will be. Specify how the research will be presented to other researchers and the plan for publication.
- Limitations: Note whether there are important limitations and, if so, identify them.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Please read the general application guidelines below.

- **READ THIS RFP CAREFULLY.** It includes detailed information about the Excellence in Economic Education sub-grant category you selected to help applicants determine their eligibility and understand the application requirements.
- **GATHER INFORMATION FOR THE ONLINE APPLICATION:** You do not need to complete your online application in one sitting. Once you have begun the online process you will be able to return and make changes to your application(s). For your convenience find a list of the information you will need to submit a complete application.
 - Project Title
 - ✓ Please come up with a descriptive title.
 - Grant Primary Contact
 - ✓ This is the person who will be responsible for implementing the project.
 - Primary Contact Institution
 - ✓ This is where official correspondence and other materials will be mailed.
 - (Optional) Fiscal Agent
 - ✓ If a different individual/institution/authority is responsible for payments than is responsible for completing the project, a separate fiscal agent should be entered.
 - Major Project Partner(s)
 - ✓ The NCEE strongly encourages including an implementing partner, although it is not required.
 - ✓ A Letter of Collaboration must be submitted as part of your online application for each partner that is participating in project implementation.
 - Itemized Budget
 - ✓ Matching funds from non-federal sources must equal or exceed the funding requested in the grant.
 - ✓ Line items must be categorized and sources of matching funds should be clearly indicated, including any match to be raised by a project partner.
 - ✓ Funds from this grant must be used to supplement and not supplant other federal, state, and local government funds expended to support activities appropriate for this grant.
 - ✓ Administrative costs may comprise a maximum of 5% of awarded funds.
 - Project Narrative
 - ✓ The criteria for each sub-grant category are included in this document
 - ✓ The project narrative must be entered in the online application facility at <http://www.ncee.net/ea/manage/> to be considered.*
- **COMPLETE THE ONLINE APPLICATION by September 15, 2008, 9:00 pm Eastern Time. APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED AFTER THIS DATE AND TIME WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**
- The NCEE will recruit a team of highly qualified leaders in the fields of economics and education as well as from the business, banking, and finance communities to conduct the proposal review to evaluate and make funding recommendations for the proposals.
- The NCEE welcomes proposals for multiple project activities from one organization. However, each proposed project must be applied for separately. *Each* proposed project must have an application completed online.
- When the proposal review process is completed, the NCEE will issue a letter of grant approval or rejection to each confirmed applicant by October 28, 2008.

GRANT TERMS

- Projects must begin after the NCEE notification date of **October 28, 2008**.

* Applicants who cannot complete an online application may request a paper version:

- In order for a paper version of a proposal to be considered, applicants must mail a letter to the NCEE explaining why they are unable to complete the online application.
- The NCEE will then mail a proposal form to organizations that have a reasonable explanation.
- Only proposals that comply with the form will be considered, and proposals must be received at the NCEE by the regular deadline.
- The NCEE will input the information from your form into the official online RFP system for you.
- Paper proposals will not be considered for review if they do not meet the conditions:
 1. A request was made in writing to the NCEE, AND approved by the NCEE.
 2. The proposal strictly follows the format of the forms mailed by the NCEE to your organization
 3. The proposal was RECEIVED at the NCEE by the deadline, September 15, 2008.

- An interim report is due to the NCEE by **October 2, 2009**.
- A final narrative report, research evaluation, and budget expenditure report must be submitted by the grant recipient to NCEE by **June 4, 2010**. NCEE will provide the necessary reporting forms via e-mail to grant recipients.
- For all approved applications, NCEE will issue a Letter of Agreement to be signed by the applicant and its major eligible partner. NCEE will award an initial grant of one-third of the grant amount upon submission of the signed Letter of Agreement. The second third of the grant amount will be awarded once NCEE receives an interim report. The last third of the grant amount will be awarded once the research project has been completed and a full final report has been received by NCEE.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION INFORMATION

The NCEE will only review applications from candidates who submit their proposals as outlined in this RFP. Incomplete proposals will not be reviewed.

Submit the *Online Application* by **September 15, 2008, 9:00 pm Eastern Time**, at <http://www.ncee.net/ea/manage>
APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED AFTER THIS DATE AND TIME WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Proposals must be completed using the online system (<http://www.ncee.net/ea/manage/>) and will not be accepted by mail without prior authorization by the National Council on Economic Education.

For additional information on the National Council on Economic Education, please visit our website at <http://www.ncee.net>. For the latest news and additional information on the Excellence in Economic Education Program go to <http://www.ncee.net/eee/>.

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