

## **Funding Opportunity: National Science Foundation Releases New DRK-12 Resource Center on Transformative Education Research and Translation Solicitation**

*Lewis-Burke Associates LLC - September 5, 2024*

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Directorate for STEM Education (EDU) released a new solicitation to fund a Resource Center on Transformative Education Research and Translation (DRK-12 RC) within the Discovery Research PreK-12 (DRK-12) program. This is the first and possibly only competition of the Centers on Transformative Education Research and Translation, which were authorized by the *CHIPS and Science Act of 2022*. The purpose of the DRK-12 RC program is to fund one awardee to serve as a Resource Center that will support the DRK-12 investment portfolio through sharing promising resources, findings, and tools from the DRK-12 grant program with educators and policymakers; working to build STEM education research capacity through facilitating collaboration between prospective, former, and current DRK-12 grantees; and conducting work to raise the national profile of the DRK-12 program.

To maximize impact, NSF expects the DRK-12 RC to build on and expand the work of the existing DRK-12 resource centers: The Community for the Advancement of Discovery Research and the Evidence Quality Resource Hub. In addition to expanding on-going supportive activities, NSF has indicated the following as expected activities of the Resource Center on Transformative Education Research and Translation:

1. Broadly disseminating syntheses of DRK-12 project outcomes, evidence of promising practices, and recommendations for how to advance scientific inquiry to the STEM education ecosystem;
2. Supporting STEM education researchers' capacity to submit competitive proposals to the DRK-12 grant programs to better share knowledge between STEM education researchers and school and teacher stakeholders, develop practice communities that can build new knowledge pathways, and promote other partnerships;
3. Engaging underrepresented regions, organizations, and populations in the DRK-12 portfolio in innovative ways; and
4. Providing potential primary investigators (PIs) with technical support on DRK-12 project types and access to information on funding opportunities through the DRK-12 program.

NSF has indicated that the DRK-12 RC will be considered an "intellectual partner" responsible for identifying and strategically translating promising research findings for implementation in U.S. classrooms. Applicants should demonstrate their ability to plan, develop, and manage a center focused on jumpstarting collaboration within research communities and supporting knowledge translation of basic research and have demonstrated expertise in STEM fields, education research methods, and professional development for STEM teachers. The solicitation notes that proposals will be scored competitively if they demonstrate their ability to collect, analyze, and disseminate information about the DRK-12 program publicly and how projects intend to assist active DRK-12 grantees in the development of communications plans. Collaborative proposals that include organizations in EPSCoR jurisdictions are strongly encouraged.

**Award Information:** NSF intends to make one cooperative agreement for up to \$5 million dollars.

**Eligibility:** U.S. based two-and four-year institutions of higher education; non-profit organizations directly associated with research or educational activities; for-profit organizations with strong STEM research or

education expertise; and state, local, and Tribal governments are eligible to apply. There are no limits on proposals per organization or PI.

**Due Date:** Full proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. in the submitting organization's time zone on **February 28, 2025**.

*Sources and Additional Information:*

- The DRK-12 RC solicitation is available at <https://nsf-gov-resources.nsf.gov/files/nsf24602.pdf?VersionId=s9OeclejYk93dnGjCZ9Qg.rG1LMID9x>.
- The logic model for the DRK-12 RC solicitation is available at <https://www.nsf.gov/edu/drl/DRK12RCLogicModel.png>.
- The DRK-12 RC program page is available at <https://new.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/discovery-research-prek-12-program-resource-center>.
- Additional information on the existing resource centers serving the DRK-12 program are available at <https://cadrek12.org/projects/evidence-quality-and-reach-hub-drk-12-community> and <https://cadrek12.org/projects/evidence-quality-and-reach-hub-drk-12-community>.