

## Funding Opportunity: NSF Releases New Translation and Diffusion Solicitation

*Lewis-Burke Associates LLC – January 2, 2025*

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Directorate for STEM Education (EDU) released a solicitation for its new Translation and Diffusion (TD) program. The purpose of the TD program is to address the barriers between moving knowledge gained from conducting research on education and learning to PreK-12 STEM classrooms, as well as those related to utilizing effective classroom practices to drive basic education research. The program's goals include encouraging studies related to translation of knowledge related to STEM education across contexts and levels of analysis and advancing evidence-based research and innovations in STEM Education along the "research-practice continuum" through social capital network development and proof-of-concept research.

The TD program is accepting four types of proposals:

- **Research on Translation or Diffusion:** These proposals will request funding to conduct basic research on the diffusion or translation of STEM education-focused research knowledge. Eligible activities include the development of frameworks, models, theories; the conducting of empirical research; the adoption of translation models to STEM education from other fields; the development of novel diffusion approaches for STEM education; and the study of how questions, theories, and findings move through the PreK-12 STEM education and research enterprise. Research on Translation or Diffusion awards can have a duration of up to three years and be for up to \$1,000,000.
- **Proof-of-Concept Research:** Proof-of-Concept proposals will seek funding to explore the translation of findings from STEM education research either by taking basic research insights and scaling them to a more complex content or by determining if specific concepts from basic research are appropriate to be applied to Prek-12 STEM education contexts. Projects submitted under this proposal type should address how and why successful practices are effective and include a vision for how the proposal would move the STEM education research towards further development along levels of analysis and eventual classroom application. Proof-of-Concept awards can have a duration of up to three years and be for up to \$1,000,000.
- **Synthesis Proposals:** Synthesis proposals are expected to integrate the current knowledge base on a topic relevant to translation or diffusion in STEM education, including through literature reviews, meta-synthesis, or meta-analysis. Projects should present the state of knowledge across fields, highlight future areas for research, and be targeted towards transformational topics. Synthesis awards can have a duration of up to three years and be for up to \$500,000. NSF recommends, though does not require, applicants contact a TD program officer ahead of submission.
- **Conference or Workshop Proposals:** Conference and Workshop proposals may request funding to support activities related to translation or diffusion, including through bringing together relevant stakeholders to develop research agendas, identify experts, and development of plans to move basic research insights along the research-practice continuum. Funding for conferences or workshops will range between \$25,000-\$99,000 and applicants must contact a TD program officer ahead of submission.

For all types of proposals, NSF “strongly welcomes proposals focused on systemic challenges facing under-served and under-resourced communities in PreK-12 STEM Education.”

**Due Dates:** Applications for all proposal types are due at 5:00 p.m. submitter’s local time on **April 1, 2025**.

**Total Funding and Award Size:** NSF anticipates funding fifteen awards across the four proposal categories with \$7,000,000 total in funding.

**Eligibility:** Two-and four-year institutions of higher education; non-profit, non-academic organizations, for-profit organizations with strong STEM and education research capabilities; state and local governments; and Tribal Nations are eligible to apply. There are no limits on number of proposals per organization or per primary investigator.

*Sources and Additional Information:*

- The Translation and Diffusion solicitation is available at <https://new.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/td-translation-diffusion/nsf25-528/solicitation>.
- The Translation and Diffusion program page is available at <https://new.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/td-translation-diffusion>.