Utah CEEDAR State Leadership Team

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Embedding High-Leverage Practices (HLPs) and Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) Into Teacher Preparation Curriculum and Clinical Experiences

Utah's Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability, and Reform (CEEDAR) team invites applications from faculty at Utah institutions of higher education (IHEs) to develop evidence-informed projects that strengthen the integration of high-leverage practices (HLPs) and/or evidence-based practices (EBPs) within educator preparation programs. Proposed projects should focus on embedding HLPs for students with disabilities into coursework and clinical experiences, including special education, general education, and educational leadership programs, to build a sustainable culture that supports and maintains the effective use of these practices.

The purpose of this opportunity is to expand or build on existing research. UVU collected data on general education teachers' perception of inclusion for students with disabilities in the classroom. The survey asked after completing a teacher preparation program:

- Do elementary teachers feel prepared to implement evidence-based instructional strategies for intervention purposes for core literacy and mathematics standards?
- Do elementary teachers feel prepared to implement evidence-based strategies to decrease difficult behaviors?
- Do elementary teachers feel confident teaching students with disabilities during general core instruction?

The findings were that teachers still feel under prepared for inclusive classrooms for students with disabilities.

Building on the data Utah Valley University (UVU) has already collected, these mini grants will support faculty through the Innovation Configuration (IC) process and embed HLPs into their coursework for general education, special education, and leader candidates.

This initiative aims to facilitate statewide efforts to align educator preparation experiences with evidence-based instructional practices so that candidates graduate fully prepared to implement HLPs/EBPs that promote the academic and social success of students with disabilities. Funding is available for projects that support faculty to:

- Evaluate existing coursework, clinical experiences, and assessments for alignment with identified HLPs/EBPs (using tools such as the CEEDAR Innovation Configurations);
- Design new or revised courses, practice opportunities, and performance assessments focused on HLP/EBP implementation (using tools such as the CEEDAR Course Enhancement Modules);
- Strengthen candidate readiness through field experiences that provide structured practice, feedback, and reflection opportunities;

- Build faculty capacity to model, teach, and assess HLPs/EBPs; or
- Expand the use of evidence-based tools and resources that promote consistent and authentic HLP/EBP practice.

Target Audiences

Projects may support:

- Pre-service teachers or leaders in educator preparation programs
- Clinical supervisors, mentors, or cooperating teachers who support candidate implementation of HLPs/EBPs

Resources

The CEEDAR Center maintains the following resources around HLPs and EBPs for students with disabilities that can be used to inform project design:

- HLP Overview (collaboration with the Council for Exceptional Children)
- CEEDAR HLP Resources
- HLP Self-Assessment
- CEEDAR Innovation Configurations
- CEEDAR Course Enhancement Modules

Project Deliverables

Deliverables may include but are not limited to:

- Curriculum maps or alignment documents showing where HLPs/EBPs appear across the program
- Revised syllabi, instructional modules, assignments, or assessments
- Any additional resources supporting consistent modeling, teaching, and assessment of HLPs/EBPs

Deliverables must include:

- Brief implementation plan for describing how deliverables will be embedded and sustained within preparation experiences
- Collected data that demonstrates candidate knowledge of and/or use of HLPs during their preparation experience.

Award Information

- Number of awards: 3
- Maximum award **per applicant**: $3,300

Note: Utah faculty members are eligible to apply for this opportunity. Faculty across IHEs may choose to partner with other IHEs or LEAs to submit a joint application. Please note that amounts are subject to change based on funding availability.

Timeline

- Application opens: October 15, 2026
- Applications due: November 20, 2026
- Application revisions due (if requested): December 1, 2026
- Project start date: December 7, 2026
- Final project deliverables due: August 27, 2027
- Deliverables should go into implementation no later than fall semester 2027.

Submission Instructions

Submit proposals via email in Word document form to Abby Berner (aberner@air.org) or questions or assistance with your proposal, please contact Abby Berner.

PROPOSAL APPLICATION

Please provide contact information for all partners on this application, adding lines as necessary. For example, if the proposed project is a partnership between an IHE and an LEA, add lines for names and lead contacts of both organizations.

Name of Organization: _____

Lead Contact Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Proposed Project: Please provide a narrative description that includes the following elements. Please limit the narrative to **no more than three pages**.

- Project title
- Project overview and purpose
- Rationale (e.g., how this project will support HLPs/EBP implementation for the intended audiences and/or how evidence of implementation of HLPs/EBPs is documented)
- Activities and/or deliverables and their associated timeline
    - Note: Final project deliverables are due August 27, 2027
- Evaluation plans
    - Description of plans to collect data that demonstrate candidate knowledge of and/or use of HLPs/EBPs during their preparation experience.

Personnel: Please include names and titles of any faculty, staff, or graduate students who will be involved and indicate their role in the project.

Budget: Please include a detailed budget showing how the requested funds will be used. CEEDAR is able to pay direct stipends to individuals upon award of proposal (please include a list of names and amounts) or we can disburse funds to an organization who will serve as fiscal agent (e.g., university, LEA). See next pages for allowable uses.

Contact to Receive Funds:

Name:

Email/Phone:

Total Amount Requested:

_____

CEEDAR State Funds Guidance

Allowable	Not Allowable
• Travel • Meeting Expenses (to include costs of meals, transportation, rental of facilities, hotel fees, speakers' fees, and other items incidental to such meetings) • Salaries and Fringe Benefits/Honoraria • Consultants • Communications • Materials and Supplies • Publications and Printing	• Equipment and Other Capital Expenditures • Building and Equipment Rental • Utilities • Capital Maintenance and Repair • Donations and Contributions* • Lobbying* • Entertainment* • Alcoholic Beverages* • Indirect Costs (unless otherwise directed by state policy)

* Unallowable per OMB Circulars A-21 and A-87

**Funds may not be used to pay tuition and/or fees for individuals completing preparation or certification programs.