

**University of Florida**

**Working with the Experts 011-2626B-6C001**

**Project Abstract**

Applicants are required to provide a description of the key elements and primary focus of the project.

**Response:** The purpose of the Working with the Experts (WWE) project is to increase the State's capacity to prepare and retain highly qualified personnel to provide instructional and related services to students with disabilities. WWE professional development activities also help to support implementation of Senate Bill 1108. The initiatives for this project include the coordination of professional development activities for related service personnel (speech and language pathologists) and delivery and statewide leadership support for professional development and communication initiatives with Institutes of Higher Education (IHE) faculty preparing teachers and therapists to support students with disabilities in the educational setting.

To assist in supporting improved student outcomes, the project will coordinate seven regional Working with the Experts (WWE) activities and will provide access to online professional development courses that provide ASHA CEUs to Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs). In addition, this project will provide support for and facilitate the WWE for Speech/Language Pathology Leaders and WWE-SLP Advisory Group meetings. The project will coordinate ASHA CEU provision for SLP professional development activities coordinated by WWE and other discretionary projects and school districts. The project will also update and expand the content of speech language resources located on the WWE website. Finally, this project will provide professional development activities for faculty at institutions of higher education that support the preparation of teachers working with students with disabilities by coordinating the 2016 Institute of Higher Education (IHE) Summer Institute/Dean's Roundtable, developing and disseminating the Plugging In newsletter, and facilitating the delivery of webinars.

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