

Abstract

The DEC Recommended Practices Evidence Synthesis Group, operating under the auspices of the DEC Recommended Practices Commission and with support from ECTA, is overseeing efforts to identify, appraise, synthesize, and disseminate information about the status of the best-available evidence in support of the DEC Recommended Practices in Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (2014). In addition, the Evidence Synthesis Group has established a framework and replicable processes that will enable the field to continually update the evidence base in support of the DEC Recommended Practices. Significant work has been conducted to date to develop and pilot the evidence synthesis framework and associated processes. Nevertheless, the organizational structure and magnitude of the work that is being conducted necessitates additional support to move the work forward as planned.

We are requesting funds to support an individual at the lead site where the evidence synthesis work is occurring (i.e., University of Florida) to coordinate the completion of activities. The proposed activities include coordinating the completion of the evidence syntheses, the evidence synthesis framework and associated processes, and the electronic coding system. The individual would be supervised by members of the Evidence Synthesis Group at the University of Florida (Patricia Snyder, Chair and Brian Reichow, Co-Chair). The Evidence Synthesis Group consists of representatives from three universities (Eastern Tennessee State University, University of Florida, University of Kansas) who are working in collaboration with faculty, doctoral students or post-doctoral fellows affiliated with their universities or with the University of Washington, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and Vanderbilt University. In total, there are 21 individuals affiliated with the six universities named above who are currently working on this initiative. There is a significant need for an individual to work with the Evidence Synthesis Group and to coordinate cross-site activities to ensure completion of the work.