

2026 INTERDIVISIONAL GRANT PROGRAM

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The CEC Division Relations Committee of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) seeks proposals for collaborative projects sponsored by two or more CEC divisions. CEC is providing funding to support a minimum of two grants (up to \$10,000 each) for the 2026 fiscal year. The purpose of the grant opportunity is to support joint activities that enhance the work, interests, or goals of two or more divisions. Each funded project will support at least one of **CEC's Strategic Plan**

Goals and Objectives:

- Develop and support an effective and diverse workforce of special education professionals.
- Intentionally embed diversity, equity, inclusivity, and accessibility within CEC.
- Increase the impact of CEC's policy agenda for education professionals and for individuals with disabilities and/or gifts and talents.
- Establish CEC as a globally recognized leader in the field of special education.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Proposals must meet the following requirements to be considered:

- Projects must be sponsored by at least two divisions. Priority will be given to projects that demonstrate collaboration that includes small divisions.
- To be eligible for a project, all involved divisions must have successfully submitted their final reports from any previously awarded grants.
- The proposal must include details of how the sponsoring divisions are supporting this grant and should clearly indicate which activities each division will be completing.
- Projects may not duplicate an activity currently being undertaken by CEC, but may support or enhance [current CEC activities](#). Projects should not duplicate efforts from previously funded projects. Prospective applicants have the option of an abstract review by CEC staff prior to the development of a full application in order to ensure that the proposed project doesn't duplicate current activities. Prospective applicants can contact [Brannan Meyers](#) for this review and should anticipate that the review will take at least 3 days to complete.
- Funding for projects will be from January 1st – December 31st each year. The project must be completed within 12 months of receipt of funding and funds must be expended by December 31st. If projects extend beyond 12 months, proposals must indicate which deliverable tasks will be funded by the grant in the initial 12 months of funding.

CONTENTS AND SUBMISSION

Proposals must be submitted using the attached templates and sent to CEC

at bmeyers@exceptionalchildren.org, no later than **October 2, 2025**.

Proposals should include:

- Cover Page (including sponsoring divisions and 150-word abstract)— template attached
- Budget Summary (including amount of request, detail any matching funds from co-sponsoring divisions, and please specify origin of estimates and justification)—template attached
- Proposal (limited to four pages) that includes:
 - the rationale, methods of implementation, goals, and measurable outcomes;
 - brief comments on how the project meets the purposes of the Interdivisional Grants Program;
 - how each division will participate and assist in meeting outcomes of project; and
 - how the project aligns with the [goals and objectives of CEC's strategic plan](#) and division goals.
- Project Timeline – template attached
- REVIEW CRITERIA

Proposals will be reviewed and ranked using the following criteria. It is the responsibility of the sponsoring divisions to ensure these elements are included in the proposal.

- clearly stated goals, a well-defined outcome, and a reasonable implementation plan;
- innovative project goals and outcomes;
- alignment with the ongoing goals of the involved divisions;
- true collaboration between the sponsoring divisions;
- inclusion of a small division as one of the divisions involved;
- alignment with the CEC's Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives; and
- reasonableness of budget request and budget justification.

(Note: Travel to disseminate findings is not fundable under the grant.)

AWARDS AND REPORTING

- Proposals will be due to CEC by the first Thursday in October annually;
- CEC staff will review applications for completeness and submit to DRC for review;
- DRC will review proposals and select proposals to be funded;
- CEC Board of Directors will review and approve DRC's selections at its November meeting annually;
- Funds will be made available and sent to the lead division in the first quarter of CEC's fiscal year annually;
- Recipients of grants will be required to provide an interim progress report by July 1st annually, and a final report by January 15th of the following fiscal year annually; these reports will need to include activities accomplished and how funding has been utilized.
- DRC will provide updates to the CEC Board of Directors on the status of the funded division grant projects as part of the DRC interim and annual reports.

For questions regarding the 2026 Interdivisional Grants, contact your CEC representative Brannan Meyers at bmeyers@exceptionalchildren.org

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Cover Page

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	
Lead Division:	
Project Coordinator:	
Contact Information:	

CO-SPONSORING DIVISIONS

[illegible]

*****It is the responsibility of the project coordinator to obtain permission of the lead division president, as well as any sponsoring division president prior to proposal submission. Proposals must be submitted by the lead division president.**

SIGNATURES

The lead division president for the proposed project as well as all sponsoring division presidents should sign and date below to attest that all the information provided in the proposal application is complete and accurate.

Lead Division President Signature_____Date_____

Sponsoring Division President Signature_____Date_____

Sponsoring Division President Signature _____ Date _____

Sponsoring Division President Signature _____ Date _____

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ABSTRACT

***Include a 150-word abstract of your project, which will be shared with the CEC Board of Directors.

Budget Summary

BREAKDOWN

Grant Request/Other Financial Support ***		Project Expenses	
Source	Amount	Description	Amount
TOTAL		TOTAL	

***Provide information on the amount being requested, plus any additional pledged funds or other sources for financial support for this project that have been identified (ie: Division pledges, etc.).

RATIONALE BUDGET NARRATIVE?

A budget narrative explains and justifies the projected costs attributed to each line item or category within the budget and ties the budget to the proposed deliverables and statement of work. It plays a crucial role in clarifying the connection between the anticipated expenses and the proposed project's implementation outlined in the proposal. A well-crafted budget narrative provides transparency, explaining how each cost item directly contributes to achieving project objectives. Write your narrative so that someone not familiar with the project can conceptually understand the rationale, purpose, and calculation of the estimated costs. There must be enough specific budget details included in the narrative to enable the committee to clearly understand why the costs are essential to meeting the project's objectives and to verify the reasonableness and allowability of the cost. The budget narrative must be concrete and specific, provide a justification for the basis of each proposed cost, and an explanation for how that cost was calculated.

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****Include information regarding your budget and why these expenses are necessary to reach the goals and outcomes of this project. Including any documentation or justification of expenses, how estimated expenses were determined, and specifics about what the funding will be used for within each division.*

Project Proposal

(This section should include how this project is different than current division and CEC activities, why funding is necessary for the project to occur, how the divisions/CEC will benefit from this project, and how the work will be distributed across the divisions. This section is limited to four double spaced pages)

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Project Timeline Template

(You will be asked to update this timeline on your interim and final report)

Month	Tasks to be accomplished	Date Completed
Pre-Funding		
January 2026		
February 2026		
March 2026		
April 2026		
May 2026		
June 2026		
Interim Report Due		
July 2026		
August 2026		
September 2026		
October 2026		
November 202		
December 2026		
Final Report Due		
Post-Funding		