



*The National Alliance of Pupil Services Organizations (NAPSO) is a coalition of national professional organizations whose members provide a variety of school-based prevention and intervention services to assist students in becoming effective learners and productive citizens. NAPSO organizations represent over a million members, including school counselors, school nurses, psychologists, school psychologists, social workers and school social workers; occupational, physical, and creative arts therapists; and speech-language pathologists, audiologists, students, parents, and pupil services administrators. NAPSO promotes interdisciplinary practice and cooperation and advocates for ensuring access to quality pupil services for all students.*

## **Funding Opportunity in Special Education Research Focus on Related Services**

The National Center for Special Education Research, part of the Institute of Education Sciences of the U.S. Department of Education, is seeking to fund research in the area of special education. Of particular interest is the following grant competition that specifically mentions related services as a priority research area:

### **Grant Competition (CFDA No. 84.324A-2)**

Research Areas: Related Services, Autism Spectrum Disorders, Response to Intervention, and Secondary and Transition Services

Range of Awards: \$100,000 to \$1,200,000

Project Periods: Up to 5 years

Deadline: November 1, 2007

Eligibility: Applicants that have the ability and capacity to conduct scientifically valid research are eligible to apply. Eligible applicants include, but are not limited to, non-profit and for-profit organizations and public and private agencies and institutions, such as colleges and universities.

### **Support from the National Alliance of Pupil Services Organizations (NAPSO)**

NAPSO would be interested in supporting any quality proposal designed to gather empirical evidence on the effectiveness of related services. Of particular interest are proposals that examine the broad range of disciplines represented by NAPSO, which include school counselors, school nurses, psychologists, school psychologists, social workers and school social workers; occupational therapists, physical therapists, art therapists, dance/movement therapists, and music therapists; speech-language pathologists and audiologists (see the NAPSO website for a complete list of member organizations: [www.napso.org](http://www.napso.org)). Although related services must be the focus of the proposal in order to receive support, NAPSO encourages linking proposals to other research areas, such as autism or response to intervention, as this is likely to make the application more competitive.

**NAPSO may be able to support your efforts by:**

- Writing letters of support as a coalition and as individual professional organizations;
- Linking grant applicants to our member organizations, if the proposal includes surveying or otherwise communicating with various disciplines or professionals;
- Assisting applicants to connect with Washington, D.C. area U.S. Department of Education leaders, due to our proximity to their offices; and
- Providing access to our communication networks with our members to help solicit participation from the field, locate expertise, or disseminate project results (e.g., via email, newsletters, Listservs, etc.).
- Providing a small stipend (\$500) to assist in the development of a competitive research grant proposal addressing the efficacy of related services.

**NAPSO Strategic Plan**

With research as a focus area within NAPSO's strategic plan, we believe continuing development of the knowledge base supporting the relationship between quality related services and student success is essential to the goal of providing the evidence-based conclusions needed by policymakers, program administrators, and consumers.

Our organizations have identified the following five major questions as research priorities for your consideration:

1. Who are the students that benefit from pupil services? How old are they? What types of institutions do they attend?
2. What impact do pupil services have on the academic, social, emotional development/success of students?
3. Are there students who could benefit from these services but aren't receiving them? Why are these students not receiving these services?
4. How much contact with students does each professional have? How much is needed for optimum success?
5. How do these professionals interact with teachers and administrators in schools or at the school district level?

In addition, NAPSO recognizes that research involving related services may also wish to consider:

- How related services may be more efficiently and effectively delivered to general education students through ESEA/NCLB.
- Models where related service providers deliver interventions to all students with or without a special education diagnosis and based only upon the need for support services.
- How related service providers effectively work with teachers and parents to ensure high quality instruction for all students.

NAPSO would like to hear from you. What suggestions or requests do you have with regard to this grant competition and NAPSO's offer of support?

Please submit specific project suggestions or support requests to NAPSO Co-Chairs Myrna Mandlawitz ([mandlawitz@verizon.net](mailto:mandlawitz@verizon.net)) or Christopher Campbell ([ccampbell@counseling.org](mailto:ccampbell@counseling.org)) no later than July 1, 2007.

For additional information on this grant opportunity, please see the announcement in the Federal Register on April 6, 2007:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/07-1713.pdf>