April 2015 Funding Opportunities Highlights

1. **Title:** Investing in Innovation Fund--Development Grants  
   **Sponsor:** U.S. Department of Education - Office of Innovation and Improvement  
   **Deadline:** April 20, 2015 (notice of intent to submit pre-application); April 29, 2015 (pre-application)  
   **Funding/CFDA Number:** 84.411P  
   [www2.ed.gov/programs/innovation/index.html](http://www2.ed.gov/programs/innovation/index.html)  

   **Description:** The i3 program is designed to generate and validate solutions to persistent educational challenges and to support the expansion of effective solutions to serve substantially larger numbers of students. The central design element of the i3 program is its multi-tier structure that links the amount of funding that an applicant may receive to the quality of the evidence supporting the efficacy of the proposed project. Applicants proposing practices supported by limited evidence can receive relatively small grants that support the development and initial evaluation of promising practices and help to identify new solutions to pressing challenges; applicants proposing practices supported by evidence from rigorous evaluations, such as large randomized controlled trials, can receive sizable grants to support expansion across the country.

2. **Sponsor:** National Science Foundation  
   **Title:** Innovation Corps Sites Program (I-Corps Sites)  
   **Application deadline:** June 9, 2015  

   **Description:** The National Science Foundation (NSF) seeks to develop and nurture a national innovation ecosystem that builds upon research to guide the output of scientific discoveries closer to the development of technologies, products and processes that benefit society.

   In order to contribute to a national innovation ecosystem, NSF established the NSF Innovation Corps Sites Program (NSF I-Corps Sites). Sites are funded at academic
institutions, having already existing innovation or entrepreneurial units, to enable them to:

- Nurture students and/or faculty who are engaged in projects having the potential to be transitioned into the marketplace. I-Corps Sites will provide infrastructure, advice, resources, networking opportunities, training and modest funding to enable groups to transition their work into the marketplace or into becoming I-Corps Team applicants (see NSF Innovation Corps Program, NSF 12-602).

- Develop formal, active, local innovation ecosystems that contribute to a larger, national network of mentors, researchers, entrepreneurs and investors.

The purpose of an I-Corps Site is to nurture and support multiple, local teams to transition their ideas, devices, processes or other intellectual activities into the marketplace.

3. **Sponsor:** Agency for Health Care Research and Quality  
**Title:** AHRQ Small Research Grant Program (R03)  
**Funding number:** PA-15-147  
**Deadlines:** Applications are due June 16, and October 16, 2015.  

**Description:** Notice seeking applications supporting different types of health services research projects including pilot and feasibility studies; secondary analysis of existing data; small, self-contained research projects; development of research methodology; and development of new research technology.

4. **Sponsor:** Spencer Foundation  
**Title:** Lyle Spencer Research Awards: Advancing Understanding of Education Practice and Its Improvement  
**Deadlines:**  
Invited Essays (by invitation only): October 12, 2015  
Invited Full Proposals (by invitation only): January 13, 2016  
**URL:** [http://www.spencer.org/content.cfm/lyle-spencer-research-awards](http://www.spencer.org/content.cfm/lyle-spencer-research-awards)

**Description:** With this program, we aim to reinforce our commitment to intellectually ambitious research, oriented ultimately to improving the practice of education, and independent of any particular reform agendas or methodological strictures. This is not at base a change of direction for a foundation that has always aimed to foster creative and open-minded scholarship; it is however an emphatic assertion of our determination to search for and support the most challenging.
original, and constructive scholarship and research we can find. We intend through this endeavor to press our colleagues in the research community to raise their level of intellectual ambition, to encourage work that is more thoughtful, more critical of prevailing assumptions, more self-critical about their own work and its limitations, and more relevant to the aim of building knowledge for improved educational practice.

Annually, through a highly competitive award process, we will provide research grants of up to $1,000,000 each to a small number of outstanding proposals. This program is a reaffirmation of Spencer’s well-established tradition of supporting intellectually rigorous education research, but even more it is an effort to create much-needed space for creative and ambitious research projects that promise to advance our understanding of educational practice and its improvement.