

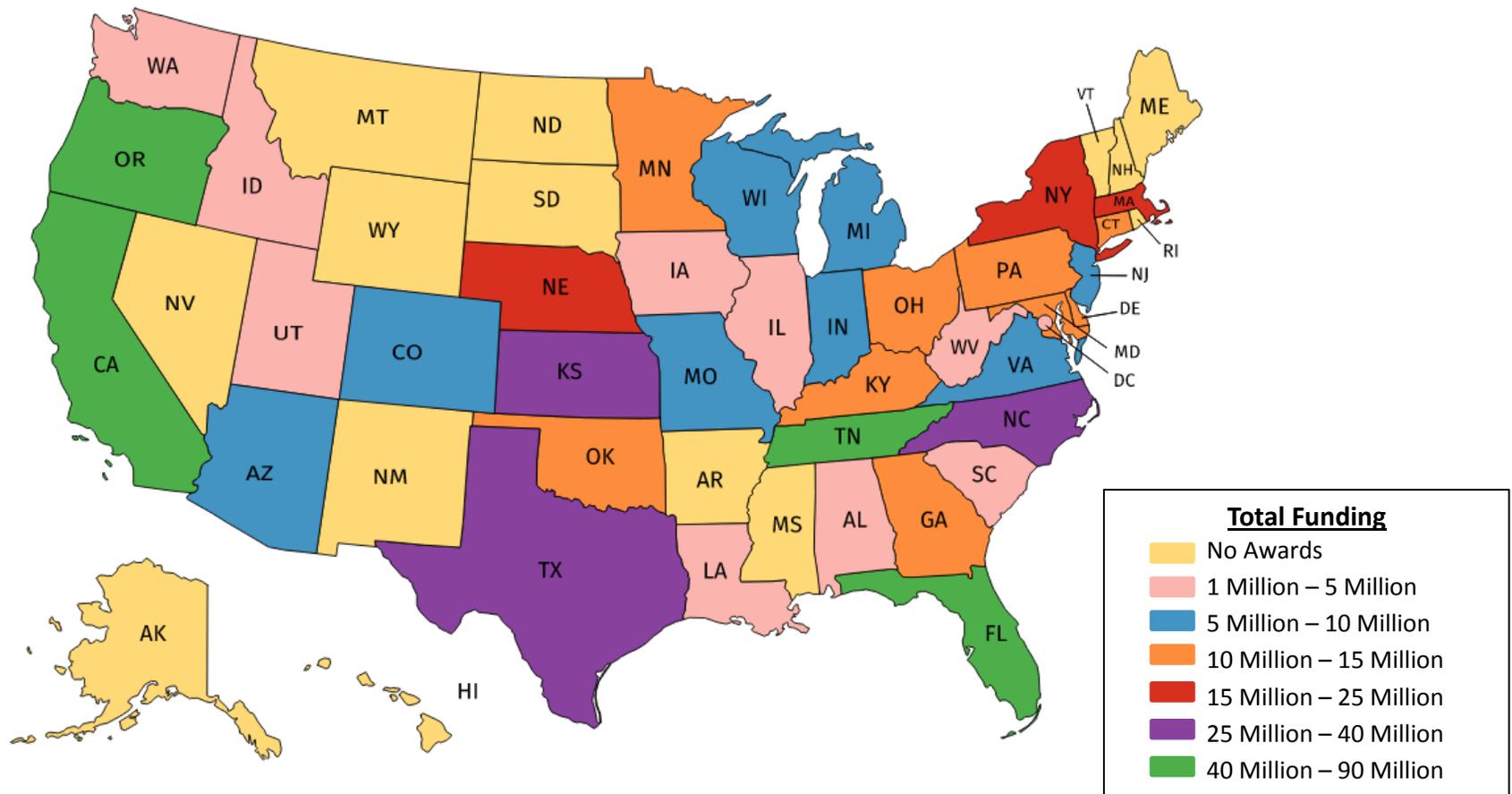


Special Education Research & Development: Supporting Educational Excellence for Children and Youth with Disabilities

ANSWERING THE NEEDS OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMUNITY

The developmental, academic, and lifelong success of the nation’s 7 million children and youth with disabilities relies on innovative research and development. Educators and parents alike depend on the availability of evidence-based strategies to support early intervention and special educational needs of children with disabilities. Furthermore, to implement the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Every Student Succeeds Act, educators are required by law to utilize scientifically based strategies and interventions. The National Center for Special Education Research (NCSER) within the Institute for Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education provides the nation’s over 400,000 special educators with the tools needed to meet these requirements and improve outcomes for children and youth with disabilities.

INVESTING IN SPECIAL EDUCATION RESEARCH: NCSER FUNDED GRANTS AND CONTRACTS BY STATE, 2009-2018



Footnote: Award to Canada \$1.5 million

SPECIAL EDUCATION RESEARCH: DRIVING INNOVATION

Between FY 2009 and FY 2018, the National Center for Special Education Research (NCSER) within the U.S. Department of Education - Institute for Education Sciences has supported research projects totaling over \$615 million, thereby providing the special education community with a better understanding of how children with disabilities learn, the effectiveness of strategies and interventions, and how to assess their knowledge and skills.

NCSER funded grants have supported improved outcomes for children and youth with disabilities and have built a wealth of information in many areas including:

- Early intervention and early childhood special education;
- Mathematics, reading, writing, and language development;
- Behavioral interventions;
- Teacher quality;
- Autism;
- Transition strategies to post-secondary education and career;
- Technology.

FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

The government's investment in NCSER is critical because, despite the dramatic improvement in outcomes for individuals with disabilities, much remains to be done in generating new knowledge to help children and youth realize productive and successful lives.

There is widespread agreement among educators and families that additional practices, based on sound scientific research, are required to better understand how to educate and assess children and youth with disabilities effectively.

It is, therefore, alarming that since 2011 Congress has decimated NCSER's budget, cutting it by 30%. A decrease in funding will result in fewer research initiatives in the future, putting children and youth with disabilities at great risk of compromised outcomes.

At a minimum, special education research funding must be increased to \$70 million, although to truly address these needs, a more substantial increase in funding is actually needed.

