

# Getting Research Done: Working with Research Organizations

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# Presentation Outline

- Current and planned research at CAL and WIDA
- The grant mechanism for funding research
- USED priorities for research
- Strategies for tapping grant funds

# Curriculum & Instruction Research

- Leveraging professional development for ELL educators
- Benchmarking ELL progress in academic & language proficiency
- Mapping ELL language proficiency to academic proficiency



## New & Developing Research Interests

- Profession learning communities for educators of ELLs
- TWI instructional models and implementation
- Academic vocabulary instruction and acquisition
- Math and science instructional models for ELLs
- Computer based testing and tutoring



# Standards & Assessment

- Implementing standards for ELLs
- Accommodating ELLs in assessment
- Developing appropriate and equitable content assessments for ELLs



**ACCESS for ELLs®**



## New & Developing Research Interests

- Early childhood language assessment and school readiness
- Data driven formative assessment for language proficiency
- Content testing for ELLs in math and science
- High school end of course accountability testing



# Data Management

- Relating student progress to program models and instructional strategies
- Tracking ELLs through services
- Setting accountability guidelines (AMAOs)



Perfect Match

WiDA ELL Data  
Retreats

The logo for 'Ladder' features the word 'Ladder' in a stylized, orange, sans-serif font. The 'L' is significantly larger and more prominent than the other letters.

Technical  
Retreats

## New & Developing Research Interests

- Relation between the acquisition of academic language proficiency and content proficiency
- Growth models for language proficiency

# Professional Development

- Establishing professional learning communities for educators of ELLs
- Evaluating effectiveness of professional development models for ELL educators



*Illinois State  
University*



Collaborating to  
Meet the  
Academic Needs  
of ELLs



Foundations in Language  
Minority Education

Reading in New  
Language: Linguistics  
Consideration

Professional  
Development  
Schools

What's Common About  
Common Assessments?



Standards-Based  
Test Item Writing  
and WIDA Teacher  
Collaboration

Institutes on  
Teaching Reading  
to ELLs



Dual Language Program  
Development and  
Enrichment

# Research Ideas + Proposals = Grant



+



=



Grants are won  
if the idea is sound and the proposal is strong!

# What Makes for a Sound Idea?

Idea reflects a:

Theoretical concern  
Ideological concern  
Policy concern  
Practical concern

← the educational scientist  
← the special interest  
← the politician  
← the educator

An alignment of interests makes for the best idea.

# What Makes for a Strong Proposal?

## The traditional educational research proposal

- Narrative
  - Literature review
  - Research questions
  - Research design & methodology
  - Analytic plan
- Management plan
  - Work breakdown structure
  - Staffing plan
  - Budget
- Resources
  - Researcher qualifications
  - Consultants
  - Organization capability statement
- Dissemination plan
  - Presentations
  - Papers
- Representations & certifications
  - Protection of human subjects
  - **School commitments**
  - Others

# What Makes for a *Really* Strong Proposal?

## The partnership educational research proposal

- Narrative
  - Literature review **including teacher action research**
  - Research questions **include school priorities**
  - Research design & methodology **include qualitative evidence**
  - Analytic plan
- Management plan
  - Work breakdown structure **include teacher led activities**
  - Staffing plan **include school personnel**
  - Budget **include teacher pay incentives**
- Resources
  - Researcher qualifications **including school/LEA based**
  - Consultants
  - Organization capability statement **including school commitment**
- Dissemination plan
  - Presentations **including LEA wide**
  - Papers **including collaborations**
- Representations & certifications
  - Protection of human subjects
  - Others

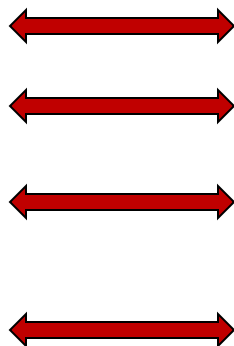
# New USED Priorities for Research Projects

## Race to the Top assurances

Data capability  
Struggling schools  
Teacher & instructional  
improvement  
Common standards  
and assessments

## IES program criteria

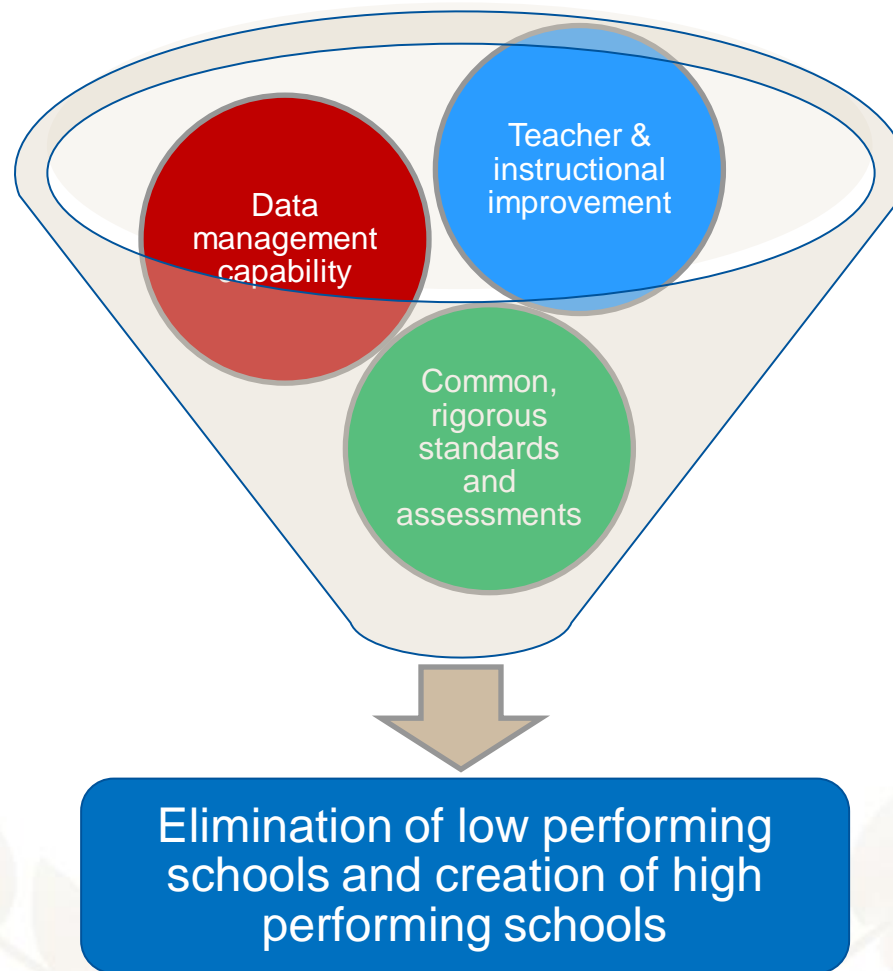
Strong knowledge bases  
Local concerns  
Research utilization and  
application  
Effectiveness, efficiency,  
and comparability



*Short term:  
Tied to ARRA*

*Long term:  
Tied to IES priorities*

# General School Improvement Model



# Data Management Capability

Data  
management  
capability

## Operational goals

- Tie student performance to teacher data
- More timely information to influence instruction
- Serve as an information source for program evaluation
  - Inform all stakeholders about school effectiveness
- Catalyze school improvement efforts

# Teacher and Instructional Improvement

Teacher &  
instructional  
improvement

## Operational goals

- Eliminate ineffective teachers
- Identify and implement effective classroom interventions
- Address local educational environment issues
- Stimulate curriculum and instructional innovation

# Standards and Assessments

Common,  
rigorous  
standards and  
assessments

## Operational goals

- Reduce duplication of effort
- Leverage the value of what works
- Increase interpretability of test results
- Increase international competitiveness
- Stimulate student creativity

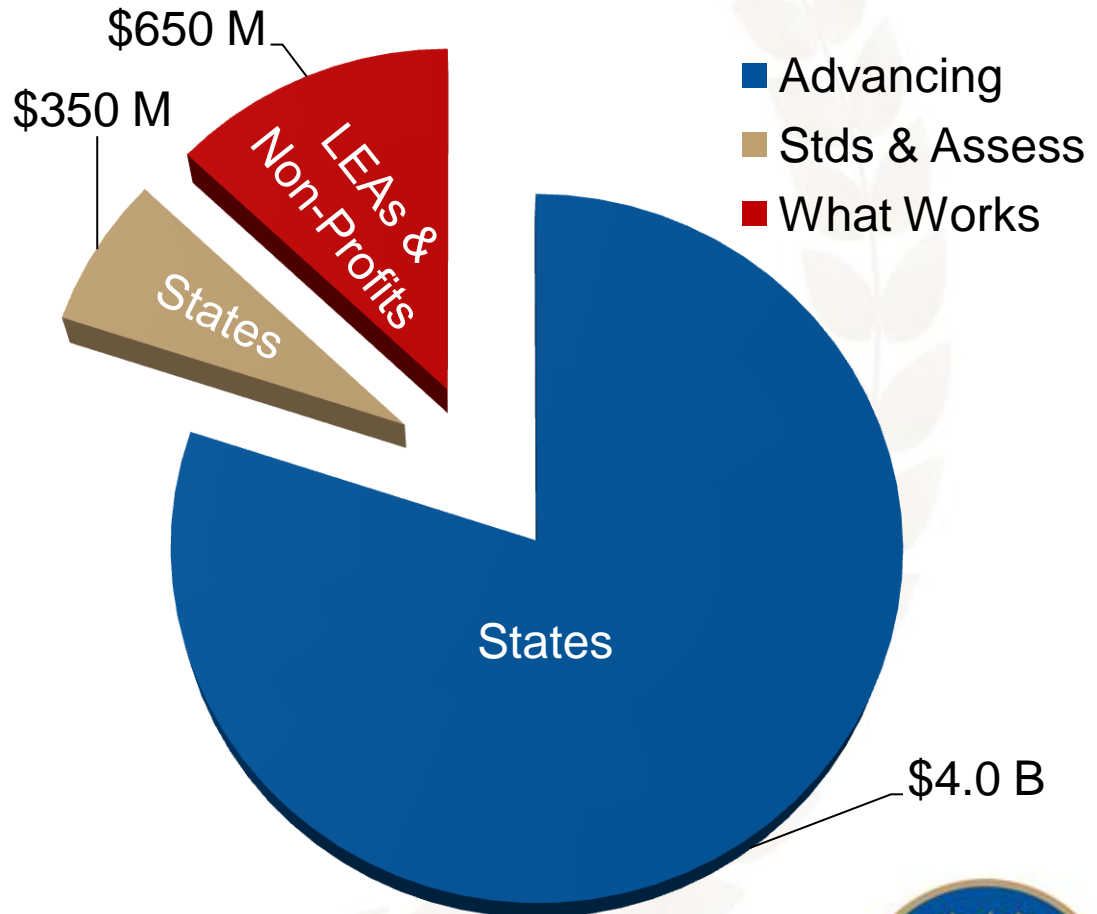
# Competitive Grants Under ARRA

- \$5 billion

- \$4.35 billion – Race to the Top

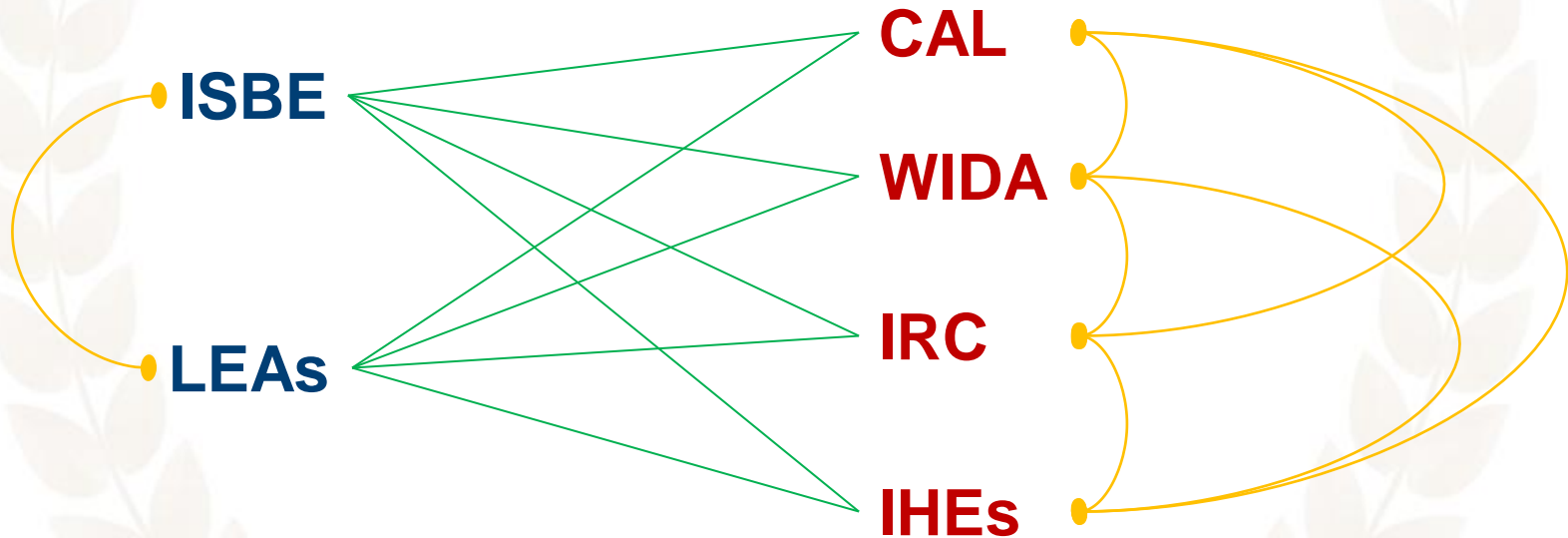
- \$4.0 billion – advancing successful or promising state plans
- \$350 million – support for advancing common standards and assessments

- \$650 million – Invest in What Works and Innovation – *i3* program



# Partnerships – Key to Successful Research Proposals

Partnership arrangements for ELL focused research



Illinois Partnership Zone

# CAL WIDA R&D Programs

Program	Focus	Lead Groups	Grade Level	Participating IL Districts	Website
<b>FLARE</b>	Formative assessment system for teachers of ELLs	WIDA CAL	High school	Chicago	<a href="http://flareassessment.org">flareassessment.org</a>
<b>ONPAR</b>	Math and science parallel assessment for ELLs	WIDA CAL	4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> 7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Cicero	<a href="http://www.onpar.us">www.onpar.us</a>
<b>STELLA</b>	Accommodation strategies for ELLs	WIDA	All	None	<a href="http://elladvantage.com">elladvantage.com</a>
<b>SIOP</b>	Sheltered instruction for ELLs	CAL	All	Many	<a href="http://www.cal.org/siop">www.cal.org/siop</a>
<b>LADDER for ELLs</b>	Data driven school improvement	WIDA	All	Chicago Wauconda	<a href="#">TBD</a>
<b>CREATE</b>	Science instruction for ELLs	CAL U. Houston	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	None	<a href="http://www.cal.org/create">www.cal.org/create</a>
<b>VIAS</b>	Vocabulary instruction & assessment for Spanish speakers	CAL Harvard U. Houston Boston College U. Connecticut	PreK-7 <sup>th</sup>	None	<a href="http://www.cal.org/projects/vias.html">www.cal.org/projects/vias.html</a>
<b>CLIMBS</b>	Professional development for ELL educators	CAL WIDA	All	West 40	<a href="http://www.wida.us/ProfessionalDev/CLIMBS">www.wida.us/ProfessionalDev/CLIMBS</a>

# Action Plan

- Form LEA consortia around vital ELL related issues
- Plan a research related program that addresses the consortia's needs
- Advocate internally for the program and get buy-ins from administration
- Involve one or more research institutions in planning a grant proposal
- Check competition timelines and requirements and build the proposal

# Questions and Comments

For other research ideas related to ELLs, consult:  
The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act:  
Recommendations for Addressing the Needs of English  
Language Learners

Compiled by the ELL Working Group  
March 20, 2009

<http://www.stanford.edu/~hakuta/ARRA/index.html>