Conducting Research in the Crane Center for Early Childhood Research and Policy (CCEC)

The CCEC in the College of Education and Human Ecology at The Ohio State University is a research center dedicated to stimulating research and influencing practices and policies that enhance the well-being of children, with respect to their cognitive, social-emotional, and physical development.

The CCEC seeks to build a research community of faculty, staff, students and practitioners by funding research appointments, fostering mentorship, encouraging collaboration, and providing administrative and technical support throughout the life of affiliated research projects. Please continue reading below to learn more about how the CCEC provides internal and external support of research activities, and to determine how the CCEC can help you meet your research needs.

Internal Support of Research

In accordance with its mission, the CCEC provides internal support of research activities, such as an annual grant competition for OSU students and faculty/staff, as well as provision of graduate research assistantships (GRAs) to CCEC faculty affiliates. In addition, via its partnership with the Schoenbaum Family Center (SFC), the CCEC can provide an avenue for research within an authentic early-education setting. Visit our website at ccec.ehe.osu.edu for up-to-date information on how the CCEC provides internal support of research.

Eligibility for faculty/staff to receive internal support requires a formal affiliation within the CCEC, of which there are two categories:

CCEC Faculty Associates: Hold a ‘joint appointment’ with the CCEC and devote a portion of their work (e.g., mentoring students, developing constituent relations, presenting at research forums, submitting grants) to the CCEC.

CCEC Faculty Affiliates: Hold research and/or teaching interests that are aligned with the CCEC’s mission and may seek further involvement in CCEC supported activities (e.g., consulting or collaborating on a research project, assisting in mentoring doctoral students or postdoctoral researchers, leading workshops).

External Support of Research

The CCEC infrastructure is designed to support faculty, staff, and students in their pursuit of external support for research activities that are aligned to the CCEC mission. The CCEC’s pre- and post-award support infrastructure assists investigators throughout the life of their grant-funded research project.

Pre-Award support


Our administrative team can work with faculty, staff, and students to prepare a competitive grant application. Specific assistance provided can include some or all of the following:

- Identification of funding opportunities
- Identification of the technology- and data-related needs of your project
- Consultation on the analytical approach to be used, including statistical analyses
- Identification and solicitation of letters of support for external partners, such as school districts
- Development of the budget and budget justification
- Submission of ePA005 (university approval to seek off-campus funding)
- Navigation of the application process including gathering, organizing, and submitting grants

Post-Award support

During pre-award activities, researchers will determine the degree of post-award support required of the CCEC, which will then be reflected in the expenditure allocations for indirect costs. The typical types of post-award support provided to CCEC investigators (for which >80% expenditure allocation is to the CCEC) are listed here; additional levels of support can also be supported via direct costs incurred on projects.

- **Human-resource support.** The CCEC HR Generalist provides expertise specific to the types of personnel issues that research grants typically face. This includes generating position descriptions for project positions (e.g., post-doctoral fellow, project director), supporting hiring activities, managing transitions of personnel from one project to another, and supporting investigators in management of their research teams.

- **Budget management.** The Director of Operations and Grants Specialist will provide expertise in budget management. This includes appointment of personnel to the project, budget projections, status updates, etc.

- **Reporting requirements.** The CCEC grants team will assist in fulfilling reporting requirements throughout the life-cycle of the award. This may include effort reporting, mid-year, annual, and close-out reports.

- **Administrative assistance.** The CCEC grants team offers a wide-array of expertise in research administration. They will assist in meeting and event planning, purchasing supplies, travel, conference calls, etc. Additionally, the grants team will help with interpretation of university, state, and federal policies surrounding grants.
• **Facilities.** The CCEC has dedicated research space on the OSU main campus and at the SFC in the Weinland Park community. Given the open-space concept seen through the CCEC-SFC, the general practice is to allocate one workspace per funded FTE. CCEC faculty associates with offices elsewhere on campus can request CCEC workspace, within the guidelines of the college. Investigators can make use of any of the CCEC’s meeting facilities, which range from intimate conference rooms to the large SFC classroom, as well as our student workrooms (for data entry and coding) and flexible GRA workspace.

• **Technology.** As part of the College of Education and Human Ecology, CCEC investigators can use OTEL for their basic technology needs, including software installation and email support. The CCEC’s tech team (i.e., data management core/DMC) is available to support the research-related technology needs of investigators as required of specific projects, including executing evaluation of the technology- and data- related plans of your project, indicating available computer equipment and software, and providing information regarding other available technology (e.g., SharePoint, Noldus, scanners, TeleForm). The pre-award process is important for establishing the DMC allocation a project might require.

• **Research materials.** The CCEC maintains an inventory of various research materials including test manuals, assessment materials, and audio-visual equipment to support project activities (pending availability).