

## Audio Transcript

### A Relationship with CIFR Can Begin in Many Ways

*0:04*

*Narrator*

Working with CIFR can begin in any number of ways. Commonly, states reach out when they see a challenge that requires specialized technical assistance, as was the case in Missouri.

*0:13*

*Angie Nickell*

So, I contacted CIFR, and I asked them to help me clean up our allocation procedures.

*0:20*

*Narrator*

Angie Nickell is Missouri's Director of Special Education Finance.

*0:24*

*Angie Nickell*

And hone in on some of the things that we were doing incorrectly that we needed to revise, and think about our procedures in a little bit different manner.

*0:34*

*Narrator*

Preliminary discussions can surface the need for in-person meetings.

*0:38*

*Angie Nickell*

CIFR's on-site visit for us was a very positive experience. They encouraged all of our staff to attend the meeting, even at the higher levels, so that we all heard the same information, we were all on the same page with what changes we needed to make.

0:55

*Narrator*

In Tennessee, the relationship to address maintenance of state financial support, or MFS, began mutually.

0:58

*Allison Davey*

We had an issue where I clearly realized we didn't have documented procedures for MFS.

1:03

*Narrator*

Allison Davey is the Executive Director, Division of Special Populations and Student Support, at the Tennessee Department of Education.

1:08

*Allison Davey*

Everything was falling on me to do, and in working with them, we were able to kind of come to a place where we now have draft procedures. So I would say we approached one another about working together.

1:23

*Kathy Ehling*

We actually reached out to CIFR because we had a long-term employee who was in charge of the grant.

1:28

*Narrator*

Kathy Ehling, Manager of New Jersey's Bureau of Governance and Fiscal Support, asked CIFR to help with a personnel transition.

1:35

*Kathy Ehling*

And we knew that we were getting ready to lose her, and were very concerned that we weren't going to know what to do with the allocations. They sat with us for literally three days straight, and we documented from A to Z everything that we needed to document.

1:49

*Narrator*

CIFR's responsive TA providers make it easy to get help fast. Anthony Mukuna is Idaho's Funding and Accountability Coordinator.

1:57

*Anthony Mukuna*

I knew that this was a great resource for me to find information. So I just started contacting them every time I had questions. And they've always been really, really helpful, quick in answering my questions, addressing all the issues that I have.

2:16

*Narrator*

The Center for IDEA Fiscal Reporting provides technical assistance to state educational agencies to help them meet their federal obligation to collect and report special education fiscal data under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA. CIFR is a partnership among WestEd, American Institutes for Research, Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education at Utah State University, and Westat. Our evaluator is The Improve Group. These podcasts were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, #H373F140001. However, the contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Our project officer is Dan Schreier.