SEED AWARDS TO SUPPORT INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: Friday, December 8th, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

The Institute of Human Development and Social Change (IHDSC) is pleased to announce its 13th call for seed award applications. The IHDSC seed program provides support for faculty members to jumpstart new programs of multidisciplinary research. The University recognizes that scholars who take up the challenge of conducting interdisciplinary research often need support to conduct preliminary research before they can develop larger proposals for funding. As such, IHDSC is committed to supporting faculty with funding for new projects that bridge multiple domains of expertise while furthering the mission of IHDSC. This year, we are also pleased to include a priority for projects that involve collaboration with community based organizations or government agency partners.

IHDSC’s mission is to stimulate interdisciplinary research and influence social policy on children, youth, families, and communities in the context of a rapidly changing social world. IHDSC aims to break new intellectual ground through its support for rigorous research and training across social, behavioral, educational, policy, and health sciences. We cultivate an intellectual community focused on issues related to poverty and inequality, education and child development, health and wellbeing, and social policy in local, national, and global contexts. Through collaborative research and targeted dissemination, IHDSC works to bridge the disconnect between the science of human development and policies and practices that affect children, youth, adults, and families in diverse contexts.

The application deadline for this year’s competition is December 8th, 2017. All applications will be reviewed by a faculty committee, and award decisions will be made in early 2018. IHDSC seed awards are not designed to support already-funded or ongoing research projects. For support for current research projects, please contact me or an IHDSC staff member.

We look forward to learning more about your work and supporting the development of innovative research projects!

Sincerely,

Elise Cappella
Director
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RESEARCH AREAS AND FUNDING PRIORITIES
Proposed research projects must fit within the research focus areas of the Institute, which include the following:

- Poverty and inequality
- Education and child development
- Health and wellbeing
- Social policy in local, national, and global contexts

Projects should focus on basic change processes in human development, and how these processes are affected by educational, social, economic, historical, political, and cultural contexts. Projects may also explore how human development processes might be altered by intentional change strategies, interventions, or policy.

Research projects that also include one or more of the following components will be given priority:

- Projects led by junior faculty/junior investigators
- Projects led by faculty or investigators that are new to IHDSC and/or NYU
- Projects led by new teams (i.e. teams of investigators that haven’t collaborated in the past)
- Projects that include collaboration with an external partner focused on policy or practice (community based organizations, non-profit organizations, NGOs, or government agencies)

If you have questions regarding the ways in which your scholarly work fits within the mission of the Institute, please do not hesitate to contact us. For descriptions of past grants, please visit http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/ihdsc/research/grants

ELIGIBILITY AND RESTRICTIONS
1. All full-time, tenure-track faculty members are eligible to apply. Research Scientists who have PI status are also eligible to apply.

2. At least one of the lead investigators must be from one of the core schools affiliated with IHDSC: the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, the Faculty of Arts and Science, or the Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service

3. Proposals must draw upon theoretical and analytic approaches from multiple disciplines.

4. A letter with the chair’s signature or review/approval from OSP is NOT required.

5. Previous IHDSC seed grant awardees cannot reapply for funding for the same project.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION
1. Interdisciplinary: Proposed research projects must be interdisciplinary in nature. This criterion is often met by an investigator working collaboratively with one or more researchers in other disciplines, departments, or schools, where the theory and tools of two or more social science disciplines will be used.
   • Collaboration with faculty or researchers at NYU is strongly encouraged, but external collaboration is also acceptable
• If partnering with an external policy or practice organization, it may be possible to meet the interdisciplinary criterion by including appropriate staff (i.e. Director of Research, Director of Evaluation) on the project
• Individual investigators are also eligible to apply, but applications should highlight plans for the investigator to incorporate theory, models, and methods commonly used in a discipline other than their “home discipline.”

2. Focus area of the Institute: The primary focus areas of the Institute are poverty and inequality, education and child development, health and wellbeing, and social policy in local, national, and global contexts. Proposed research projects should include the study of human development in context or as a result of intervention, to fit the focal areas of research of IHDSC. Context(s) may include, but are not limited to, families, schools, neighborhoods, the workforce, the justice system, or the economy. Interventions may be at the individual- (e.g., person) or setting- (e.g., community or school) level.

3. Quality: The rigor and fit of the methods used to address the research problem and the proposed project’s feasibility will be evaluated.

4. Pilot for future study: This RFA is specifically targeted as “seed” or “pilot” support for projects that are large in scope, where faculty members hope to secure future external funding. High priority will be given to investigators with a well-articulated plan for submitting grant applications for external funding (with funders, deadlines, and submission requirements clearly specified). Proposals will also be considered from investigators who have recently submitted a grant application through IHDSC to federal or foundation sources, but would benefit from support to complete preliminary analyses or pilot research to increase the likelihood of gaining funding for such efforts.

5. Impact: Priority will be given to investigators with articulated plans for disseminating project findings, and with projects that have a high likelihood of informing a diverse group of academic, policy, and practitioner audiences. Successful applicants will be expected to engage with the Institute’s intellectual community, give at least one presentation about the project at an IHDSC event, or contribute content (i.e. white paper, blog post, or interview) toward IHDSC’s communication efforts.

GRANTEE RESPONSIBILITIES
Awardees of IHDC Seed Awards are expected to:

1. Participate in IHDSC-sponsored activities whenever possible, including attending Institute-sponsored seminars and IHDSC thematic area meetings on topics related to the project;

2. Hold at least one meeting per semester with IHDSC staff to discuss external funding possibilities, and submit proposals for external support for the project through IHDSC. As noted above, collaborative submissions between IHDSC and other departments at NYU are also a possibility;

3. Contribute content to IHDSC’s dissemination efforts (i.e. blog post, white paper, interview)

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1 Seed award recipients will be required to submit proposals through IHDSC, or as collaborative proposals through IHDSC and another unit at NYU.
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4. Alert IHDSC staff of any external publications or media coverage resulting from the funded project;

5. Submit short annual progress and financial reports, and

6. Sign a letter agreeing to meet award requirements.

HOW TO APPLY
Please email your proposal to Chris Barker, IHDSC Assistant Director, Program Development, at cjb241@nyu.edu, by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 8th, 2017. Award decisions will be announced in early 2018.

Proposals must include the following components:

1) PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The project description should be 3 to 5 single-spaced pages including all pictures, graphs, tables, and references. Be succinct, avoid jargon, and spell out acronyms when used for the first time. Please include answers to all of the following questions so reviewers have the information necessary to evaluate your proposal.

   a) Project name

   b) Name of PI and additional investigators

   c) Program overview and design: Please describe the project’s scope, size, and components. What methodology will you employ? How is your program multidisciplinary? What is the project’s duration and timeline?

   d) State of knowledge: What is the current state of knowledge regarding the proposed research? What are the relevant disciplines? What impact might the project have on the state of knowledge across these disciplines?

   e) Impact: What impact might your project have at NYU or in the broader community? How will your project inform academic, policy, or practitioner audiences?

   f) Statement of potential results: What are the hypothesized results? How do you intend to use the results for future research?

   g) Incorporation of students: How can the proposed research be included in graduate and undergraduate training?

   h) Availability of funding: List all funders to which you plan to submit a proposal resulting from this project and the estimated date of submission. If you have already submitted a proposal, explain why this award will be critical to your success in gaining additional funding for this line of research. NOTE: FUNDING FROM IHDSC WILL NOT BE AWARDED FOR WORK THAT CLEARLY DUPLICATES WORK FUNDED THROUGH OTHER MECHANISMS, NOR IS THIS MECHANISM INTENDED TO SUPPORT CURRENT PROJECT ACTIVITIES.
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2) **CURRICULUM VITAE**
Include a CV for each investigator involved in the proposed project.

3) **BUDGET**
Awards typically range from $5,000-$15,000, and will not exceed $20,000. Award size depends on the proposed scope of work. Funds are not permitted for faculty support. Budgeted expenses may include wages for student assistants, fringe benefits, travel related to data collection, fieldwork expenses, computer time, consultation, hourly assistance, etc. Proposed budgets should consist of:

   a) A **one-page line item budget**
      o A template is available upon request
   b) A **budget justification explaining the purpose of each line item.**

4) **HUMAN SUBJECTS INFORMATION**
Please note that all funded proposals that include the participation of human subjects as part of their research design must be reviewed and approved by the New York University Committee on Activities Involving Human Subjects (UCAIHS). Investigators with projects that include human subjects are strongly encouraged to apply for approval as soon as possible because funding cannot be formally awarded until human subject approval has been granted. Please indicate in your seed application whether human subjects will be involved in your research, and if so, what the status of your human subjects application is.

**QUESTIONS**
If you have questions about the IHDSI seed program, including questions about the application package or budget development, please contact Chris Barker at cj241@nyu.edu or 212-998-5540.