INSTITUTE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL CHANGE
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Fall 2012

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: December 21st, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

Dear Colleagues:

The Institute of Human Development and Social Change (IHDSC) is pleased to announce a call for applications. IHDSC’s mission is to stimulate and support theoretically and methodologically advanced interdisciplinary research on basic developmental processes, the complex interplay between developing systems and changing contexts, and the application of research to the design and evaluation of intentional change strategies at the program and policy levels. The Institute brings together faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students in collaborative relationships among New York University’s School of Arts and Sciences, the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, and the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. This call for applications provides fiscal “seed” support to faculty for multidisciplinary research.

The University recognizes that scholars who take up the challenge of conducting multidisciplinary research need support to jump-start new programs of inquiry. IHDSC has therefore been charged by the University to support junior and senior tenure-track or tenured faculty as investigators to bridge multiple domains of expertise and cross disciplinary boundaries. This is the eighth RFA that intends to support seed projects meeting IHDSC’s mission. For descriptions of past grantees, please visit http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/ihdsc/grants/.

We look forward to supporting the development of innovative, multidisciplinary research projects through this award structure. The deadline for applications is December 21st, 2012. All applications are reviewed by an interdisciplinary committee. Award decisions will be made by January 31st, 2013.

The RFA is not intended to provide support for ongoing or developed research projects. If you have questions regarding the ways in which your scholarly work fits within the mission of the Institute, do not hesitate to contact us to discuss your concerns. We look forward to learning more about your work.

Sincerely,

Richard Arum, Interim Director
Richard.arum@nyu.edu
FOCUS AREAS

1. The dynamics of individuals’ learning, health, well-being, and social relationships within changing social contexts. This means that, while the research question must be framed within changing social contexts, the focus of the question can be exclusively on analyses of human development within those contexts. Similarly, research could focus exclusively on changing social contexts, as long as the question will highlight the implications of those changing social contexts for human development.

2. The use of models and methods from more than one discipline, including those methods and/or models that have emerged from sociology, psychology, economics, public health, policy studies, prevention science, or allied disciplines.

3. Examples of research topics within this dual emphasis on both human development and changing social contexts within a multidisciplinary frame include:
   - Family structure and the biopsychology of stress
   - Globalization, megacities, and child and family well-being
   - Parental and public investments in children
   - Developmental dynamics of intergroup conflict, prejudice and discrimination
   - Early learning and school readiness in micro and macro contexts

Applications are not limited to these topics. Instead, they serve as examples of ways to approach questions of human development and social change from a multidisciplinary perspective.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

1. **Multidisciplinary:** High importance is placed on the extent that the proposed research project is multidisciplinary. This criterion could be met by an investigator working collaboratively with two or more researchers in other disciplines, department, or schools, where the tools of two or more social science disciplines will be used. This criterion could also be met by a single investigator who proposes to “cross-train” in theory, models, and methods commonly used in a discipline other than their “home discipline,” with mentorship and support provided by other faculty in that second “disciplinary home.”

2. **Quality:** The rigor and fit of the methods used to address the research problem and the proposed project’s feasibility.

3. **Pilot:** This RFA is specifically targeted as “seed” or “pilot” support for projects that are large in scope, where faculty members hope to secure external funding. High priority will be given to applications where the investigator has recently submitted a large grant application through IHSDSC to federal or foundation sources, but where he or she would benefit from pilot or seed support to complete preliminary analyses or pilot research. Investigators with a well-articulated plan for submitting grant applications through the Institute for external funding (with grantor agencies, deadlines, and submission requirements clearly specified) will also be given priority.
4. **Dissemination**: The investigator’s plans for dissemination of findings, and the likely contributions that findings from the proposed study will serve a translational role across academic and policy audiences.

**ELIGIBILITY AND RESTRICTIONS**

1. All full-time, tenure-track faculty members are eligible to apply. Research Scientists who have held their appointments for five or more years are also eligible to apply.

2. At least one of the principal investigators must be from: Arts and Sciences, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, or Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service.

3. The names and areas of expertise in a different discipline from the PI should be clearly stated. Faculty members from other disciplines do not need to be listed as Co-I.

4. Proposals must draw upon theory and analytic approaches from at least two disciplines.

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

6. IHDSC Seed Grant awardees cannot apply within a 5-year period for funding on a previously funded project. However, if funding is sought to cover new expenses related to a previously funded project, the application must include: a brief abstract of the previously funded project; a brief rationale for the new project; and a description of the ways in which the new project is not duplicative of the previously funded project.

**PROJECT MONITORING**

1. Candidates selected to receive Seed Grants must sign letters of acceptance acknowledging their agreement to meet IHDSC expectations and reporting requirements prior to receipt of their award.

2. All award monies must be spent by the end of the academic year in which the award was received unless otherwise arranged with IHDSC.

3. After all monies have been spent a summary budget report must be submitted to IHDSC within 60 days of the exhaustion of funds. If the final budget does not closely match the proposed budget, please include a brief explanation for the discrepancy.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project description should not exceed five 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 answer all the following questions so that reviewers have the information necessary to evaluate your proposal.

1. **Program overview and design**: Please describe the project’s scope, size, and components. What methodology will you employ? What is the project’s duration and timeline?
2. **State of knowledge:** What impact might the project have on the progress or state of knowledge in its field?

3. **Impact in the field:** What impact might your project have both at NYU and in the community?

4. **Statement of potential results:** What are the hypothesized results? How do you intend to use the results?

5. **Incorporating students:** How can the proposed research be included in graduate and undergraduate training?

6. **Availability of funding:** If you have external funding, please be very clear on why you are seeking support. Which organizations fund this type of research? Briefly describe each that you intend to submit your proposal to and when. To which other agencies, funders, and organizations (inside and outside NYU) have you submitted an application? Please list the decision dates of the above and the status of your application (e.g., awarded, pending, submitted, declined). NOTE: FUNDING FROM IHDSC WILL NOT BE AWARDED IF IT CLEARLY DUPLICATES AWARDS RECEIVED FROM OTHER FUNDING MECHANISMS.

**CURRICULUM VITAE**
Submit a CV for each investigator involved in the project.

**BUDGET**

Awards typically range from $5,000-$15,000 and will not exceed $20,000. Awards vary depending on the proposed scope of work.

Expenses should be listed in a one-page line item budget and may include salary for student research assistants, fringe benefits, travel related to data collection, fieldwork expenses, computer time, consultation, hourly assistance, etc. Include a budget justification explaining the purpose of each line item. Any questions about developing the budget can be directed to Lisa Steiger (lisa.steiger@nyu.edu or 212-998-5536)

**HUMAN SUBJECTS REVIEW**

It is anticipated that many of the proposals will include the participation of human subjects in their research designs. Investigators should note that all funded proposals must be reviewed and approved by the New York University Committee on Activities Involving Human Subjects. Investigators are strongly encouraged to apply for human subjects included in the proposal, funding cannot be awarded until human subject approval has been granted.

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATOR TO GET THE NAME OF THE PERSON TO HELP IN PREPARING THESE MATERIALS.

**SUBMISSION**
Please submit the proposal electronically to Lisa Steiger, IHDSC Pre-Award Administrator, at lisa.steiger@nyu.edu, by 5:00 p.m. on December 21st, 2012. The review committee will announce award decisions by January 31st, 2013.