

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Applications due Monday, August 16, 2010 5:00 p.m. (PST)

West Coast Poverty Center

Emerging Poverty Scholars Small Grants Program

Purpose

The West Coast Poverty Center (WCPC) seeks proposals for grants through its **Emerging Poverty Scholars Program**. This program supports new and continuing research on U.S. poverty and anti-poverty policy by scholars at the University of Washington who are in an early stage of their careers.

About the West Coast Poverty Center

The West Coast Poverty Center (WCPC) is one of three regional poverty centers with core funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE). The Center, sponsored jointly by the University of Washington School of Social Work, the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs, and the College of Arts and Sciences, is a regional hub for research, education, and policy analysis leading to greater understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and the effects of public policy on poverty. The Center also disseminates knowledge about effective state and local policies for addressing poverty to policy makers, practitioners and the community.

About the Emerging Poverty Scholars Grants

Emerging Poverty Scholars Grants are designed to support U.W. faculty and research faculty who are in the early stages of their careers. The Center will award grants of up to \$15,000 for research on topics relating to the causes, consequences and effective responses to poverty in the U.S. The Center supports research on a broad range of poverty-related topics and on the role of public, nonprofit, private market and community institutions. Quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-method approaches are all encouraged as are submissions from scholars in any discipline. Proposals may address any aspect of the causes, consequences and/or policy-responses to poverty. Priority will be given to projects that are nationally significant in advancing knowledge about poverty and public policy.

Terms of Funding

1. Applicants must be University of Washington faculty members who are assistant professors, research assistant professors, associate professors who earned tenure within the two previous years, or research associate professors who were promoted to this rank within the two previous years. Preference will be given to assistant and research assistant professors with full-time appointments.
2. WCPC Emerging Poverty Scholar grants will fund reasonable research expenses such as data or software purchases, research assistance, research-related travel, relevant supplies, academic year salary, and/or statistical or other consulting, to a maximum of \$15,000.
3. The grant will fund direct costs only. The Center may fund a proposal at a level below the requested budget, as necessary.
4. For applicants requesting funds for academic year salary (i.e., course reduction), preference will be given to proposals with salary requests at replacement cost (rather than at the applicant's full salary).
5. Grants may start as early as October 2010. Funded activities must end by May 31, 2011. No-cost extensions will not be allowed.
6. Funded scholars must submit a 2 page progress report six months after the start of funding and a 2-3 page final report within 30 days of the end of the funding period.
7. Funded scholars will be expected to complete at least one paper suitable for academic publication. A paper will be due to the Center within three months of the completion of the funding period and, contingent on review, will be posted as a working paper on the Center's public website.
8. Funded scholars will be invited and expected to participate in Center activities including seminars, workshops and conferences. During the course of the funding period, they will present their research at a WCPC seminar and receive input from WCPC-affiliated scholars.

Selection Criteria

Senior scholars affiliated with the WCPC and representatives of the U.S. DHHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) will evaluate the proposals. Criteria for evaluation will include:

- Potential for the research to contribute to knowledge about the causes, consequences and reduction of poverty in the U.S.
- The relevance of the project to current community, state, regional or national policy issues.
- The quality of the project's theoretical justification and study design, including the choice of research methodology and data.
- The feasibility of the proposed study.

- Qualifications of the investigator(s).
- The value of the grant to the career development of the investigator.

Research on any topic that improves understanding of the nature, causes and correlates of poverty and the effects of public policy on poverty is eligible for support.

Application Instructions

Please provide **4 PAPER COPIES AND ONE ELECTRONIC COPY IN MICROSOFT WORD OR ADOBE ACROBAT PDF** of the following in the order listed. Applicants may submit one proposal per round of competition.

The full RFP may be downloaded from the WCPC website at depts.washington.edu/wcpc/grants

1. Cover sheet. Please use the template on the last page of this announcement. The cover sheet will include the following information:

- a. The investigator's (or investigators') name and department affiliation with mailing address, email address, and phone number
- b. The title of the proposed study.
- c. An abstract describing the specific aims, data and methods, and policy significance of the proposed study.
- d. The name and signature of the Chair of the PI's home department or the Dean of the PI's home school (for non departmentalized units) indicating approval of the proposal and proposed budget.

If the proposed research involves more than one investigator, a principal investigator must be identified. All correspondence will be with the PI.

2. Description of the proposed project in no more than 6 double-spaced pages (excluding figures and references) with 1 inch margins and 12 point font. The description should:

- a. Clearly describe in one paragraph the specific aims of the project and their significance for the understanding of poverty and improving anti-poverty policy.
- b. Very briefly explain how the proposed project would extend/improve the relevant literature.
- c. Briefly summarize the PI's prior research in the area.
- d. Present major hypotheses or study questions.
- e. Describe the research design, proposed methodology, and data sources.
- f. Clearly indicate how the design will answer the research questions.

Give particular emphasis to items a, d, e and f. Do not submit long literature reviews.

3. An itemized proposed budget and a short budget narrative that describes and explains each line item. Appropriate research expenses include:

- Research assistance (salary and tuition)
- Travel to conduct research (not for conference attendance)
- Purchase of data, software, relevant supplies or small pieces of equipment
- Academic year salary for the PI
- Statistical or other consultation
- Contract services (personal or other)

The budget narrative should state the relationship, if any, between currently funded research and this proposal.

4. A project timeline listing specific milestones for study completion. The timeline for the portion of research that would be funded through this award can start as early as October 2010 and must be complete by May 31, 2011.

5. Curriculum vitae (two pages, maximum) for all investigators.

6. NOTE: All projects requiring human subjects review must receive approval (often a waiver in the case of secondary data analysis) before funding can be dispersed.

The award committee reserves the right to request additional supporting documentation as necessary. **Applications that are received after the deadline, are incomplete, exceed page limits, or are otherwise nonresponsive to these guidelines may not be reviewed.**

Timeline and Important Dates

- **Application deadline** – Monday, August 16, 2010, 5:00 p.m. (PST)
Paper and electronic copies must be **received in our office** by the deadline
- **Notification of award** – on or before Friday, September 24, 2010
- Funding period – as early as October 2010; complete by May 31, 2011
- Participate in Center activities, including presenting at Center seminar, during funding period
- 2 page progress report due six months after start of funding
- 2-3 page final report due within 30 days of the end of the funding period
- Paper suitable for academic publication due within 3 months of the end of the funding period.

Contact Information

Send Paper Applications to:
West Coast Poverty Center
2010-2011 Emerging Scholar Grant Program
University of Washington
School of Social Work
4101 – 15th Avenue NE
Box 354900
Seattle, WA 98105- 6299

Send Electronic Applications to:
wpcp@uw.edu

Direct questions to:
Rachel Lodge
Program Director
206-616-2858
wpcp@uw.edu

Director's Discretion: *Nothing in this announcement should be construed as obligating the WCPC to make any awards.*

Core funding for the WCPC and this competition are provided by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Cover Sheet
WCPC EMERGING POVERTY SCHOLARS SMALL GRANT PROPOSAL
Full application (paper and electronic) must be received by
Monday, August 16, 2010, 5:00 p.m. (PST)

Table cells will lengthen as needed to accommodate contents, but please do not exceed one page. This form also is downloadable from depts.washington.edu/wcpc/grants. Please include this cover sheet in the paper and electronic copy of your application.

Principal Investigator Information	Name: Department: Mail address: E-mail address: Phone:
Project Title	
Abstract (250-word limit)	
Total Funding Requested	Amount:

Signature of Dean or Department Chair:

Name and Department

Date