



Regional Small Grants Program Request for Proposals

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00 P.M. (EST), Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Background and Purpose

The University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research (UKCPR), in cooperation with the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, seeks proposals for social science research on issues salient to low-income populations in the American South. The American South, as defined by UKCPR, is the 16-state Southern Legislative Conference. Topics of particular interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Effects of current recession on employment, income, housing/homelessness, consumption, and savings of low-wage workers and families. Also of interest is research on the success of the social safety net, including the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, in assisting families during the recession.
- Child and family well being. Examples include health insurance, health outcomes, marriage and family, self sufficiency, transfer program participation, persistent poverty, child care, and barriers to employment.
- Human capital accumulation. Examples include early childhood interventions, formal schooling, and welfare-to-work training.
- Research based on secondary data sources is encouraged. See our Web site at <http://www.ukcpr.org/> for additional information on UKCPR and abstracts of previously funded projects available under the “Research” and “Publications” links.

Eligibility

Applicants for UKCPR grants must hold a Ph.D. or equivalent academic degree by Sept. 1, 2009. Preference will be given to researchers with full-time academic appointments and for research topics that are salient to low-income populations in the South. Members of minority and underrepresented groups, as well as recent Ph.D.'s, are strongly encouraged to apply. Members of University of Kentucky faculty and postdoctoral fellows are not eligible for funding under this competition.

Award

The UKCPR anticipates funding 3 proposals, up to a maximum of \$20,000 per award. The Center will support expenses such as the PI(s) salary, research assistant's salary, data, computer services, supplies, and travel. The award will be established as a personal services contract between the PI and the University of Kentucky Research Foundation. Indirect cost recovery is not allowed. Drafts of final reports will be presented at a conference in Lexington. The award period is Sept 1, 2010 to May 31, 2011. Final reports are due at UKCPR within 60 days of the final day of the award period. A 1000 word non-technical summary of the research question, methods, and findings is due at the time of final report submission. UKCPR will remit the final invoice payment after receipt of the final report. No-cost extensions are not allowed on these grants. All funds must be expended by the end of the award period. Subject to the director's discretion, articles will be posted on the UKCPR Web site as part of the Discussion Paper Series, and summaries included in the periodic newsletter Insights on Southern Poverty.

Application Packet

To receive full consideration for a UKCPR Regional Small Grant, all applicants must deliver 5 paper copies via mail courier AND one electronic copy in Microsoft Word or PDF format via E-mail of the following items on or before 5:00 P.M. (EST), Tuesday, July 20, 2010:

- A cover page containing the title of the proposed research; applicant's name and institutional affiliation (if multiple authors, a PI must be identified); and contact information including full mailing address, E-mail address, phone and fax numbers
- A one-page abstract summarizing the goals, methods, data, and policy implications of the proposed project
- A proposal, not to exceed 10 double-spaced pages (excluding bibliography and budget) with 12 pt. font and 1" margins on all sides, describing the motivation and background for the study, the research methods employed (theoretical and statistical models as appropriate), the data (as appropriate), the expected results, and the implications for poverty policy in general and in the South in particular
- All proposals must contain a timely plan for obtaining IRB approval or exemption for human subjects research. The University of Kentucky will not process subcontracts without a statement of IRB exemption/approval.
- An itemized budget detailing the allocation of funds requested such as salary, fringe benefits, tuition, travel, data, computer services, and supplies. PIs are to budget for travel to Lexington, Ky. in the spring of 2011 to attend UKCPRs annual small grants conference. The budget period is Sept 1, 2010 to May 31, 2011. The award cap is \$20,000, and it will be administered as a personal services contract.
- Current curriculum vitae of (Co)PIs

Application Selection

Applications will be initially screened for relevance to the subject areas described above. Those passing

an initial screen for relevance to the RFP objectives will be evaluated by senior scholars affiliated with the UKCPR and by staff from ASPE. Proposals will be evaluated based upon several factors, including:

- The potential policy and scientific relevance of the proposed research in advancing our understanding of the causes, consequences, and correlates of poverty in the American South
- The quality of the study design, including statement of objectives, methods, data, and anticipated results
- The qualifications and experience of personnel
- The appropriateness of the budget in relation to the proposed project

Application Deadline

All application materials (including 5 paper copies and electronic copy) must be received by 5:00 P.M. (EST), Tuesday, July 20, 2010.

Award Announcement

On or about August 27, 2010

UKCPR Mini-Conference

Tentatively scheduled for May 17, 2011. Awardees must participate in this conference.

Final Report Due

May 31, 2011

Please submit all components of the application (5 paper copies by mail and 1 electronic copy by E-mail) to:

Director
Center for Poverty Research
Mathews Building, Suite 300
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40506-0047

- One electronic copy of the complete package should be sent via e-mail to ukcpr@uky.edu. Send electronic copy in Word or PDF.
- Applications may be sent via U.S. Mail or other private carrier. No fax copies.
- Please direct questions to ukcpr@uky.edu with “Small Grants Program” in the subject line.

Director’s Discretion

Nothing in this announcement should be construed as to obligate the UKCPR to make any awards whatsoever. Awards are contingent upon funding availability, the research needs of the Center, and the quality of applications received.

Funding

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

About UKCPR

The University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research (UKCPR) was established in October 2002 as one of three federally designated Area Poverty Research Centers, with core funding from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The UKCPR is a nonprofit and nonpartisan academic research center housed in the Gatton College of Business & Economics, Department of Economics, University of Kentucky.

The Center’s research mission is a multidisciplinary approach to the causes, consequences, and correlates of poverty and inequality, with a special emphasis on the southern United States. To learn more about the funded research programs of the UKCPR please visit our Web site. For general inquiries, further information about RFPs, etc., contact University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research, 302D Mathews Building, Lexington, KY 40506-0047. Phone: (859) 257-7641, e-mail ukcpr@uky.edu.

Visit us online at www.ukcpr.org