

**Request for Proposals
COP Research Fund--Specific Research Areas
Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University
Spring 2009**

PURPOSE

The Center on Philanthropy invites research grant applications proposing research areas within philanthropy and non-profits that are intellectually significant while at the same time have the potential to increase the attractiveness of the Center's research program to potential financial supporters.

BACKGROUND

Since 1990 the Center on Philanthropy Research Fund (henceforth, Research Fund) has been a source of funds available to Indiana University faculty to conduct research about the causes and consequences of philanthropic behavior. The criteria used to decide if an application is about the causes and consequences of philanthropic behavior have been very broad. Broad criteria have the advantage of enabling a researcher to pursue her or his work without necessarily thinking about whether the results of the work will help persuade others to continue financing philanthropic research.

The use of broad criteria works well as long as foundations that finance the Research Fund need little persuasion to continue doing so. Unfortunately there are clear signals that this is no longer the case.

The faculty can increase their chances of financial support from the Center on Philanthropy Research Fund by conducting research that also aligns with other specific areas of interest to potential supporters. For example, proposals relating to research on philanthropy and race and culture, women, and youth have potential external funders and will be given priority. The premise of this RFP is that many Philanthropic Studies faculty already have research interests that align with the interests of potential supporters. Therefore this RFP announces a funding mechanism to provide an incentive for faculty to develop their research interests in a way that aligns them with the interests of potential supporters.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

The objective of this RFP is to develop the Center's research program in specific research areas that have the potential to:

- (1) draw external grant support directly to the Philanthropic Studies faculty working in the area and/or
- (2) increase the attractiveness of the Center's research program to major funders of the Center.

Some EXAMPLES of specific research areas might **include**, but are **NOT LIMITED** to:

- Diversity in Philanthropy: Women, Culture, and Youth (priority given)
- Religion, Philanthropy, and Policy
- Fundraising Field Experiments
- Developing Philanthropic Practices Among Children and Teens
- Evaluating the Value and Effectiveness of Nonprofit Organizations
- Using Literature to Explore Meaning in Philanthropy
- Health and Philanthropy
- Social Entrepreneurship and Venture Philanthropy

This list was generated by taking a very quick look at the web pages for the interests of funders who either have or who might provide funding to the Center; and by considering suggestions made by Philanthropic Studies faculty members. For instance, the Kellogg and Ford Foundations are interested in philanthropy by people of color, women, and youth. The Lilly Endowment, the Pew Charitable Trust, and the Ford Foundation are interested in religion. Several economists and at least one psychologist have been funded to conduct fund raising field experiments. Many practitioners are interested in the transmission of philanthropic practices. A member of the research committee pointed to growing interest in Washington in evaluating the effectiveness of nonprofits. The National Endowment for the Humanities granted \$250,000 to the Maine Humanities Council for reading and discussion programs in giving.

This list is for EXAMPLE PURPOSES ONLY. The aim of this RFP is to fund Philanthropic Studies faculty to do a more careful investigation of important areas and the funders that might reasonably be expected to support them. Essentially, the Philanthropic Studies faculty who respond to this RFP will define the list.

MECHANISM OF SUPPORT

The Research Fund will support the development of specific research areas using a **two-round** mechanism. The first round will provide modest funding for faculty to write a concept paper advocating a specific research area. The best of the concept papers will be selected for second round funding. Second round funding will be more significant. The output of the second round will be an application for research funding ready for submission to external funders.

A faculty member submitting an application for Round 1 funding will be making a proposal that convinces the Research Committee that a specific research area has promise both intellectually and in terms of attracting external funding. If the faculty member receives a Round 1 grant she will use the grant funding to develop this proposal into a more detailed concept paper. The concept paper will make a stronger, more detailed case for the promise of the specific research area. That concept paper will form the core of the faculty member's application for Round 2 funding.

If the faculty member receives a Round 2 grant she will use the grant funding to develop a proposal for external funding. At the conclusion of the grant period this proposal will be submitted for external funding by the faculty member.

NOTE:

The Center considers sharing in any indirect costs that are generated from the applications that

are produced in the second round to be justified by its role in cultivating the application. Applicants agree to have the details of the sharing arrangement worked out between the Center's Research Department and the appropriate Dean prior to the submission of the application/proposal to an external funder.

FUNDS AVAILABLE

While the exact number of awards to be made in each round has not been predetermined, it is anticipated that between five and ten awards will be made in the first round and around three awards in the second round. The **first round awards will be \$5,500 for one investigator or \$10,000 for multiple investigators**. Requests for first round funds exceeding this amount must provide compelling justification why more funds are necessary to produce the concept paper.

Second round awards will depend on the quality of the concept papers and the budget requests that accompany the concept papers. However, we anticipate the second round awards being in the **neighborhood of \$20,000**.

SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL

It is not necessary to have received a Round One grant to submit a Round Two application. However, all Round Two proposals will be reviewed together.

The attachments to the proposal for Round One or Round Two must include:

- 1) a fully completed Application Form (**attached to the front of the application**); and
- 2) a one-page resume for each principal researcher, to include information on the person's background most relevant to the project.

Send 1 electronic copy and 5 hard copies of the proposal and attachments to:

Reema Bhakta

Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University

550 West North Street, Suite 301

Indianapolis, IN 46202-3162

Phone: (317) 278-8996

Email: rtbhakta@iupui.edu

REVIEW CRITERIA

Applications for both rounds will be reviewed by members of the Research Committee and faculty with expertise in the substantive area of the application.

The Proposal (Round One):

Faculty members submitting an application for a Round One award should present a proposal for external funding that they would like to develop. A successful proposal will result in a Round One grant to provide the applicant with resources to develop the proposal into a concept paper. The proposal should sketch out the idea that would be developed in the concept paper. Specifically, the proposal should identify the specific research area and include the following sections:

Significance: Explain the intellectual significance of the specific research area. Why is the specific research area important?

Background: What is the state of knowledge in the specific research area? What are the open questions?

Innovation: What is your main innovation that you bring to the specific research area? Do you anticipate your innovation being in concepts, approaches, or in methods? Do you have an original question?

Investigator: Describe the applicant's interest and previous experience in the specific research area. List other Philanthropic Studies faculty who might be interested or who have experience in the specific research area. The Center on Philanthropy encourages faculty to work together on applications, although this is not a requirement.

External Funding: Explain how a successful research program in the specific area would:

- (1) likely lead to external grant support to the applicant (provide at least one example), and/or
- (2) increase the attractiveness of the Philanthropic Studies research program to major funders of the Center (again, provide at least one example).

There is a TEN PAGE MAXIMUM for this portion of the Round One application (double-spaced, one inch margins).

The Concept Paper (Round Two):

Faculty receiving Round One awards will prepare a concept paper. Although the concept paper is the output of the Round One grant it will serve as an input to Round Two. Specifically, the concept paper is the centerpiece of the Round Two application. The concept paper/Round Two application will be reviewed according to the following criteria. These criteria extend those used in evaluating Round One proposals and should be developed in more detail and present more compelling arguments.

Research objective: Within the specific research area, what is the research objective you will propose to an external funder? What will the application for external funding propose to do?

Significance:

- (a) Explain the intellectual significance of the specific research area. Why is the specific research area important? If you achieve your research objective how will it advance the specific research area? How will achieving your research objective advance Philanthropic Studies?
- (b) What are the potential applied uses of the knowledge to be gained by achieving your research objective (which funders are interested in this)?

Background: What is the state of knowledge in the specific research area? What are the open questions? What progress has previously been made (by you or others) toward your research objective?

Approach: How are you going to do the work? What conceptual framework, design, methods, procedures, and analyses do you anticipate will be necessary to accomplish the research objective?

Innovation: How is your research objective and approach innovative? Is your innovation in concepts, approaches, or in methods? Do you have an original question/research objective?

Preliminary results: What preliminary results do you think must be generated and included in your external application for the external application to be successful?

Timetable: Provide a tentative sequence or timetable for developing the application for external funding.

Investigator: Describe how your previous experience prepares you for developing the specific research area. Do the same for each member of the team. The Center on Philanthropy encourages faculty to work together on applications. If you do not plan to work with other faculty to develop the external proposal, list other Philanthropic Studies faculty who might be interested or who have experience in the specific research area.

Potential Funders: Explain how a successful research program in the specific area would:

- (1) likely lead to external grant support to the applicant, and/or
- (2) increase the attractiveness of the Philanthropic Studies research program to major funders of the Center.

Make a convincing connection between your specific research area / research objective and the interests of potential funders, including potential financial supporters of the Center on Philanthropy. In the concept paper the list of potential funders must be more than one. What is the evidence that these funders are interested in the specific research area? How much have they funded similar work in the past?

Long-term objectives: After your research objective has been achieved, what are the broad, long-term objectives you have in the specific research area? One page recommended.

Literature cited: (pages not counted against the page maximum).

There is a TWENTY-FIVE PAGE MAXIMUM for this portion of the Round Two application (double-spaced, one inch margins).

External Proposal

The output of the Round Two grant is a proposal to be submitted for external funding by the faculty member.

BUDGET

The Round One budget must indicate an allotment of \$5,500 (plus fringes if the funds are to be used as summer support) across four categories: personnel, fringes, travel, other/supplies. In the case of multiple investigators, the total request can be up to \$10,000 (plus fringes).

Round Two budgets **should include** travel funds to meet with at the program officer of at least one potential funder.

General Budget Guidelines

1. General overhead will not be paid.
2. Funds may be allocated for one-time salary supplements up to \$2,500 paid directly to faculty for research efforts.
3. Funds may be requested for graduate research assistant salaries.
4. Summer stipend salaries for faculty may not exceed \$8,000 for the summer, plus fringe benefits. Fringe benefits must be included in the budget request, or that amount will be deducted from the stipend amount.
5. Funds may be requested for travel, but general conference travel will not be paid.

DEADLINES

Round One and Round Two applications are due **March 6, 2009**. The grant period will extend from **July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010**. Applicants will be notified by email immediately upon receipt of their proposal, and as soon as possible about its funding status.

Grant Application Form
COP Research Fund – Specific Research Areas
Spring 2009

Author Information

Author 1

Name:

Department, Campus:

Applicant's Mailing Address:

City, State, Zip:

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Please attach a separate sheet if necessary to indicate contact information for other authors.

Project Information

Project Title:

Amount Requested: \$

This application is for (check one):

Round One

Round Two

Project Summary

Briefly describe the idea being developed in this proposal.