



Stanford Institute for Research in the Social Sciences

IRiSS Seed Grant Program: Call for Proposals for 2017

The IRiSS seed grant program supports proposal development, pilot research, and other activities that advance faculty research projects to the point where they can attract external funding. The program rewards high-risk, high-return research proposals, including work that develops new methods, applies theories or methods to new substantive areas, or translates among previously unrelated theoretical perspectives.

Procedures for Submitting a Proposal

IRiSS is pleased to issue the annual request for seed grant proposals. Eligibility is limited to faculty with appointments in one of the six social science departments in the School of Humanities & Sciences, with a preference given to supporting proposals from assistant and associate professors. Faculty who have been funded twice by this program during the past five years are not eligible for additional grants.

Deadline for submission is ***Friday, February 10, 2017***. Please submit the following seed grant proposal materials:

Cover Page: Please provide the title of your project as well as the name, mailing address, e-mail, telephone, and departmental affiliation of each investigator. Additionally, outline your research in a one-paragraph abstract suitable for public reports and IRiSS publicity materials.

Narrative: Summarize your research question, theoretical foundations, empirical facets of the research (if applicable), and the significance of the eventual project that the seed grant will help to develop. Be sure to distinguish between the seeded research and the eventual project for which you will obtain external funding. Excluding references, the narrative may be no more than four (4) single-spaced pages with a font size of 11 points or larger.

Plan for Obtaining External Funding (Appendix A): Describe your plans for obtaining external funds, including: a) what government agencies or foundations you may approach, and why; b) what contact you have already had with these agencies, if any (e.g. prior applications or conversations with program officers); c) when you expect to apply for funds; d) the expected scale of the eventual project; and e) how the activities funded by the seed grant will help to attract further external support. Also, list current or pending grant applications that are related to the project, including funds requested or received from sources both internal and external to Stanford University. The maximum length for Appendix A is one page.

Relation of Proposed Activities to Existing Research (Appendix B): If the seed grant is related to ongoing, funded research, describe the relationship including: a) how the activities funded by the seed grant will benefit the existing project; and b) how the existing project will benefit the activities supported by the seed grant. Appendix B should not exceed one page.

Budget and Justification: A maximum of five grants of \$10,000 and one grant of \$25,000 will be awarded. All proposals must provide a clear budget that indicates expenses by category (such as personnel, materials, equipment, etc.) along with the total. Please also provide a brief budget justification, addressing each category as well as the overall budget rationale.

Curriculum Vitae: For each investigator listed, provide a current curriculum vitae.

Submission

Proposal should be sent as an email attachment to Carolyn Ybarra, ybarra@stanford.edu. Documents in pdf format are preferred, but not required. Deadline for submission is Friday, February 10, 2017.

Review Process

Seed grant proposals are reviewed by the IRiSS Executive Committee. The most important evaluation criteria are intellectual merit and the promise of innovation, as well as the potential for attracting further funding. Secondary criteria may include the extent to which the research is interdisciplinary, or involves collaboration. The seed grant program is not a small grant program. Grants will typically not be awarded to proposals that request funding for a stand-alone project, that do not describe plans for obtaining external funding, or that poorly justify their budget. Non-research support such as training or conference attendance will not be funded.

Grant awards will be announced in early March.

Requirements of Grant Recipients

Research projects involving human subjects must maintain Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval. While proposals that have not yet undergone review will be considered for funding, no funds will be disbursed until the project is approved by the IRB.

Recipients of seed grants are obliged to report on the activities to which the grant is being applied, as well as on progress toward obtaining external support for the project. The reporting schedule is December 1st and June 1st in the first year following the award of the grant, and May 1st thereafter as long as the seed grant remains active.

Investigators who receive external grants based on seeded research are expected to administer those grants through IRiSS, as well as to acknowledge IRiSS support in any papers and publications ensuing from the research.

Contact: Carolyn Ybarra, Program Coordinator
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