



Release date: January 31, 2014

2014–2016 Emerging Scholars Small Grants Competition

Request for Proposals: Research on Promising Programs to Reduce Intergenerational Transmission of Poverty

(Deadline for Proposal Receipt: **5:00 p.m. Central Standard Time on March 14, 2014**)

Purpose

The Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP) seeks to fund research that will enhance our understanding of promising programs and policies that seem most effective at reducing the intergenerational transmission of disadvantage, which is one of three integrated research themes shaping IRP's research agenda as a National Poverty Center. IRP anticipates funding up to five projects, with a maximum award of \$20,000 each, to emerging scholars as defined below. Grantees will benefit from consultation with IRP senior affiliates, with each other, and with other senior poverty scholars.

Background

IRP is a university-based center for interdisciplinary research into the causes and consequences of poverty and social inequality in the United States. It is one of three National Poverty Research Centers sponsored by the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (ASPE/DHHS). IRP has established this small grants program as part of an integrated set of research, training, and dissemination activities.

IRP's Director is Timothy Smeeding; the Associate Director of Research and Training is Katherine Magnuson; and the Associate Director of Programs and Management is Jennifer L. Noyes. Coordinators of the 2014–2016 small grants program on promising programs to reduce intergenerational disadvantage are Katherine Magnuson, Associate Professor, School of Social Work; Jason Fletcher, Associate Professor of Public Affairs; and Barbara Wolfe, Richard A. Easterlin Professor of Public Affairs, Economics, and Population Health Sciences.

Focal Theme

Poverty is a common experience for children in the United States, with child poverty rates following poverty rate trends in the general population. Although about one in five children is poor in any given year, roughly one in three will spend at least one year of their childhood living in a poor household. Young children, children of single mothers, children of immigrants, and children of color are disproportionately likely to experience poverty, which often has lasting effects.

Poverty scholars have long referred to the lasting effects of child poverty as the intergenerational transmission of economic disadvantage or the "cycle of poverty," whereby poverty appears to be passed

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across generations. Children's life chances, and perhaps those of their future children, are constrained by their parents' economic fortunes and parenting skills. Given the fact that most low-skill and low-wage workers are also parents, the diminished labor market opportunities they experience creates economic hardship not only for individual workers, but also for their children.

Poverty, economic immobility, and economic inequality can be transmitted across generations by social institutions: families, schools, communities, and labor markets. They may also be transmitted through malnutrition, poor behaviors, and limited medical care during the pregnancy itself. The urge to intervene, and break the cycle of poverty, is strong, as the payoff for successfully improving the life chances (opportunities and upward mobility) of the disadvantaged is quite large for individuals, families, and society. Yet to date, only a handful of policies and programs have been proven to improve the long-term well-being of low-income children, motivating many researchers and policymakers to seek more innovative and effective approaches and to build the evidence base about the long-term effects of early childhood interventions.

IRP's Promising Programs to Reduce Intergenerational Transmission of Poverty research initiative is designed to advance research informing our understanding of the cycle of disadvantage, focusing on the extent to which poverty and inequality affect the life chances of children and youth, the social and biological processes that explain the intergenerational transmission of poverty, and the policies and programs that are successful in reducing it.

Questions of Interest

In response to these trends and challenges, we invite research proposals from recent Ph.D. recipients (within the past eight years) that address the following key questions:

- To what extent do poverty and inequality affect the life chances of children and youth?
- What social and biological processes explain the transmission of poverty across generations?
- What interventions, policies, and programs are successful at reducing the intergenerational transmission of poverty from parents to children, thereby increasing the odds that poor children will have better long-run economic success than their parents? These interventions, policies and programs may be directed at a particular avenue of transmission such as community, medical care, or targeted education, or particular ages of children, or they may be broader approaches.

Terms

1. Individuals (domestic and foreign) who do not have an institutional affiliation and all foreign entities are not eligible for awards made under this announcement.
2. The Principal Investigator must hold a doctorate or the highest degree appropriate for their discipline. The Principal Investigator must have received their Ph.D. or its equivalent after January 1, 2006.
3. University of Wisconsin–Madison faculty and postdoctoral fellows are ineligible for funding.
4. The grant contract period will be June 13, 2014, to November 13, 2015.
5. Grants may not exceed \$20,000. This amount includes indirect costs at the applicant's institution, if required (see item 4 of Application Instructions below).
6. Receipt of a grant from IRP will require a commitment to:
 - submit a draft paper for review and comment by March 14, 2015;
 - submit a revised draft of your paper by May 15, 2015, via e-mail and participate in a videoconferencing session at which program coordinators will provide feedback;
 - submit another revised draft of your paper for comment by August 21, 2015;
 - present the final polished paper at a structured mentoring workshop to be held in Madison on September 23, 2015;

- attend a research conference to be held in Madison on September 24 & 25, 2015 (immediately following the mentoring workshop); and
 - submit a final paper suitable for academic publication no later than November 13, 2015.
7. All publications should acknowledge the support of IRP and the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (ASPE/DHHS).

Availability of Funds

Program support is subject to the availability of funds. Nothing in this description of applications should be construed as committing IRP to dividing available funds among all qualified applicants.

Application Instructions

Applicants should submit their proposal via e-mail to irpapply@ssc.wisc.edu by **5:00 p.m. Central Standard Time on March 14, 2014**. Fax submissions will not be accepted. Proposal receipt will be acknowledged.

The application must contain as a single file the following components in the order as listed:

1. A cover sheet giving the title of the proposed research, applicant's name, date of Ph.D., institutional affiliation with full address and telephone number, e-mail address, and home address.
2. A one-page abstract, describing research objectives, data, and methods.
3. Description of the applicant's proposed research, not to exceed 8 double-spaced pages exclusive of references or appendices. The proposal should carefully describe the issue(s) to be examined, hypotheses to be evaluated, methodology proposed, data sources to be used, and anticipated results of the research, including their potential implications for public policy.
4. An itemized budget showing the researcher's time, research assistant's time, travel costs, computer services, supplies, and indirect costs if required. Please note that the University of Wisconsin is not collecting indirect costs on these sub-awards from the prime grant; applicants are encouraged to request that their home institution forego or charge minimal indirect costs.
5. Curriculum vitae for all investigators.
6. A letter from the office of research and sponsored programs of the applicant's institution confirming administrative approval of the proposal.
7. A timely *plan* for obtaining Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval or exemption for human subjects research (typically, secondary data analysis is eligible for exemption approval; consult your institution's IRB office). The University of Wisconsin will not execute subcontracts without documentation of IRB exemption or approval.

Selection Criteria

IRP will evaluate proposals in collaboration with affiliated scholars and ASPE staff. **Award notifications will be sent no later than May 30, 2014.**

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. The relevance of the topic to IRP's focal theme of promising programs to reduce the intergenerational transmission of disadvantage (as discussed above).
2. The potential usefulness of the proposed research for the advancement of scientific knowledge and the development and implementation of public policy.
3. Clarity of stated objectives, methods, and anticipated results.
4. The appropriateness and soundness of the research design, including choice of data, methods of analysis, and other procedures. The reasonableness of estimated cost and time commitments in relation to anticipated results.
5. The qualifications and experience of personnel, including demonstrated familiarity with the literature and data to be used.

Feedback

The top 10 to 15 proposals will be selected by the program chairs (Magnuson, Fletcher, and Wolfe) and reviewed by them and two outside referees. Written feedback on each of the winning proposals will be delivered to the authors with the award decision.

Questions

Proposers may direct process-related questions to Deborah Johnson (djohnson@ssc.wisc.edu) and budget-related questions to Vicki Johnson (vljohnson@ssc.wisc.edu). Research-related questions should be directed by e-mail to Barbara Wolfe (wolfe@lafollette.wisc.edu).

Timeline of Important Dates

IRP Emerging Scholars Research on Promising Programs to Reduce Intergenerational Transmission of Poverty Timeline of Important Dates*	
Deadline for proposal receipt	5:00 p.m. CST, March 14, 2014
Notification of award	May 30, 2014
Contract begins	June 13, 2014
Complete initial draft paper due	March 14, 2015
Submit revised draft paper	May 15, 2015
Complete revised paper due	August 21, 2015
Present revised paper (Madison)	September 23, 2015*
Attend research conference (Madison)	September 24 & 25, 2015*
Final paper due	November 13, 2015
* The dates marked with an asterisk are subject to revision; grantees will be notified when the dates have been finalized.	

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