Request for Proposals to UW–Madison Researchers, IRP UW Affiliates, and IRP Graduate Research Fellows

TO: UW–Madison Researchers and IRP Graduate Research Fellows
FROM: IRP RIDGE Center for National Food and Nutrition Assistance Research
RE: Call for Internal (UW–Madison) Proposals (deadline April 13, 2012)

February 23, 2012

This call for proposals is for a 12-month Project Assistant (PA) award to support food assistance and food insecurity research. Up to two awards will be made. One award is reserved for IRP Faculty Affiliates (to fund a student) and IRP Graduate Research Fellows (GRFs, to support their own dissertation work); the second award is also open to faculty campus-wide (to fund a student). In either case, the proposed work should focus on food assistance and/or food insecurity. The application deadline is April 13, 2012.

Program Description: The intent of the IRP Research, Innovation, and Development Grants in Economics (RIDGE) Program competition is to stimulate innovative research related to food assistance programs such as SNAP (formerly food stamps) and school breakfast and lunch, and to support training of researchers interested in food assistance issues.

The Institute for Research on Poverty cosponsors this internal grant program with the Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture as part of the Institute’s role as RIDGE Center for National Food and Nutrition Assistance Research. IRP RIDGE also has released a nationwide call for research proposals for awards of longer duration (18 months) see http://www.irp.wisc.edu/initiatives/irpridge/2012/IRPRIDGE-RFP-2012-2012.pdf.

Research Priority: The program supports small grants for studies focusing on federal food and nutrition assistance programs. Internal awards may focus on any topics broadly relevant to these programs. Possible topics include, but are not limited to, the role of food assistance programs as part of the broader safety net; the interplay among food assistance programs, food choices, eating patterns, and obesity and other health outcomes; and interactions between food assistance programs and local food systems. Proposals that have a local focus should clearly articulate their broader policy relevance to federal food assistance programs.

Proposal Requirements: The proposals should be 6 to 8 pages (exclusive of abstract and references). They must include a 1-page abstract. The proposal should clearly describe the primary research questions that will be addressed, the approach used, the proposed methodology and data sources, the policy relevance of the work, and a timeline for completion. GRF proposals must include a letter of support from the student’s advisor. Please include a current CV with your proposal.

Proposals must be submitted in both hard copy and electronically (PDF) to Robin Snell at IRP, 3412 Sewell Social Science Bldg., 1180 Observatory Dr., Madison, e-mail: rsnell@ssc.wisc.edu, no later than April 13, 2012.

Award requirements: Investigators must submit brief quarterly progress reports; a draft research report prior to the spring workshop; and a final report on their findings at the end of the award period. Awardees will be expected to participate in a one-day RIDGE workshop at IRP in spring 2013. They may be asked to present their work at a fall 2013 USDA/ERS conference in Washington, D.C.

Questions: Applicants may direct process-related questions to Deb Johnson (djohnson@ssc.wisc.edu) and budget-related questions to Bill Wambach (wambach@ssc.wisc.edu). Research-related questions should be directed by e-mail to Judi Bartfeld (bartfeld@wisc.edu).

Please share this RFP with anyone who might be interested in applying.