

# Small grants and sabbatical grants

## New competition

The Institute and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, are sponsoring the ninth competition in their Small Grants and Sabbatical Grants program, which is designed to stimulate interest in research on poverty.

Four small grants of up to \$12,500 each are being offered. Two sabbatical grants of up to \$25,000 each are being offered for the academic year 1990–91. The sabbatical grants are for work at the Institute for Research on Poverty in Madison or at the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation in Washington. For researchers who wish to spend an additional semester in residence at Madison, the Institute will provide assistance in seeking support from other university departments and institutes.

For guidelines for grant applications, write to the Small Grants Program, Institute for Research on Poverty, 1180 Observatory Drive, 3412 Social Science Building, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706. The application deadline is February 16, 1990.

## Proposals funded under Round VIII competition

### Small grants

*Bias in Estimating the Benefits of Government Programs Due to Misapplication of Composite Commodity Theorems: Empirical Estimates*

This study will attempt to gauge the extent of aggregation bias in estimating the benefits of government programs. Recent research indicates that the typical approach to such estimates may exaggerate program benefits. Using data from the American Housing Survey and the New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey, the study will produce empirical estimates intended to improve our understanding of the relative desirability of three different program types: rent control, public housing, and other subsidized housing. Principal investigator: Edgar O. Olsen, University of Virginia.

*Changes in Household Composition and Income Strategies of Poor Urban Mothers*

A comparison of two time periods—the mid-1970s and the mid-1980s—will relate changes in extended family households among racial and ethnic groups in New York City to changes in income sources and employment patterns among poor mothers in the city. The research will address the question of whether women in households consisting of extended families have higher employment levels and therefore are less dependent on public assistance. The data will be taken from the March Current Population Surveys for selected years. Principal investigator: Terry J. Rosenberg, Community Service Society of New York.

*Methods for the Study of Episodes of Homelessness*

In analyzing data concerning the homeless, sampling problems arise in the study of “repeated duration” (the length of time that families or individuals spend in and out of shelters for the homeless). The demand for such shelter depends upon the number of people requesting it and the length of stays. Understanding this total demand is necessary if we are to devise satisfactory policies for the care of the homeless. The study will make use of a new survey of homelessness and the demand for emergency shelter in New York City. Principal investigator: Tony Lancaster, Brown University.

*Permanent and Transitory Economic Status as Determinants of Mortality among Nonwhite and White Older Males: Does Poverty Kill?*

With panel data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Older Men for the period 1966–83, this project will examine differences in mortality among whites and nonwhites. The relationship between death and such characteristics as wealth, lifetime and current income, poverty status, marriage, education, parents’ status, retirement, and health will be explored. The results may help to answer a number of questions: Can racial differences in mortality be explained as a consequence of income differences? Does the recently noted improving economic status of the aged result from the earlier deaths of poorer individuals? Principal investigator: Paul L. Menchik, Michigan State University.

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## Small grants and sabbatical grants

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### Sabbatical grants

#### *The Influence of Social Experiments on Government Decisionmaking*

On the basis of a review of the literature on the relationship between policy research and policy formulation, this project will formulate and test hypotheses concerning social experimentation: its objectives and its effects on policy. The social experiments over the past two decades will be summarized, and by means of interviews with researchers and policy-makers, the effects of selected experimental studies on policy will be assessed. Principal investigator: David H. Greenberg, University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

#### *Responding to the Homeless and the Population at Risk of Homelessness*

Have rising rents and falling incomes of the poor contributed to the increasing numbers of homeless? To answer this question, the American Housing Survey will be used to analyze data from the 1980s in eight large metropolitan areas. A further question—Has the supply of low-cost rental housing been adversely affected by changes in federal housing policy?—will be explored using data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics. Principal investigator: Karin Ringheim, University of Michigan.

The following table is a corrected version of Table 1 in "What Is the Underclass—And Is It Growing?" by Christopher Jencks, *Focus*, 12:1, 1989, p. 18. The author and the editor regret the error in reporting the percentage of men aged 25–34 who were employed full time, year round.

**Table 1**  
Income and Percentage Working Regularly among Men Aged 25 to 34  
in 1967 and 1986, by Education

	Years of Schooling					All
	0–8	9–11	12	13–15	16 or more	
<b>Income of full-time, year-round workers</b> (in 1986 dollars)						
1967	15,027	18,235	21,747	24,514	29,657	22,397
1986	13,678	17,920	21,806	25,274	33,540	25,351
Percentage change	–9.0	–1.7	+0.3	+5.3	+13.1	+13.2
<b>Percentage employed full time, year round</b>						
1967	68.6	74.8	83.6	83.2	80.8	79.8
1986	48.8	52.9	68.3	72.1	79.6	69.6
<b>Income of men, including nonworkers</b> (in 1986 dollars)						
1967	13,246	17,026	20,401	22,368	26,971	20,535
1986	9,560	13,108	18,391	21,532	29,552	20,928
Percentage change	–27.8	–23.0	–9.9	–3.7	+9.6	+1.9

**Sources:** U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 60, *Income in 1967 of Persons in the United States* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1967), Table 4, and Series P-60, No. 159, *Money Income of Households, Families, and Persons in the United States: 1986* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1988), Table 35. Price changes were estimated using the fixed-weight price index for Personal Consumption Expenditure from the National Income and Product Accounts (see *Economic Report of the President* [Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1989], Table 4).