Request for Proposals for Stanford Junior Faculty Research Grants

2019-20 Academic Year Proposals Due
Monday, January 13, 2020 and Monday, June 1, 2020

Introduction

The Stanford King Center on Global Development is a Stanford University research center working to improve the lives of the world’s poor. We stimulate and support research, inspire students, and collaborate with thought leaders and influencers to make a real-world impact.

The King Center invites proposals from Stanford junior faculty for small projects or for seed funding of projects that, if successful, have the potential to equip the investigators to write credible research proposals for other funding sources based on the initial results.

This request for proposals is open to Stanford junior faculty performing new research on topics relevant to global development and poverty. Proposals will be accepted and considered twice yearly, in January and June.

Expected seed funding for each project is up to $80,000 per project.

RFP Scope

The proposed work may involve the broad range of disciplines involved in international development, including but not limited to earth sciences, economics, engineering, medicine, political science, policy, individually or in combination.

Proposals for which this additional funding for the proposed research would be incremental to funding already available, or for which the research is already sufficiently advanced to be a good candidate for other funding, are less likely to be selected.

Proposal Submission, Review, and Award Process

Proposal Submission:
Full proposals (format and submission instructions described below) should be submitted through the Stanford Seed Funding website. Proposed budgets need not be routed through OSR for this internally funded research initiative. Proposals must be self-contained with no links to additional information.
Proposal Format:

- The proposal is subject to a three-page limit with fonts no smaller than 11 point. This includes the text, figures, tables, and references.
- The budget and budget justification are limited to two additional pages.
- Each Principal Investigator who will be associated with the proposed work should submit a CV.

Expected funding for each proposed project is up to $80,000 ($74,074 plus 8% infrastructure fees of $5,926 that the King Center will pay directly per year). Summer salaries are excluded from funding for faculty with 9-month “hard money” appointments. In the context of initiatives, our steering committee has been sympathetic to allowing salary support for faculty on “soft money” who have the requirement of raising their salary (like medical school faculty).

Projects will be funded for a period of performance of up to two years. For exceptional cases, larger funding levels may be considered. One No Cost Extension for the duration of up to one year past the original end date of the award may be requested.

The source of funding is gift funds; therefore, no initiative may charge indirect costs, even if non-Stanford investigators would complete some part of the project. The budget should include direct costs plus the university infrastructure burden of 8%. Projects will be funded through a newly created and designated PTA(s) less the 8% infrastructure charge; the infrastructure charge for the award will be paid directly by the King Center. Budgets should identify the level of effort committed to the project. Principal Investigator (PI) effort is not required on University Research awards. Follow-up funding in subsequent years is not anticipated.

Proposal Review:

The objective of the review process is to identify high quality projects that are consistent with the goals of this solicitation. Proposals will be reviewed by a small committee appointed by the King Center’s Faculty Steering Committee that will apply a general filter for alignment with the general themes of global poverty and development, and then use the following criteria to evaluate the proposals: (1) innovation, (2) academic rigor, and (3) whether the budget is commensurate with the value of the proposed research.

Committee members who are involved in a proposed project will recuse themselves from discussions of the relevant proposals. The committee may be supplemented by other faculty and experts with knowledge related to the areas of research but who are not involved in the proposed projects. The opinions of additional experts at Stanford or outside of it may be sought, with the requirement that the reviewer maintain the confidentiality of the proposed work.

Eligibility for Funding:

Please note that the primary Principal Investigators (PIs) must be Stanford junior faculty members with one of the following appointment types:
• Regular tenure-line faculty (UTL/University Tenure Line, Assistant Professor or untenured Associate Professor)
• MCL (Medical Center Line) faculty (Assistant Professor)

Clinician Educators (Clinical Educator line), Clinical Professors, and Instructors are not eligible to receive Stanford Junior Faculty Research Grants from the Stanford King Center on Global Development. If you have one of these appointments, but will be transitioning into an eligible faculty appointment as indicated above, please indicate this and include your appointment letter (showing that you will become an eligible faculty member during the initial year of project funding) when you submit your application.

Please note that consulting faculty, postdocs, academic staff, etc., are not eligible to apply.

Awards:
It is anticipated that funding decisions based on this solicitation will be announced approximately two months after proposal submission.

Contacts

For questions, please contact Corinne Thomas at CorinneThomas@stanford.edu.