Small Research Grants Program

Spencer Foundation

Web: www.spencer.org
Email: smallgrants@spencer.org
The Small Grants Mission

- Since 1986, the program has been an exciting and fundamental component of Spencer’s portfolio.

- It is truly “field-initiated.”

- Historically, the work we have funded through these grants has spanned a range of topics and disciplines, including education, psychology, sociology, economics, history, and anthropology.

- The projects employ a wide range of research methods and approaches.

- Suitable for early career scholars and others.
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Applicants will be asked to:

▪ Propose a cohesive and concise project that will contribute to or challenge current understandings of education, and clearly articulates possible connections of findings to educational improvement.
▪ Develop a timeline and budget for the work that will enable the researcher to complete the project in one to five years with $50,000.
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We look for:

- A compelling rationale for the study that is based on the important literature.
- A clear focus of inquiry and/or specific research questions.
- Sufficient information about the research setting and participants.
- Detailed information about how you will analyze, or make meaning of your data.
- An alignment among the above—the educational significance, the research questions, and the proposed activities (data collection and analyses).
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Ask yourself:

- “Educational significance:” What will the project do that is significant? Not just a significant topic.
- What is the puzzle I’m trying to understand?
- Can someone outside my academic circle understand me?
- Will my plans for collecting data and conducting analyses answer my questions?
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Other questions to ask:

- Is my study self-contained?
- Am I developing a program or curriculum?
- Am I evaluating something where the answer to the research question is “Yes, it works” or “No, it doesn’t”? It’s important to explore why a program is effective, for whom, and under what conditions.

www.spencer.org/small-research-grants
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Process:

- The program is intended to support education research projects with budgets of $50,000 or less.

- Small Research Grant proposals are accepted 4 times per year. The next deadline is at 4:00pm CDT, November 1, 2017. The following deadlines will be in February, May, and August 2018.

- Administering organizations must be non-profit, and PI and Co-PIs should have doctorate degrees.

- Award decisions conveyed in about 4 months.

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Proposal Review Process

Proposals are due 4:00pm CDT, November 1st

Internal Review

Panel Review

Internal Review

Awarded

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Online System – My Profile

- PI should log in or register to create an account.
- PI should update their My Profile information and upload a current CV (no more than 10 pages).
- If there are Co-PIs on the project, they should also log in and update their My Profile information.
- From the PI’s account, a Small Grant draft application should be created.
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Small Grant Application

- Basic information (project title, start and end dates, research area)
- Project summary (200 word max)
- Proposal narrative (1800 word max)
- Budget and budget narrative
- Timeline
- Appendices
- Project data
- Institutional sign–off

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General Questions – please use the Q&A function in the webinar.

Or, for specific questions, email smallgrants@spencer.org.