

---

# Small Research Grants Program

## Spencer Foundation

Web: [www.spencer.org](http://www.spencer.org)

Email: [smallgrants@spencer.org](mailto: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.

# Small Research Grants Program

---

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.

# Small Research Grants Program

---

## 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).

# Small Research Grants Program

---

## 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?

# Small Research Grants Program

---

## 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.

# Small Research Grants Program

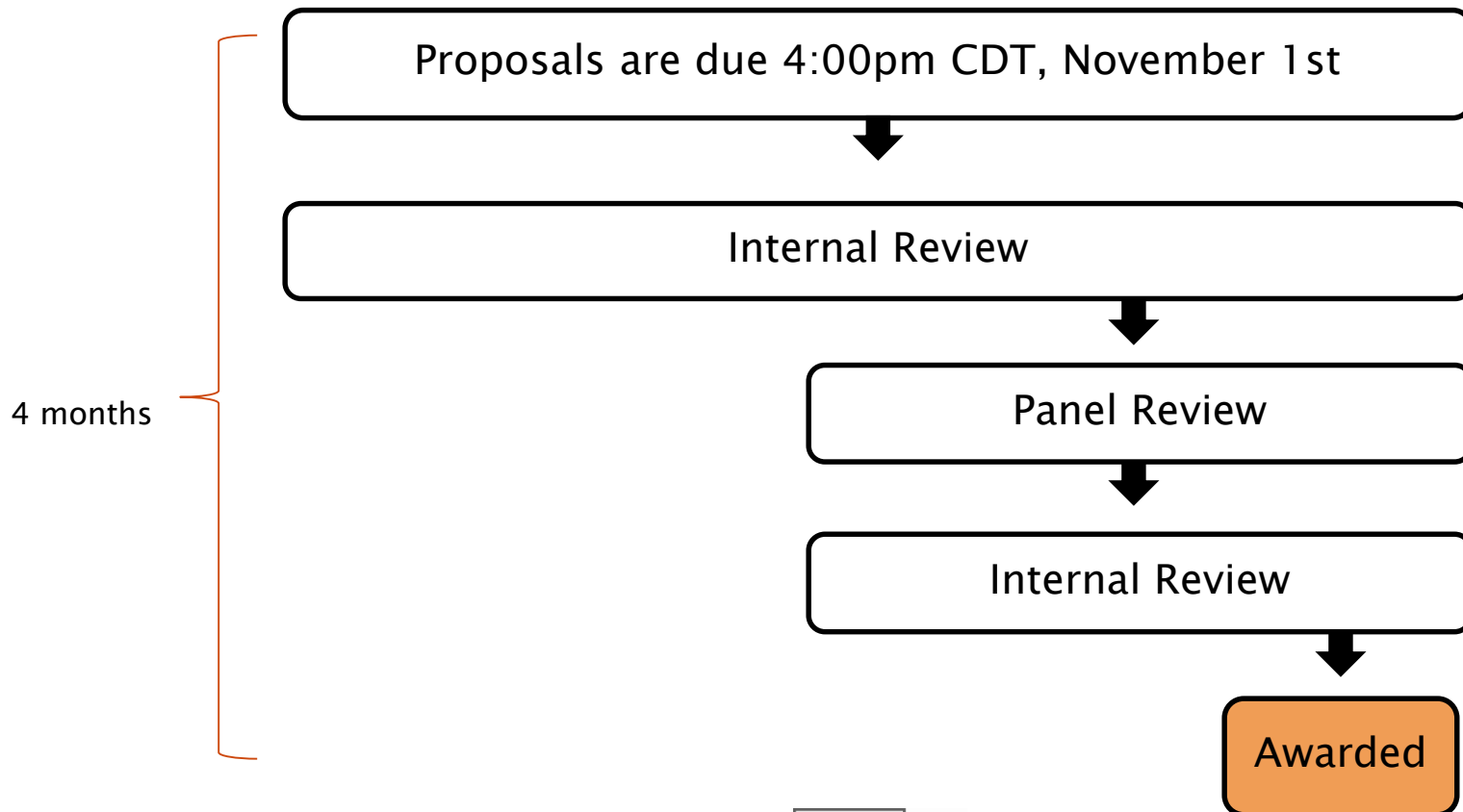
---

## 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.

# Small Research Grants Program

## Proposal Review Process





# Small Research Grants Program

## 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.

The screenshot shows the 'Spencer Workbench' interface. At the top, there is a dark header with the text 'Spencer Workbench'. Below this, a welcome message reads: 'Welcome to your Spencer Workbench. Whether you have logged on to submit a grant application, complete a narrative report, or work on your assigned reviews, the first step is to update your Spencer profile page by clicking the button below.' An orange button labeled 'Update My Profile' is positioned below the message. Further down, a paragraph of text states: 'If you have any questions as you work within the Spencer Foundation online system, please feel free to contact Annie Brinkman, Grants Manager, at abrinkman@spencer.org or 312-274-6511.' At the bottom of the main content area, there is a dark header for 'Start a Proposal' with a plus sign icon. Below this header, the text 'The following programs are currently' is visible. On the right side of the interface, there is a vertical navigation menu with several items: 'My Profile', 'Draft and...', 'Grant Program', 'Small Grant', 'Midcareer Grant', 'Midcareer Grant', 'Lyle Spenc Research Awards', and 'My Revi...'. The entire screenshot is enclosed in a dashed border.


# Small Research Grants Program

## Small Grant Application


- Basic information (project title, start and end dates, research area)
- Project summary (200 word max)
- Proposal narrative (1 800 word max)
- Budget and budget narrative
- Timeline
- Appendices
- Project data
- Institutional sign-off

### Proposal Summary

\* Proposal Title:

\* Project Start Date:  

Requested Amount: *This will be pulled from the budget worksheet*

\* Project End Date:  

Research Area:

Number of months for project:  *This will be calculated based on the project start and end dates.*

\* Proposal Summary (200 word limit)

200 words left

# Small Research Grants Program

---

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

Or, for specific questions, email [smallgrants@spencer.org](mailto:smallgrants@spencer.org).