The Office for Research at the Silver School of Social Work requests applications for seed/pilot research as part of its annual program to provide funds to support faculty research for small-scale research that will facilitate the development of a faculty member’s research program and assist faculty in securing resources for advancing that program.

The due date for application submission is June 15, 2020, with an approval date of August 1, 2020, and a start date of September 1, 2020.

Funds for any aspect of research are allowed, although we generally will not allocate funds to cover faculty salaries, convention travel, sponsoring of conferences/workshops, or upgrades of office computer equipment. Awards will be made for the fiscal year, which starts in September. A no-cost extension of up to one year is possible upon request. However, we ask that the majority of funds be used in the fiscal year in which the award is made.

There are two tracks within which a proposal can be submitted, with the choice of a track determined by the applicant. Track A mirrors the traditional research emphasis of the National Institute of Health and the National Science Foundation in which the primary aim of the project is to advance scientific knowledge about an important area of inquiry. Track B is more applied in character and focuses not so much on the project’s contribution to scientific knowledge but rather to the acquisition of knowledge that has direct practical implications for social work, broadly defined. The spirit of Track B is the research model of private foundations, such as the Russell Sage Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Gates Foundation. Of course, applications can bridge the two tracks.

The proposal will be reviewed by a research advisory committee and the Office of the Associate Dean for Research in the SSSW.

The criteria on which the proposal will be judged include the significance of the project, innovation of the project, approach (i.e., methods and design), and potential for leading to future research.

All full-time SSSW faculty, including post-doctoral fellows (code 102), are invited to apply. (Post-doctoral fellows must complete their research before their appointment ends, so priority will be given to first-year post-docs who have a two-year appointment.)

The intent of this program. The intent of this program is to help jumpstart a new area of research for faculty, and/or provide preliminary data for a future research study that has a high probability of extramural funding. This award is not intended to supplement an existing funded study. Faculty who received awards from the OFR or the Dean’s Upstream Seed Fund in a prior year will have a lower priority than those who were not funded by the OFR or Dean’s Upstream fund last year.

The maximum amount of award for a project is $20,000. Faculty with projects that do not involve activities with human subjects (e.g., secondary data analysis) may consider requesting less than $20,000. The number of projects funded is dependent on the budgetary constraints of the SSSW year, but we expect to fund one or two projects each year.

Applications should include
The name and rank of the applicant
The track(s) one wants to be considered for
How this study aligns with the intent of this program (1 short paragraph of 3-5 sentences)
A project title
A short abstract (about 350 words) summarizing the project
A line-item budget and brief justification of each item, including a project timeline
In a total of about 3-4 pages, a description of
  o The aims of the project
  o The significance of the project
  o The innovations in the project
  o The approach (methods) of the project
  o Outcomes that the project will achieve by the end of funding

We recommend that you meet with Pauline Lee, Grants Administrator in the OFR, to develop your budget.

Faculty will be provided with brief feedback on their submission at the time awards are made.

If an award is made, faculty are required to obtain IRB approval prior to beginning the study. A brief final report will be due to the SSSW Office for Research within 90 days of project completion.

Reach out to Marya Gwadz, the Associate Dean for Research, with any questions you may have (mg2890@nyu.edu).

Submit applications to silver.ofr@nyu.edu