SSSW Program for Seed/Pilot Research Support

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 April 15, with a start date of June 1.

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.

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 the 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, and approach (i.e., methods and design), as well as the seniority of the applicant, with junior faculty generally given preference to senior faculty. Senior faculty are encouraged to apply if the research proposes a new area of research for them. The intent of this program is to help jump start the research of junior faculty and to encourage new lines of research for senior faculty or to lay a foundation for a significant research program for which funds would otherwise not be available.

The maximum amount of award for a project is $20K. The number of projects funded is dependent on the budgetary constraints of the SSSW year, but we expect to fund two projects this year.

Applications should include

1. The name and rank of the applicant
2. The track(s) one wants to be considered for
3. A project title
4. A short abstract (about 250 words) summarizing the project
5. A budget and brief justification of each item, including a project time-line
6. In a total of about 3-5 pages, a description of
   a. The aims of the project
   b. The significance of the project
   c. The innovations in the project
   d. The approach (methods) of the project
   e. Outcomes that the project will achieve by the end of funding
Faculty will be provided brief feedback on their submission at the time awards are made. Decisions will be made within 30-45 days.

If an award is made, a brief final report will be due to the SSSW Office for Research within 90 days of project completion.

Submit applications to silver.ofr@nyu.edu.