

Dean's Upstream Research Seed Fund 2018-19

The profession of social work has advanced a growing evidence base supporting strategies that address concerns of vulnerable populations most commonly after a problem of concern has been identified. Less developed in the field is an evidence base that supports strategies which address social work-relevant concerns *before* they occur, in an “upstream” or proactive fashion – that is, strategies that intervene so as to avert problems from ever occurring, or to reduce the likelihood or prevalence of their occurrence.

This newly established Dean's Upstream Research Seed Fund at the Silver School aims to support early scientific activity, drawing from prevention science that offers high promise of yielding new evidence-based prevention strategies addressing concerns of the profession and those whom we serve. Prevention science is the application of scientific theory and methodologies to prevent or reduce problems before they occur, and can include studies of etiology, epidemiology, design, development, testing, or dissemination of interventions across a variety of health and social problems, as well as levels of intervention.

Funding is available from this seed fund specifically to provide support for one or more early stage studies in order to “incubate” novel prevention strategies along with their supporting evidence, with a focus on projects that show strong promise of leading to subsequent extramural funding for testing and/or dissemination of an impactful and innovative strategy. Later funding could come from federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or from major private foundations. The proposed research should advance scientific knowledge in the fields of social work and prevention science more generally and can be focused on a single outcome or a constellation of outcomes. Funding can be proposed to support an envisioned new line of prevention research, or to conduct new research as an offshoot of, or novel extension from, existing research study(ies).

Funds will be available for up to 25K per project, with some flexibility.

Proposal(s) meriting an award from this seed fund must be explicitly preventive in their approach, show the scientific promise of the proposed project, including its significance; proposed theory; methods and design; and likelihood of yielding important preventive knowledge for social work intervention. Additionally, the proposed feasibility of successfully carrying out the project, and the likelihood of receiving subsequent extramural support will also be important in consideration of making of award(s).

Restrictions

NYU SSSW full-time faculty are eligible to apply as Principal Investigator(s), though investigators outside the SSSW, or non-full-time faculty within the SSSW, can be included as collaborators on the project.

Funds must be used solely for the purposes of carrying out the research activities of the proposed project. Funding cannot be used for faculty salaries or time, or upgrades of office computer equipment. Additionally, funds must be expended within the proposed timeframe of the project (typically one year or less), and any no-cost extension must provide explicit rationale and be approved by the Dean's office.

Review Procedures

The due date for application submission is **December 1, 2018**, with a start date of **March 1, 2019**. Investigators will need to obtain IRB approval before study activities can begin.

The criteria on which proposals will be evaluated include the significance of the project, innovation of the project, the scientific approach (including theory, methods, and design) and anticipated impact for the field. Additionally, proposals will be evaluated on feasibility of the proposed project, its relevance to prevention science, and the likelihood that the project's successful completion will lead to subsequent extramural funding for "later stage" prevention research.

How To Apply

To apply for funding from this seed fund, please provide:

1. The name(s) of the Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators
2. A project title
3. A brief abstract (no more than 250 words) summarizing the project
4. A narrative of proposed study of approximately 3-5 (maximum) pages, that includes a description of:
 - a. The aims of the project
 - b. The significance of the project
 - c. Relevance of the project to prevention research
 - d. The innovations in the project
 - e. The approach (theory, methods, design) of the project
 - f. Outcomes that the project will achieve by the end of funding
 - g. A brief discussion of the likelihood of both later extramural funding, and potential real world impact of the work
5. A proposed budget with brief justification for each line item
6. A timeline for completion of the project.

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

If an award is made, a brief final report will be due to the SSSW Office for Research within 90 days of project completion. Additionally, any publications or public dissemination of work supported or incubated by awards from this seed fund must acknowledge support from the "Dean's Upstream Research Fund at the NYU Silver School of Social Work."

For questions about this new internal seed fund, please contact Marya Gwadz, Associate Dean for Research (mg2890@nyu.edu), or Dean Neil Guterman (nguterman@nyu.edu).

Applications can be submitted to silver.ofr@nyu.edu