



Funding Notice for Field-Initiated Research Grants

Deadline for Letters of Inquiry is September 3, 2008

The William T. Grant Foundation is now accepting applications for our field-initiated research grants. These grants support research that is relevant to youth ages 8 to 25 in the United States and addresses our Current Research Interests. We fund high-quality studies that strengthen our understanding of:

1. How social settings work, how they affect youth development, and how they can be improved; and
2. When, how, and under what conditions research is used in policy and practice that affect youth, and how its use can be improved.

Social settings are defined as the dynamic social systems in which youth experience daily life. These settings include environments with clear boundaries such as classrooms, schools, and youth-serving organizations and environments with less prescribed boundaries such as neighborhoods or other settings in which youth interact with peers, family members, and other adults.

Research designs and methods should be driven by the research questions posed. Given the range of research questions we view as important, we support many types of studies, including;

- descriptive studies to improve our understanding of how social setting affect youth development or the use of evidence in policy and practice,
- intervention studies on changing how the social settings of youth operate,
- social setting measurement improvement and development studies, and
- meta-analysis/narrative reviews.

The application process will proceed in two stages: letters of inquiry and invited full proposals. The deadline for receipt of letters of inquiry is **September 3, 2008**. Senior staff at the Foundation will evaluate all letters of inquiry and invite a small group of finalists to submit full proposals.

Awards

Field-initiated research grants are typically between \$250,000 and \$600,000 (including indirect costs) and cover two to three years of support. Projects involving secondary data analysis are at the lower end of the budget range whereas projects involving new data collection and sample recruitment can be at the higher end. Newly initiated experiments in which settings (e.g., classrooms) are randomly assigned to a condition are usually funded at a higher level, ranging up to \$1.5 million.

Funding Criteria and Eligibility

To be eligible for consideration, applicants must:

- **Be employed at a nonprofit institution**, either in the United States or abroad (this institution must have 501(c)(3) tax-exemption)

- **Submit a project that is consistent with the Foundation's Current Research Interests.** See our Current Research Interests document and recent *Annual Report* essays for more detailed discussion.
- **Address questions or issues that can inform policy and/or practice.** Questions or issues have compelling relevance for policies and/or practices affecting the settings of youth ages 8 to 25 in the United States or a vulnerable subpopulation of those youth (e.g., young people who are adjudicated or aging out of foster care).
- **Complement and extend prior and concurrent efforts, and inform theory.** Proposal reflects a mastery of related theory and empirical findings, and builds upon this other work.
- **Reflect high standards of evidence and rigorous methods, commensurate with the proposal's goals:**
- **Demonstrate adequate consideration of the gender, ethnic, and cultural appropriateness of concepts, methods, and measures.**
- **Submit a project that is feasible.**

Application Procedures

To apply for a field-initiated grant, principal investigators should submit a letter of inquiry. The letter of inquiry functions as a mini-proposal and should meet the funding criteria and provide sufficient detail for reviewers to determine whether a full proposal is warranted. Instructions follow and are also available on our website.

Letter of Inquiry (LOI) Procedures

1. Applications are accepted through our website, www.wtgrantfdn.org. Click on the **USER LOGIN** button on the left-hand side of the page. If you have not submitted online with us before, you will need to register on the website to obtain a Login ID and Password.
2. Log in and select "Click here to start a new application." Choose the appropriate grant program, enter your project title, and select your tax-exempt organization. After saving this information, you will be brought back to your home page. Click on the "Major Grants Letter of Inquiry" task.
3. Fill in text boxes for the following information.
 - **Contact Information** for the Principal Investigator (PI) only.
Note: Development officers or staff applying on behalf of the PI should enter the **PI's** contact information.
 - **Principal Investigators.**
Contact information for the primary Principal Investigator will appear on this page. Check the box to identify the primary Principal Investigator. Add contact information for each additional Principal Investigator and Co-Principal Investigator.
 - **Project Information**, including:
 - **Project title** (maximum of 15 words);

- **Start and end dates** of the project;
 - **Grant request amount** (direct and indirect costs combined for the full grant period);
 - **Brief description** of the project (maximum of 100 words);
The brief description should be written in language appropriate for an educated lay audience, not for researchers. Research descriptions should begin with the major research questions, followed by a brief summary of the project's rationale and background, intervention (if applicable), research methods, and data analysis plan.
 - **Discipline** of Principal Investigator's most advanced degree; and
 - **Project (sample) demographics.**
Enter the age range of study participants. For gender, race/ethnicity, income, and locale, check all that apply for research participants.
4. Upload the following two files separately.
- **File 1: Narrative** (three to five pages), formatted using 12 pt. font, single-spaced paragraphs with a space between paragraphs, and one-inch margins on all sides. If you choose to include a reference page, this should be included in the Narrative upload but will not be counted toward the five page maximum.

Projects should describe the following:

- **Major questions** guiding this work;
- **Rationale**, including a brief literature review, how the project complements and extends prior and concurrent research, and how it intends to add to theory and either policy or practice;
- **Specific hypotheses and/or research questions** to be tested or addressed;
- **Research methods**, including sample definition and selection procedures, research design, intervention (if applicable), key constructs, measures/data sources, and data collection procedures; and
- **Data analysis plan** for addressing hypotheses and/or research questions.
- **File 2: One-page Curriculum Vitae, Biographical Sketch, or Résumé** for each Principal and Co-Principal Investigator. Researchers should include educational history and training, peer-reviewed publications, and grants. Do *not* send full curricula vitae, sketches, or résumés. As this upload section only allow for one file upload, the Principal Investigator and Co-Principal Investigator's curriculum vitae should be merged into one upload.

Applicants will receive a confirmation email after submission of the letter of inquiry.

This funding announcement pertains to our field-initiated major grants program. We have several other funding opportunities. Applicants interested in the William T. Grant Scholars Program can get more information here: http://www.wtgrantfoundation.org/info-url5243/info-url_show.htm?doc_id=646415. Those seeking more information on the Distinguished Fellows Program can visit this page: http://www.wtgrantfoundation.org/info-url5243/info-url_show.htm?doc_id=646416.