Hispanic Poverty and Inequality Grant Competition

Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality

Request for Proposals

The Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality (CPI), a National Poverty Research Center funded by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, seeks to support research that will expand our knowledge of key trends in poverty, inequality, and mobility among Hispanics in the United States. This grant competition is funded by the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation within the Administration for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The CPI anticipates funding 5 proposals with a maximum award of $25,000 each. Priority will be given to "new scholars" (i.e., scholars who have received their Ph.D. no earlier than 2005) who will then work individually or collaboratively with one of the CPI's Research Groups to carry out the proposed research project. More advanced scholars are also encouraged to apply. The principal investigators for the funded grants will participate in three meetings for the purpose of discussing, presenting, and improving their research. These meetings will be attended by top scholars in the field who will provide advice and assistance to the grantees as their research projects unfold.

Background

The Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality (CPI) is dedicated to monitoring trends in poverty and inequality, explaining what's driving those trends, and developing science-based policies on poverty and inequality. The Director of the Center is David B. Grusky of Stanford University. The CPI recently received funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to expand its research covering poverty, inequality, and mobility among Hispanics. We have formed five new research groups (RGs) that cover the following topics: (a) key trends in Hispanic poverty, inequality, and social service use, (b) generational differences in the social standing of Hispanics, (c) the social mobility of Hispanics, (d) the effects of immigration policy on labor market and other outcomes among Hispanic populations, and (e) the health of Hispanics. The new research groups will be led by a team of distinguished scholars (Douglas Massey, David Grusky, Tomás Jiménez, Jody Agius Vallejo, Brian Cadena, Roberto Gonzales, Fernando Riosmena) and joined by postdoctoral fellows appointed by the Center, scholars who are winners of the Center’s grant competitions, undergraduates at grantee institutions, and Stanford
University graduate and undergraduate research fellows.

The proposed research should use new or existing data to analyze key trends related to one of the five domains listed above. The types of research that will be supported within each of the domains are described in more detail at:

http://www.stanford.edu/group/scspi/research_hispanic_pov_ineq_mob.html (and applicants are strongly encouraged to read these research descriptions before formulating their proposals). The main questions of interest, as detailed in the website descriptions, are as follows:

- What are the key trends among Hispanic populations in poverty, income inequality, and social service use?
- How does the socioeconomic standing of Hispanic immigrants vary across first, second, and third generations?
- How much economic and social mobility is there among different Hispanic populations and what are the main sources of such mobility?
- What is the effect of immigration enforcement policy on poverty and labor force outcomes of Hispanics?
- What forces are influencing the changing and sometimes deteriorating health of Hispanic populations?

The proposed projects may rely on either qualitative or quantitative data, or a combination of the two.

Meetings

The main mechanism for interaction between RG leaders and grantees is three meetings during the grant year. The first meeting will be an intensive two-day workshop at Stanford University in mid-February, 2013 with the two directors and the five RG leaders. The purpose of this workshop is to discuss and correct problems with the research plans, present preliminary research results, and otherwise ensure that the research is underway and headed in a fruitful direction. The second meeting, which will occur in a single intensive day (May 28, 2013), will take place in Washington, D.C. in advance of the Administration for Children and Families’ Welfare Evaluation and Research Conference (WREC) on May 29-31, 2013. (We expect that some grantees will choose to attend the WREC conference after our meeting.) At this pre-conference meeting, we will require preliminary results to be presented, although it will still be early enough for major revisions to occur. The final meeting will take place in Washington, D.C. in the late summer. At this meeting, grantees will present their research, which will at this point be
nearing final form. We suspect that in some cases grantees will find it useful to maintain contact with RG leaders or group members between the three meetings to garner further feedback and advice. It is also possible that CPI graduate students or postdoctoral students can assist with some of the research (under arrangements that will be made at the first two-day workshop at Stanford University).

Terms

1. Applicants must hold a Ph.D. or its equivalent by December 31, 2012. Stanford University faculty and postdoctoral fellows are ineligible for funding.

2. Grants should begin on or before January 15, 2013, and end no later than September 30th, 2013. A final report will be due to the CPI no later than October 30, 2013. No-cost extensions are not allowed.

3. The grant will be awarded either as a personal services contract to one or more researchers or through the applicant’s home institution. Due to the limited funds available, indirect costs will be limited to no more than 10 percent of the grant amount (if made through the applicant's home institution).

4. Funds may only cover reasonable research expenses up to $25,000. These may include summer salary, research and project assistance, consultant payments, costs of purchasing data or software, and research-related travel. Applicants should include expenses in their budget to cover travel for a two-day conference at Stanford University for the RG meetings in February, 2013 and a one-day conference in Washington, D.C. in late September when final grant projects will be presented. The CPI will cover expenses in conjunction with attendance at the Welfare Research and Evaluation Conference (WREC) pre-conference meeting in late May, 2013.

5. Grant proposals must include plans to incorporate undergraduates in the research, and funding for undergraduate assistance, as needed, should be reflected in the budget.


Selection Criteria

The project’s two co-directors, David Grusky and Douglas Massey, and the RG leaders (Tomás Jiménez, Jody Agius Vallejo, Brian Cadena, Roberto Gonzales, Fernando Riosmena) will evaluate the proposals in
collaboration with affiliated scholars and staff from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Proposals will be evaluated according to:

- The quality and appropriateness of the research design, methodology, and data
- The proposed study's feasibility
- The proposed study's policy significance
- How the study contributes to the principal investigator's career development

The CPI will not fund a research project that has also been funded in the current year by a similar grant from the University of California-Davis or University of Wisconsin-Madison poverty centers. We expect researchers to notify us if, while their proposal is under review, their project receives additional funding from any source.

**Application Instructions**

Applicants should submit their proposal electronically to inequality@stanford.edu. Proposals must be received by 5 PM Pacific Standard Time on **December 15, 2012**. The proposal should be submitted as a single file and contain the following components in the order listed below:

1. A cover sheet that includes the title of the proposed research project, the investigator name(s), affiliation(s), and contact information, and a principal investigator (PI) for correspondence purposes.
2. A brief narrative (3-4 single-spaced pages, excluding figures and references) delineating: (a) the research question and the study's aims, (b) a review of the literature informing the study, (c) the research design, methods, and data sources, (d) the likely policy significance of the proposed research, and (e) how undergraduates will be engaged in the research process.
3. An itemized budget and budget narrative explaining each line item.
4. A project timeline that is consistent with the conditions outlined in the "Terms" section above. This timeline should list the milestones necessary to complete the study in the allotted time.
5. C.V. for each investigator.

Please note that Human Subjects review approval (or a waiver in the case of secondary data analysis) is required before any funding may be disbursed.

**Contact Information**

Alice Chou
Administrative Associate
Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality
inequality@stanford.edu
(650) 724-6912