

Graduate College of Social Work
University of Houston
February 6, 2004

GCSW Support for Federal Research Grants Dean's Research Fund

The University of Houston strongly encourages the colleges to seek federal funding to support faculty research activities. The potential in securing federal support depends on three inter-related components: (1) the quality of the proposal; (2) the demonstrated research expertise of the Principal Investigator; and (3) the capacity of the institution to support the research. This administrative policy is limited to proposals to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The NIH is comprised of 27 institutes and centers (see <http://www.nih.gov/icd/>) with distinct disease or research missions, separate budgets and administrative autonomy. All, however, have a standardized funding mechanism. For more details on the institutes and their relationship to social work research please see the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), NIH, "NIH Plan for Social Work Research" (2003) released by Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D. Director, NIH (http://obssr.od.nih.gov/publications/swr_report.pdf).

To support GCSW faculty federal proposals, the following administrative policy will be applied to all tenured and tenure earning faculty.

I.) Seed Funding

- 1) The Dean's Office will provide on an annual basis, a maximum of six (6) awards, up to \$5,000 per award, as seed funding for NIH proposals.
- 2) Seed funding is limited to tenured and tenure earning faculty.
- 3) The faculty member will submit to the Dean a two page proposal that includes the following information.
 - a) Principal Investigator
 - b) Co-Investigators
 - c) NIH Award Program and Institute
 - d) Amount of Proposal to NIH
 - e) Description of NIH Proposal
 - f) Description of Use of Seed Funding
- 4) The proposal will be reviewed by the Dean and a decision rendered and communicated to the faculty member within ten (10) days of submission.

II.) Release Time For Proposal Writing

- 1) Release time may be granted to a tenured and tenure earning faculty member who is applying for a grant from the National Institute of Health (*please note, this policy is limited to NIH proposals*).
- 2) A faculty member may request release from one course assignment in order to complete a NIH proposal; a maximum of one course release will be given for a proposal.
- 3) The request is made to the Dean at least one semester before the proposed release.
- 4) Additional release time may be given for a faculty member to resubmit an unscored or non-funded application; the decision regarding allocation of such release time will be based on the reviewers' comments and the proposal's score.
- 6) The request must be in writing and meet the following criteria.

Category 1: Senior Faculty: Associate Professor, Full Professor and Research Professor

Senior faculty are eligible for release time if applying for the following types of awards:

R Awards:

- ❑ Support of original investigator-initiated research and research development activities
- ❑ No maximum amount of support unless stated; request for over \$500,000 in direct costs per year must be approved before submission
- ❑ Grants usually range from 3 –5 years
- ❑ Review criteria include significance, originality, investigator experience, research resources.

Categories of R Awards

- RO1 – original research, confidence in researcher and research environment, “gold standard”
- RO3 – small grant, for pilot work, new investigators
- R21 – exploratory, new idea
- R24 – often capacity development awards, can vary by institute or center. For NIDA there are two: Minority Institutions’ Drug Abuse Research Program (MIDARP) and the Social Work Research Development Program (SWRDP)

K Awards:

- ❑ See section below for a brief overview of the K awards.

Categories of K Awards

Middle Career

- K02 – Independent Scientist Award
- K24– Mid-Career Investigators in Patient-Oriented Research Award

Senior Career

- K05 - Senior Scientist Award

Category 2: Junior Faculty: Assistant Professor

Junior faculty are eligible for release time if applying for the following types of awards:

K Awards:

- ❑ Support professionals wanting to enter research career or strengthen research skills
- ❑ Awards are usually for 5 years
- ❑ Amount is a certain percent of salary (up to 75% or more) plus research expenses, varies by IC and specific award
- ❑ Review criteria varies if mentored award or independent award

Categories of K Awards

Early Career

- K01– Mentored Research Scientist Development Award
- K08 – Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Award
- K12 Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Program Award (educational institution)
- K23 Mentored Patient-Oriented Career Development Award

NIH Resources

- CRISP data retrieval information system provides information on funded research, accessible through NIH home page (www.nih.gov, go to Grants and Opportunities)
- Strategic Plan on Health Disparities
- www.researchassistant.com, online grants development program for new and minority researchers includes links to hundreds of drug information sites
- For a description of all NIH mechanisms (activity codes), go to <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/ac.pdf>
- NIH, NIDA and most ICs have free publications available on variety of topics for all audiences, some are online
- Special Populations Office, NIDA, provides information on minority programs including technical assistance seminars for women and minorities, minority supplements, and summer research for minority students (www.nida.nih.gov, go to Organization, under Office of the Director)
- MIDARP announcement is available at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-02-016.html> or www.nida.nih.gov under Funding