



**Date:** February 15, 2017

**To:** Ph.D.-Holding U.S. Poverty Scholars at All Career Stages

**From:** Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin–Madison

**Re:** Call for Proposals for IRP Extramural Research Funding for 2017–2018: Policies and Programs to Reduce Child Poverty and Its Effects

### **Purpose**

The Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP) at the University of Wisconsin–Madison seeks to fund research examining policies and programs with the potential to reduce child poverty and/or its effects, a key area of interest identified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. Proposals are invited from Ph.D.-holding scholars at all career stages, from postdoctoral fellows to senior faculty, and from all disciplines. IRP anticipates funding four to eight projects, with awards ranging from \$10,000 to \$25,000 each. The proposal deadline is 5:00 p.m. CDT, March 31, 2017.

### **Background**

IRP is a center for interdisciplinary research into the causes and consequences of poverty and inequality and the impact of related policies and programs. As the National Poverty Research Center sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, IRP coordinates the [U.S. Collaborative of Poverty Centers \(CPC\)](#) in an integrated set of activities with the ultimate goal of improving the effectiveness of public policies to reduce poverty and inequality and their impacts on the well-being of the American people.

IRP has established this small grants program to support timely secondary analyses of data to address emerging policy-relevant research questions and to provide seed funding for preliminary and pilot work that is likely to lead to high-impact research. This small grants program is administered by IRP Director Lawrence Berger.

### **Focal Theme**

Children’s life chances are constrained by their parents’ social and economic fortunes. Poverty is a common experience for children in the United States. Whereas about one in five children is poor in any given year, roughly one in three will spend at least one year of their childhood living in a poor household. Young children, children of single mothers, children of immigrants, and children of color are disproportionately likely to experience poverty, which often has adverse consequences throughout the life course.

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IRP is interested in supporting research aimed at informing policies and programs for reducing child poverty and/or its effects. Projects may utilize a variety of analytic methods and may focus on a specific policy, program, or intervention, or on broader social and economic factors; however, they must be designed to generate potential policy and/or programmatic implications for reducing child poverty or ameliorating its adverse effects.

### **Areas of Interest**

We particularly invite research proposals that consider:

1. Strategies (educational, employment-related, psychosocial, individual-/family-focused) for addressing the root causes of child poverty;
2. Policies and programs to help parents increase their labor market participation and earnings capacity;
3. Strategies to help youth increase their human capital accumulation, including programs targeting high school graduation, college enrollment, and labor force attachment to allow them to better support (current or future) children;
4. Strategies to increase the economic stability of families;
5. Policies and programs to encourage nonresident parent investments in children;
6. Strategies for counteracting potential adverse consequences of child poverty throughout the life course;
7. Promising two-generation policies, including those focused on nonresident parents.

### **Terms**

1. Individuals not associated with an institution (domestic or foreign) and foreign entities are ineligible for awards made under this announcement.
2. The Principal Investigator must hold a doctorate or the highest degree appropriate for their discipline.
3. University of Wisconsin–Madison faculty and postdoctoral fellows are ineligible for funding.
4. The grant contract period will be from June 1, 2017, to May 31, 2018.
5. Grants may not exceed \$25,000. This amount includes indirect costs at the applicant's institution, if required (see item 4 under *Application Instructions* below).
6. Receipt of a grant from IRP will require a commitment to:
  - a. submit brief quarterly progress reports ( $\leq$  150 words) of work accomplished during the preceding three months on July 7, 2017; October 6, 2017; January 5, 2018; April 6, 2018; July 6, 2018; October 5, 2018; and January 4, 2019;
  - b. submit a draft paper for review and comments by January 15, 2018;
  - c. submit a revised draft by May 15, 2018, via e-mail and participate in a videoconferencing session at which program coordinators will provide feedback;
  - d. present the paper at a seminar, workshop, or other mutually agreed upon public event sponsored by IRP;
  - e. agree to have the work summarized in an IRP publication (*Focus*; *Fast Focus*), webinar, and/or podcast; and

- f. submit a final paper for academic publication no later than December 15, 2018.
7. All publications should acknowledge the support of IRP and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (HHS/ASPE).
8. Program support is subject to the availability of funds. Nothing in this description of applications should be construed as committing IRP to dividing available funds among all qualified applicants.

### **Application Instructions**

Applicants should submit their proposal via the [application form](#) by 5:00 p.m. CDT on March 31, 2017. Fax submissions will not be accepted. Proposal receipt will be acknowledged. The application must contain as a single file the following components in the order as listed:

1. A cover sheet giving the title of the proposed research, applicant's name, date of Ph.D., institutional affiliation with full address and telephone number, e-mail address, and home address.
2. A one-page abstract, describing research objectives, data, and methods.
3. Description of the applicant's proposed research, not to exceed eight double-spaced pages exclusive of references or appendices. The proposal should carefully describe the issue(s) to be examined, hypotheses to be evaluated, methodology proposed, data sources to be used, and anticipated results of the research, including their potential implications for public policy.
4. An itemized budget showing the researcher's time, research assistant's time, travel costs, computer services, supplies, and indirect costs if required. Please note that the University of Wisconsin–Madison is not collecting indirect costs on these subawards from the prime grant; applicants are encouraged to request that their home institution forego or charge minimal indirect costs.
5. Curriculum vitae for all investigators.
6. A letter from the office of research and sponsored programs of the applicant's institution confirming administrative approval of the proposal.
7. A timely plan for obtaining Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval or exemption for human subjects research (typically, secondary data analysis is eligible for exemption approval; consult your institution's IRB office). The University of Wisconsin will not execute subcontracts without documentation of IRB exemption or approval.

### **Selection Criteria**

IRP will evaluate proposals in collaboration with affiliated scholars and ASPE staff. Award notifications will be made on April 30, 2017. Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. The relevance of the topic to IRP's focal theme of policies and programs with the potential to reduce child poverty (as discussed above).
2. The potential usefulness of the proposed research for the advancement of scientific knowledge and the development and implementation of public policy.

3. Clarity of stated objectives, methods, and anticipated results.
4. The appropriateness and soundness of the research design, including choice of data, methods of analysis, and other procedures. The reasonableness of estimated cost and time commitments in relation to anticipated results.
5. The qualifications and experience of personnel, including demonstrated familiarity with the literature and data to be used.

**Feedback**

Written feedback on each of the winning proposals will be delivered to the authors with the award decision.

**Questions**

Proposers may direct process-related questions to Deborah Johnson ([Deborah.Johnson@wisc.edu](mailto:Deborah.Johnson@wisc.edu)) and budget-related questions to Sylvia Swift ([swift2@wisc.edu](mailto:swift2@wisc.edu)). Research-related questions should be directed to Lawrence (Lonnie) Berger ([lberger@wisc.edu](mailto:lberger@wisc.edu)).

**Timeline of Important Dates**

Deadline for proposal receipt	5:00 p.m. CDT, March 31, 2017
Notification of award	April 30, 2017
Contract begins	June 1, 2017
Submit quarterly progress reports	July 7, 2017; October 6, 2017; January 5, 2018; April 6, 2018; July 6, 2018; October 5, 2018; and January 4, 2019
Complete initial draft paper due	January 15, 2018
Revised paper due	May 15, 2018