

Faculty Research Initiative Grant

Office of Faculty Research & Sponsored Programs
Center for Research Support
Walden University

The Grant Program

The Faculty Research Initiative Grant program was established to support excellence in scholarly work by providing funding for selected faculty research projects deemed to be of exceptional merit.

Awards of up to \$10,000 will be made by the Director of Faculty Research & Sponsored Programs, and a review committee, in response to research proposals submitted. A total of \$200,000 will be awarded in FY 2008. Expenditures under this program must be in accordance with University policies and procedures. The guidelines for submitting proposals and for selecting recipients are outlined below.

Eligibility

Full and part time faculty (employed by Walden for a minimum of 6 months) are eligible to apply.

Amount and Duration of Awards

Grants requests are limited to a maximum of \$10,000. This RFP is for one-time, short-term (one year, maximum) projects.

Collaborative research projects, in which two Walden faculty members or a Walden faculty member and a Walden student are co-principal investigators, will be eligible for awards of up to \$20,000.

Criteria for Selection

The overall merit of the research project will be considered and evaluated by the Director of Faculty Research & Sponsored Programs and a review committee. The final selection will be made based upon the following criteria:

- Intrinsic scientific and technical merit of the work
- Potential impact of the proposed activity on the academic field of study (publishability)
- Likelihood that the award will provide significant progress on a project that will serve as the basis for future studies
- Potential for the award to provide a basis for further research support from external sponsors
- Likelihood that the proposed work would be completed during the award period

Priority will be given to:

- Collaboration with students
- Collaboration with faculty, both from within and across disciplines
- Collaboration with community partners

The Grant Application Process

Please submit a grant application containing all of the items specified below, including all requested attachments. Applications should be submitted electronically to Dr. Molly Lauck, Director of Faculty Research & Sponsored Programs at grants@waldenu.edu as one single attachment (word or PDF document).

Applications should include and be ordered as follows:

1. Cover Page

The cover page should provide the following information:

- Name of Principal Investigator /Co-Principal Investigator
- Title of grant proposal
- PI/Co-PI's Walden affiliation: College/School/Program
- Dollar amount requested to support proposed research project
- PI/Co-PI's contact information (address, phone, and e-mail)

2. Project Abstract

The project abstract serves as a succinct and accurate description of the proposed research project. State the research project's goals and objectives (specific aims). Describe concisely the research design and methods for achieving the stated goals.

The project abstract should be written in language understandable to a scientist who may not be a specialist in the project's research field. Abbreviations and language that may not be known to the broader scientific community should be avoided unless clearly defined. Please avoid describing past accomplishments and the use of the first person.

The project abstract should be single spaced, 12-point typeface, with 1 inch margins and not exceed 300 words.

3. Project Description

This section should not exceed ten typewritten pages – single spaced, 12-point typeface, 1 inch margins.

- A. Description of program goals and measurable objectives (Specific Aims). These should each be single-sentence statements that begin with an active verb.
- B. Statement of need/problem to be addressed (Background & Significance). This section should clearly document both the impact of the social problem addressed by the research project, and the gap in existing research on the topic that the project will address.
- C. Description of activities planned to accomplish these goals – specifically, how data will be collected, analyzed and interpreted (Research Design & Methods). This section should include subsections that describe the participants, materials, and procedures (and be titled as such) that comprise the research design and methods of the proposed project.
- D. Timetable for accomplishing goals (for example, instrument design, data collection, data analysis, and dissemination activities).

4. Plans for Dissemination of Project Findings

This section should not exceed one typewritten page – single spaced, 12-point typeface, 1 inch margins.

- A. Description of plans to share the findings of the project (for example, presentations, publications, how you will share findings with the community and/or community partners).
- B. List possible sources of extramural funding for follow-up research on the proposed topic of research. As one of the review criteria for this grant is the potential for the award to provide a basis for further research support from external sponsors, applicants' should be able to provide concrete examples of programs for which they are eligible that fund research on their subject matter.

*** Please note that you will be required to use Walden as your affiliation for all research dissemination activities (including but not limited to presentations, publications and subsequent proposals to extramural funding sources for follow-up research).*

5. Human Subjects

For all research involving human subjects, a part of the peer review process will include careful consideration of protections from research risks. The review committee's evaluation of the protections for research participants will be factored into the overall score for scientific and technical merit of the application.

Much of the information on the protection of human subjects that you are required to provide in this section FRIG application is identical to information that you will be required to provide for review by Walden's Institutional Review Board (IRB).

While there is no page length for this section, each of the following points must be addressed in detail. If a section is not applicable to your research please briefly explain the reason for this conclusion. This section should be single spaced, using 12-point typeface, and 1 inch margins.

A. Risks to the Subjects

i. Human Subjects Involvement & Characteristics

- Describe the proposed involvement of human subjects in the work outlined in the Research Design and Methods section.
- Describe the characteristics of the subject population, including their anticipated number, age range, and health status.
- Identify the criteria for inclusion or exclusion of prospective subjects.
- Explain the rationale for the involvement of special classes of subjects, such as fetuses, neonates, pregnant women, children, prisoners, institutionalized individuals, or others who may be considered vulnerable populations. Note that 'prisoners' includes all subjects involuntarily incarcerated (for example, in detention centers) as well as subjects who become incarcerated after the study begins.
- List any collaborating sites where human subjects research will be performed, and describe the role of those sites in performing the proposed research.

ii. Sources of Materials

- Describe the research material obtained from living human subjects in the form of specimens, records, or data.

- Describe any data that will be recorded on the human subjects involved in the project.
- Describe the linkages to subjects, and indicate who will have access to subject identities.
- Provide information about how the specimens, records, or data are collected and whether material or data will be collected specifically for your proposed research project.

iii. Potential Risks

- Describe the potential risks to subjects (physical, psychological, social, legal, or other), and assess their likelihood and seriousness to the subjects.
- Where appropriate, describe alternative treatments and procedures, including the risks and benefits of the alternative treatments and procedures to participants in the proposed research.

B. Adequacy of Protections Against Risks

i. Recruitment & Informed Consent

- Describe plans for the recruitment of subjects (where appropriate) and the process for obtaining informed consent. If the proposed study will include children, describe the process for meeting requirements for parental permission and child assent.
- Include a description of the circumstances under which consent will be sought and obtained, who will seek it, the nature of the information to be provided to prospective subjects, and the method of documenting consent. Informed consent document(s) need not be submitted with this application, unless requested.

ii. Protection Against Risk

- Describe planned procedures for protecting against or minimizing potential risks, including risks to confidentiality, and assess their likely effectiveness.
- Where appropriate, discuss plans for ensuring necessary medical or professional intervention in the event of adverse effects to the subjects.

C. Potential Benefits of the Proposed Research to the Subjects and Others

- Discuss the potential benefits of the research to the subjects and others.
- Discuss why the risks to subjects are reasonable in relation to the anticipated benefits to subjects and others.

D. Importance of the Knowledge to be Gained

- Discuss the importance of the knowledge gained or to be gained as a result of the proposed research.
- Discuss why the risks to subjects are reasonable in relation to the importance of the knowledge that reasonably may be expected to result.

6. Project Budget

Research related activities/costs that may be included in project budgets are: salary (faculty course buy out; research assistants; data analysts etc), consultant costs, supplies, travel, participant incentives, rental fees and publication costs.

Please complete the following:

- A. Budget for requested funds (FR&SP can provide a budget template, if needed).
 - B. Budget Justification – description of line items included in the budget (No page limit, but section should be single spaced, 12-point typeface, 1 inch margins.)
 - C. List of other sources of current funding for the project, if applicable.
7. **C.V. or NIH formatted biosketch** for principal investigator and all other researchers/project personnel named in the budget request. Although there are no page limits or formatting requirements for submitting a C.V., please submit a document of professional quality.

Confirmation of receipt of application: Confirmation of receipt of application will be sent to the principal investigator following review for compliance to application guidelines.

Timing

Application deadline: Monday, May 5th, 2008

Award announcement: Monday, June 30th, 2008

**Principal Investigators will be notified of the outcome of the review in writing.

The Grant Award Process

Payment and Reporting:

In order for any grant monies to be disbursed to the recipient, proof of compliance with Walden University regulations regarding the protection of human subjects in research, Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval, is required.

Upon receipt of the project's IRB approval letter, the Office of Faculty Research & Sponsored Programs (FR&SP) will request the disbursement of startup funds (\$3,000) to the grant recipient. The remaining balance of the grant award will be disbursed quarterly, based upon receipt of Project Progress and Budget Reports.

** This disbursement schedule is open to negotiation based upon the needs of the project. Requests to revise this schedule must be justified in writing and are subject to review and approval by the FR&SP.

Three months after the end of the project period, the grant recipient must submit a Final Project Report. The Final Project Report should include an overview of project findings, data dissemination activities and an outline of the principal investigator's plans to pursue the next project that builds upon the completed research, including identification of external funding opportunities to support their research agenda.

Questions

Questions about the Faculty Research Initiative Grant program should be directed to Molly Lauck, Ph.D., Director of the Office of Faculty Research & Sponsored Programs, at grants@waldenu.edu.