Call For Proposals

Background: In Winter 2007 the University of Michigan School of Social Work established the Vivian A. and James L. Curtis School of Social Work Research and Training Center to foster interdisciplinary externally funded research to advance knowledge in the areas of mental health, substance abuse, and health. The Center’s aim is to create an environment that will facilitate collaboration among investigators to increase their competitiveness to secure funding from multiple sources to support their research agendas.

The Curtis Center is able to fund up to four projects for a maximum amount of $15,000 each academic year. It is anticipated that proposals involving secondary analyses would likely require lower funding amounts (anticipated budget of $10,000 or less). Investigators funded by the Curtis Center will be able to use the funds for activities related to the implementation of the project such as to hire research staff, purchase equipment related to the proposed research project, and costs associated with the recruitment of study participants, among others. Funds cannot be used to cover the investigator’s salary.

Preference will be given to strong scientific proposals from junior faculty ( untenured) and from collaborations between senior and junior faculty. Proposals from senior colleagues are also accepted. Preference will be given to proposals that primarily relate to health, mental health, and substance abuse and that will serve to improve the lives of disadvantaged populations; and that can be used to address health disparities. Projects may include secondary data analyses, focus groups, participant observation, mixed methods, and intervention research. Proposals must include a clear and feasible plan that describes how findings from this study will serve to inform the submission of proposals to obtain funding from governmental, state, and foundation sources such as the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, etc. It is expected these pilot funds will lead to the submission of larger external grants.

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. The Curtis Center Review Committee (CCRC) will evaluate the applications. CCRC members include Drs. Paula Allen-Meares, Debora Bybee, Jorge Delva, Sandro Galea, Joe Himle, Susan McDonough, Kristine Siefert, Debora Padgett, and John Tropman. Applicants will be given written feedback and will be informed of funding decisions within four weeks of submitting their proposal. A brief final report highlighting the outcomes of the project (e.g., manuscripts submitted to journals or conference presentations, proposals submitted) is expected within a month of completion of the project. Finally, investigators are asked to acknowledge funding from the Curtis Center in any report, publication, or conference presentation. For example: “This project was funded (or partially funded) by the Vivian A. and James L. Curtis School of Social Work Research and Training Center, University of Michigan.”

The proposal form and process are intentionally kept simple, brief, and general. Whenever possible, proposals should employ language that can be readily understood by colleagues from other disciplines.