



October 1, 2007

To: Tenured, Tenure-Track, and Clinical-Track Faculty

From: David C. Perry, Director and Professor
Great Cities Institute

Re: Great Cities Faculty Seed Fund Competition 2008-2009
A Request for Proposals

I am pleased to announce the Great Cities Faculty Seed Fund Competition (GCFSFC) for 2008-2009. This will be the twelfth annual competition and with it we seek to recognize the broadest range of interdisciplinary and innovative research on cities and their conditions. Over the years we have made over fifty Seed Fund awards to scholars from over twenty disciplines and we hope that 2008-2009 will be no exception as we set out to recognize even more ways in which the academic disciplines can join with urban partners to create new approaches to urban understanding. If you have any questions concerning the Faculty Seed Fund Competition, please contact Joseph Hoereth, Associate Director, at jhoereth@uic.edu or 3-3377. We look forward to hearing from you and to receiving a proposal.

DEADLINE AND COPIES REQUIRED

An ORIGINAL and SIX (6) copies of the full GCFSF application should be submitted by 4:00 PM on FRIDAY, January 18, 2008 to Joseph Hoereth, Great Cities Institute, Suite 400, CUPPA Hall (412 South Peoria Street), M/C 107. Decisions are expected to be made by the beginning of April, 2008.

Application forms may be obtained by accessing the Great Cities Institute website at <http://www.uic.edu/cuppa/gci/whatwedo/competitions/seedfund.htm>

ELIGIBILITY

Tenured, tenure-track, and clinical-track faculty are eligible for a GCFSF award.

CRITERIA

The GCFSF will provide support for projects that reflect the goals of UIC's Great Cities program. Historically, we have been able to support approximately one third of the proposals. This means that successful applications have to meet the highest standard on all or most of the following criteria:

1. Engaged research that not only adds to our base of urban knowledge and the teaching of our students, but also portends an impact on the "great cities" of the world of which Chicago is one. Projects that actively involve external constituencies in the Chicago metropolitan area. Involvement must consist of more than serving as passive research subjects.
2. Interdisciplinary projects.
3. Projects with the potential of generating significant external support, or, alternatively, extremely meritorious projects for which external support is difficult to obtain.
4. Research with the potential of involving students
5. Projects that will result in grant applications through the Great Cities Institute.
6. Projects connected with the UIC Neighborhoods Initiative (UICNI): consultation with Cynthia Barnes-Boyd, Director of UICNI (6-7963 or cboyd@uic.edu) or Atanacio Gonzalez, Associate Director, (6-7194 or nacho@uic.edu), is strongly recommended.
7. Projects in one or more of the Great Cities priority research areas: urban governance and finance, contested cities (urban violence), healthy cities (urban and community health and environmental sustainability) and urban development (community development, economic development, and housing).
9. Projects with potential implications for public policy development.

A list of recently funded projects can be viewed at
<http://www.uic.edu/cuppa/gci/whatwedo/competitions/seedfund.htm>

FORMAT OF APPLICATION

1. GCFSF application form.
2. Summary statement of proposed project: 1 page.
3. Project description, background and workplan: 5 pages maximum, exclusive of literature references, tables or drawings.
4. Significance of proposed project and plans for future funding: 1 page.
5. Budget.
6. Itemized budget justification: 1 page.
7. Information critical to evaluation of the proposal such as copies of survey instruments or letters from collaborators may be submitted.
8. Short vita and list of relevant publications and grants: 2 pages.

Number all pages consecutively following the above list. Proposals should be written in language understandable to members of the GCFSF review board in related disciplines. **Do not exceed the allowable number of pages.**

BUDGET

Request the minimum amount of funds that will allow you to conduct the project. Itemize the budget request and justify clearly each item. GCFSF funds are very limited; we are unable to support large requests. **Generally awards are made in amounts ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000. No awards are given in excess of \$5,000.**

All salaries and expenses directly related to the project are allowable. In general, allowable expenses include consumable supplies, required travel, and necessary equipment.

- **The seed fund does *not* pay for faculty salaries, but will support other project staff or students.**
- **Equipment requires a 50% match.**

State funds are used to support the GCFSF awards. All funds must be used during the fiscal year; the state will reclaim unused funds after June 30, 2009. Award recipients should inform the business officer of their respective academic units to make sure that guidelines for utilizing state monies are accommodated.



GREAT CITIES FACULTY SEED FUND PROPOSAL 2008-2009

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Key words describing my proposal: 1) _____
2) _____
3) _____
4) _____
5) _____

PROJECT TITLE: _____

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (Print): _____

Signature: _____

TITLE/RANK: _____ SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: ____ - ____ - ____

COLLEGE: _____ DEPT.: _____ M/C: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____ E-MAIL: _____

COLLABORATORS: (One principal investigator must be noted on the application. Identify co-investigators as collaborators; include a signed letter detailing their responsibilities).

Name and Department _____

STATEMENT FROM DEPARTMENT/UNIT HEAD:

All necessary space and supplies that are not requested in this application have been made available in the department. This is also to confirm that the Principal Investigator is a tenured, tenure-track, or clinical-track faculty member in my department.

DEPARTMENT/UNIT HEAD (Print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____