

The Urban Initiative
ANNOUNCEMENT OF FACULTY GRANTS
\$75,000 to \$25,000

Designation as "Urban Fellow" and seed money
for interdisciplinary research on urban problems

Urban Initiative

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FOCUS

USC's Urban Initiative is supporting Faculty Grants to provide seed money for the development of applied interdisciplinary research on urban environments domestically and internationally. In allocating seed money, emphasis is placed on each project's prospects for securing substantial external funding. There is no limitation on the choice of topic, discipline, or school within these guidelines. Grant recipients will be designated Urban Fellows.

FUNDS AVAILABLE

A pool of \$150,000 is available. Grants will normally range from \$75,000 to \$25,000, however, proposals in excess of \$75,000 will be considered based on high promise. Grants will be paid in two parts: half will be made immediately available in December 2004 and half in February 2005. The second half is conditioned upon receipt of a mid-term report and substantial progress. All funds must be expended by June 30, 2005, unless permission is granted for a no-cost extension.

Successful applicants may be eligible for competitions in later years, contingent upon satisfactory completion of the current project. However, each separate application should encompass a well-defined, self-contained research program.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The Urban Deans' Council will review proposals according to a range of criteria including:

- A well-defined, realistic strategy for pursuing at least \$250,000 in external funding. See item eight under Application Procedure below (40 points)
- Interdisciplinary research involving faculty from two or more USC schools or departments (10 points)
- Focus on a significant social problem (10 points)
- Use of Southern California's environment, resources or situations and possible global implications (10 points)
- Likelihood of enhancing USC's academic reputation (10 points)
- Innovation and creativity (20 points)

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Successful applicants will be appointed as Urban Fellows for the duration of their projects. The principal investigator will be responsible for the successful execution and timely completion of the proposed research, which must include the submission of an Interim Report by Thursday, February 24, 2005 and a Final Report no later than Thursday, July 14, 2005.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

There is no standard form, but applicants must adhere to the following format in their letter of application.

1. Name, School / Department, and rank of P.I., co-PIs and other collaborators (including faculty from two or more schools).
2. Project Title.
3. Total amount requested (generally between \$25,000 and \$75,000).
4. Short description of project (up to 100 words).
5. Detailed project description (not to exceed three single-spaced typescript pages).
6. Detailed budget
7. Timetable for work performance including project milestones prior to and after submission of the midterm report.
8. Detailed description of prospective funders. For each program: program name(s) to be applied to; a description and priorities; high, low and average amounts awarded; application deadline; name of program officer and contacts to-date; amount of prospective request.
9. Explain the value added by interdisciplinary collaboration.
10. Indicate whether or not your project has other sources of funding
11. Names of two on-campus referees capable of assessing the quality of the proposed research (other than faculty collaborating with the project).
12. Up-to-date curriculum vitae

Applications should not exceed eight pages (excluding CV). 11 copies of the complete application should be submitted to the contact person listed below by Tuesday, December 7, 2004.

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES

Eligible expenditures include:

- Directly related travel and accommodation
- Faculty summer stipend paid in May (including the standard 33.75% fringe benefit charge)
- Research assistants
- Materials and supplies

INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Ineligible expenses include:

- Conference travel, accommodation, or registration
- Large equipment expenditures (greater than \$500)
- Expenditures supplementing or offsetting direct or indirect costs of related projects
- Overhead charges

DEADLINES

December 7, 2004	Deadline for receiving proposals
December 14, 2004	Successful applicants notified
February 24, 2005	Mid-term reports due
June 30, 2005	Deadline for expenditure of grant funds
July 14, 2005	Final Report Due

CONTACT PERSON

Contact Richard Parks, Program Manager of the Urban Initiative, at (213) 740-8181 or richard@usc.edu with questions. 11 copies of the complete application must be received at WPH 604, MC 4036 by 5:00 p.m. on December 7, 2004.