



September 26, 2005

Dear Faculty Colleagues;

### Request for Proposals

As we begin the new academic year, I am pleased to write that the Urban Initiative is well positioned as a major collaborative enterprise within the university. Our new provost has provided unprecedented support. This includes funding for the Urban Initiative's core programs and an additional support through the Graduate School to launch the new Urban and Global Ph.D. Certificate. We have several very innovative programs forthcoming in this academic year.

Urban Initiative

**Madeleine Stoner**  
Faculty Chair

Foremost among these is a series of interdisciplinary projects addressing important societal needs. Enclosed is this year's Faculty Grants Request for Proposals. We look forward to another round of interdisciplinary research addressing important societal issues with substantive policy implications.

Please review the enclosed RFP noting the selection criteria and due dates.

Some additional highlights of this academic year are:

- The Conference on Collaborative Approaches Pursued at USC on October 27 in Davidson Conference Center. All faculty are welcome and, where appropriate, to bring their classes.
- The Urban Global Lecture Series, linked to the Ph.D. Certificate program, entitled *Metropo[latinization]: the Emerging City* will run throughout the year bringing leading global and urban scholars to USC beginning with a lecture on October 4 by Manuel Castells.
- The Urban Global Ph.D. certificate program offers students knowledge and skills that they will not gain in their disciplines by demonstrating that there is something unique about complex urban and global research and offering students the opportunity to enhance their capacity to find solutions in a spatial arena between theory and method.

The challenges and opportunities of the Urban Initiative rest with all faculty who are committed to advancing interdisciplinary research and scholarship—and to even developing new paradigms. For this reason, I urge all faculty to consider the attached RFP and submit proposals for consideration by the Urban Deans Council and the Urban Initiative Faculty Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Madeleine R. Stoner  
Faculty Chair, USC Urban Initiative  
Richard and Ann Thor Professor of Urban Social Development

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

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

Urban Initiative

**Karen Symms  
Gallagher**  
Dean  
Rossier School of  
Education

**Aileen Adams**  
Vice Provost

**Joseph Aoun**  
Dean  
USC College

**Geoffrey Cowan**  
Dean  
Annenberg School for  
Communication

**Marilyn Flynn**  
Dean  
School of Social Work

**Yash Gupta**  
Dean  
Marshall School of  
Business

**Howard Gillman**  
Assoc. Vice Provost

**Martin L. Levine**  
Vice Provost

**Jack H. Knott**  
Dean  
School of Policy,  
Planning and  
Development

**Harold C. Slavkin**  
Dean  
School of Dentistry

**Robert Timme**  
Dean  
School of Architecture

**Pete Vanderveen**  
Dean  
School of Pharmacy

**Carolyn Webb de  
Macias**  
Vice President  
External Relations

**FOCUS**

USC's Urban Initiative is supporting Faculty Grants for full-time faculty 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 \$170,000 is available. Grants will normally range from \$25,000 to \$75,000, 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 and half in February 2006. The second half is conditioned upon receipt of a mid-term report and substantial progress. All funds must be expended by June 30, 2006, 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 Tuesday, January 24, 2006 and a Final Report no later than Tuesday, July 18, 2006.

## 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: **(a)** program name(s) to be applied to; **(b)** a description and priorities; **(c)** high, low and average amounts awarded; **(d)** application deadline; **(e)** name of program officer and contacts to-date; **(f)** 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). 14 copies of the complete application should be submitted to the contact person listed below by Monday, October 31, 2005.

## ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES

Eligible expenditures include:

- Directly related travel and accommodation
- Faculty summer stipend paid in May (including the standard 32% 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

October 31, 2005	Deadline for receiving proposals
November 14, 2005	Successful applicants notified
January 24, 2006	Mid-term reports due
June 30, 2006	Deadline for expenditure of grant funds
July 18, 2006	Final Report Due

## CONTACT PERSON

Contact Richard Parks, Program Manager of the Urban Initiative, at (213) 740-8181 or [richard@usc.edu](mailto:richard@usc.edu) with questions. 14 copies of the complete application must be received at WPH 604, MC 4036 by 5:00 p.m. on October 31, 2005.