

# **SOCIAL, BEHAVIORAL, & ECONOMIC SCIENCES RESEARCH FUND (SBE)**

**Fall Deadline: 4<sup>th</sup> Friday in October**

**Spring deadline: 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in February (pending availability of funds)**

**Applications for bridge funding will be accepted at any time. See the Priorities for Awards section below for a definition of bridge funding.**

The Social, Behavioral, & Economic Sciences Research Fund supports projects conducted in departments that include but are not limited to Anthropology, Communication, Economics, Education, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology. Social, behavioral, and economic sciences proposals from faculty in the Law, and Business Schools are also accepted.

Funds up to \$10K can be requested for research supplies, maintenance of essential equipment, travel, or technical personnel. Applicants must demonstrate that travel, if budgeted, is essential to the project. In addition, a matching contribution or cost sharing from their department to cover some of the travel costs is encouraged. Defrayal of professional society dues is not allowed.

All Social, Behavioral, & Economic Sciences Research Fund awards are subject to the Terms and Conditions for Internal Awards and Guidance for Internal Award Final Reports. The project period is 1 year, with the possibility of a 1-year, no-cost extension. When the grant is awarded, the grants manager will establish an account and disburse the funds on the written authority of the investigator or a designated representative. Any balance unexpended at the grant's expiration will be returned to the main account, unless an extension (without additional funds) is requested in writing 10 days prior to the grant's end date. Within 90 days after the grant terminates, a final progress report must be submitted to the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. The final report should include a one page summary of research results including publications, presentations and proposals that resulted from this project.

**Eligibility** is restricted to full-time, tenured or tenure-track social, behavioral, or economic science faculty and research support staff with adjunct faculty appointments on the Reynolda campus. Non tenure-track faculty may be considered, if their appointments continue through the award year. Preference will be given to those who have not previously received an award. There can be no more than 2 awards in any consecutive 3 year period to the same principal investigator and no more than 2 awards to the same project, regardless of PI, in any consecutive 3 year period.

**Priorities for Awards:** Proposals are peer reviewed for their significance. In addition to the quality of the proposed research, additional criteria are also applied where applicable. For example, is the applicant: (1) a junior faculty member whom an award will assist in becoming competitive for external support; (2) a more experienced faculty member entering new areas or reengaging in research; or (3) a senior faculty member who must perform additional work to remedy gaps in declined proposals. A proposal does not have to fit into one of these three categories to be considered or awarded but proposals of similarly judged research significance may be differentiated using these criteria.

**Bridge Funding:** Experienced researchers whose renewal applications are declined may request

one-time bridge funding at any time of the year. To apply, submit the declined renewal proposal's reviewer comments, a 1-2 page plan to address them, an Application for Internal Funds form, an abstract, and a 1-page budget. Please be sure to show how external reviewer comments have been addressed.

**Proposal Preparation:** The Application for Internal Funds form must be completed and signed by the applicant and the appropriate department chair or equivalent. Forms are available [here](#). Application instructions and a checklist for the proposal are included on page 2 of the application.

Either of the following formats may be used for an application (in 11pt or larger font):

***Format I: (Application should not be more than 5 pages in length)***

**1. Abstract:** A brief summary of the proposed activity suitable for publication. Not more than one paragraph. Clearly address in separate statements the 1) intellectual merit, and 2) the broader impacts.

**2. Objectives:** State precisely what the research should accomplish, what hypothesis it will test, and the rationale for undertaking it.

**3. Background and Significance:** Summarize the most pertinent previous work and the current state of the field, including your own preliminary data. Identify the gaps that the proposed project is intended to fill.

**4. Methods:** Discuss the experimental design and methods proposed to accomplish project objectives in sufficient detail to allow assessment of their feasibility and applicability. How, specifically, will they test each of the hypotheses? If proposing new methods, describe their advantages. If several experiments are proposed, indicate their priority. Indicate the type of data to be generated, and how they will be analyzed (e.g., proposed statistical design and analysis). Briefly identify any potential pitfalls or limitations in procedures and suggest remedies. Provide plans for future efforts, including submission to external sponsors. Include a proposed project timeline.

**5. References:** Include only the most pertinent literature references.

**6. Other Sources:** Other sources of funding sought or received (if applicable).

***Format II: (Application should not be more than 5 pages in length)***

**1. Question or Problem:** Description of the question or problem to be researched, including an explanation of its significance for the field.

**2. Research Methods:** Description of the research methods and plan to be followed and the applicant's ability to carry out that plan.

**3. Timetable:** A timetable for completing and publishing (or presenting if a creative activity) one's research, including interest from a publisher if requesting funds to write a book.

**4. References:** Include only the most pertinent literature references.

**5. Other Sources:** Other sources of funding sought or received (if applicable).

*All applications in either format should include the following:*

**1. Budget:** (\$10,000 maximum). Include a brief budget justification. If this budget is not adequate to fund the proposed research, indicate the source and amount of additional funds.

- a) Equipment. Justify why the equipment is necessary for the proposed study.
- b) Supplies (list major categories)
- c) Personnel. Funds for faculty salary and secretarial support will not be considered. Funds for graduate and undergraduate student support are rarely granted, since they can usually be obtained through the Graduate School or WFU Undergraduate Research Fellowships. Funds for technical support staff have been granted occasionally, since there is no other campus source for these research costs. If requesting funds to support technical staff, remember to include appropriate fringe benefits.
- d) Other (necessary travel, computer charges, audiovisual costs, hazardous waste disposal costs, etc.)

**2. CV:** A CV not to exceed 2 pages.

**3. Description and Outcome of Previous Internal awards:** Briefly describe previous internal awards and their outcomes received within the past 4 years.

**4. External Reviews:** If this application is in response to a declined external proposal, please provide 4 copies of the external reviews along with the proposal. Per Bridge Funding instructions above, please show how external reviewer comments will be addressed.

**5. Resubmissions:** If this application is a revision of a previously submitted proposal, please include a 1 page response to reviewers' comments.

**6. WFU Collaborators:** List any WFU collaborators who may have a Conflict of Interest in reviewing your proposal.

Appendices are discouraged, and reviewers are not required to read them. Projects involving human subjects or animals must seek appropriate committee approval, and investigators must complete the required training in human subjects research prior to project initiation.

The Vice-Provost and the Director of Research and Sponsored Programs invite applicants to talk with them anytime.

The Editor-Researcher in ORSP and the Prospect Research Manager in the Office of Foundation Relations may be asked to run funding-source searches in their databases. The results will be shared with applicants.

**Please send a completed copy of the Application for Internal Funds form and proposal in one file as an attachment to Susan Edwards (edwardss@wfu.edu) and submit the signed original to the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, 117E Reynolda Hall, no later than 5 P.M. on the deadline date. Please allow several weeks for the review process.**