College of Education  
Research Grants Program B - External Grant Proposal

Application Deadlines: March 1 and October 1, annually  
Award Decision: Within Six Weeks after Application Deadline

Description: The College of Education is pleased to announce the availability of Research Grants Program B. This program provides funding to support faculty in the acquisition of major external funding. Major funding is defined for this Program as at least $150,000 per year or at least $300,000 for the life of the project. This Program requires the inclusion of a faculty mentor who has demonstrated success in securing grants.

Funding Amount & Eligible Expenditures: The maximum award amount is $9,000. Applicants may request a project period of up to one year. Funds may be used for pilot research projects and/or partial summer pay, equivalent to teaching one course, for the principal investigator and/or the mentor, when mentors are COE faculty. All expenditures must be directly related to the development of a strong proposal for major external funding. Examples of allowable expenses include transcription costs, data collection materials, travel costs related to data collection, specialized software or equipment needed for the research, and student worker costs, if these will lead to a stronger funding proposal. Items with a partial relationship to the project or for a broader purpose are not allowed as Program B expenditures. Such items include graduate assistantships that include non-project work, computers, and travel for presentation purposes.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants include all full-time faculty members. Preference is given to those who have never received a major competitive grant and who could clearly benefit from the assistance of a mentor.

Application Procedures
1. Contact the Director of the Office of Grants and Contracts, Rhonda Stephens, no later than three weeks prior to the selected deadline. The Office of Grants and Contracts will assist with budget development, proposal preparation and formatting, and submission.
2. Develop a short proposal (no more than five single-spaced pages) that provides (a) a brief discussion of the background and significance of the proposed idea, including its relation to the present state of knowledge in the field, and (b) a narrative of the project that includes the objectives, the methods and procedures that will be used in the project (i.e., sample selection, measures/instruments and/or research design, data collection, and data analysis), the expected accomplishments during the course of the project, the specific external funding program being targeted, including documentation that the targeted outlet meets the funding requirements for Program B grants (at least $150,000 per year or at least $300,000 for the life of the project), and a projected timeline for submission to the identified program. Details on measures/instruments and the specific funding program (i.e., copies of the RFP) MUST be included as appendices, but will not be counted in the narrative page limit. Likewise, when applicable, it is strongly encouraged to provide letters of support/approval for data collection as appendices (i.e., provide evidence that the proposed data collection procedures can be accomplished).
3. Attach the following supporting documentation to the end of the proposal packet: (a) references (should be included as appropriate, but will not be counted in the narrative page limitation); (b) vitae of both the PI and mentor; the mentor's vita must include a record of successful external grant funding. The mentor may be a co-PI on the external proposal; (c) letter of participation from the mentor, indicating the mentor's role in the project; (d) statement of support from the applicant's department chair; and (e) budget and budget justification.
4. Electronically submit the completed proposal packet to the Director of the Office of Grants and Contracts at stepherw@mailbox.sc.edu.

Review Process: The criteria used for judging proposals are provided in the Research Grants Program B scoring rubric, with the key criterion being whether or not internal funding will substantially enhance the likelihood of external funding. Funding decisions will be announced within six weeks after the application deadline. Successful applicants must submit a proposal to a funding agency and a final report of internal funding activities to the dean. Applicants are also expected to hold a brown bag presentation of their work to be accomplished. Presentations will be scheduled by the dean’s office. Applicants can be considered for additional funding from one of the College’s research programs after meeting these reporting requirements.

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