

**UConn School of Social Work
Dean's Incentive Award – 2021**

We are seeking clearly written, timely, and promising proposals from investigators for research, scholarly, or planning activity that has strong potential to lead to extramural grant funding. Successful external funding may require applicants to present completed pilot work leading to the proposed activity. It may also require demonstration of scientific productivity through recent publications of peer reviewed articles, book chapters, and monographs. Successful extramural funding applications may also necessitate considerable legwork to identify and convene collaborators and consultants who could potentially enhance the scientific breadth of the proposed scholarly activity. In sum, there are a range of activities that must be completed and accomplishments that must be achieved for successful extramural activity to occur. Accordingly, this year's Dean's Incentive Award (DIA) is open to supporting a range of research-related projects and proposals that have a high probability of leading investigators toward the timely submission of a successful application for external grant funding support. ***We are open to applications that propose collection and/or analysis of qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods data.***

Proposals should describe a project that is feasible for completion in a twelve-month period. Applications should clearly lay the groundwork for future grant funding that expands the scope of the proposed research. Thus, potential future funding sources need to be identified as part of the application process. Further, a timeline – including the timeframe expected until grant application submission – must be provided by the investigator as part of the DIA submission. We are providing projects funding in the amount of \$4,000 each. We will fund *up to* two Dean's Incentive Award projects this year. Grants are limited to tenured and tenure track faculty. Faculty awarded Dean's Incentive funds in 2020 will not be eligible for awards in 2021.

Application Requirements

Letter of Intent: A letter of intent should be submitted to the Associate Dean for Research via email (michael.fendrich@uconn.edu) by 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, February, 19th, 2021**. The letter of intent should indicate the title of the application, the principal investigator, and provide a one-paragraph overview of the application, summarizing the project aims and tasks to be conducted. Pending feedback on that letter (which will be provided to applicants by **Friday, March 3rd**), applicants will be invited to submit a full application.

For applicants invited to submit a full proposal, applications should be submitted to the ORS office (michael.fendrich@uconn.edu) by 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, March 24th, 2021**. The format of the application should be as follows:

Research Plan Components (2000 Words Total)

Specific Aims (one paragraph – 200 words): Provide an overview of the broad study objectives as well as the specific outcomes that are proposed. Provide two or three clear aims (one or two sentences per aim) to be achieved with this grant. These aims should also be research oriented, have the potential to make a clear contribution to social work knowledge, and serve to position the investigator for future research funding.

Significance (one paragraph- 500 words): Summarize the relevant research knowledge base (research and community engagement literature) motivating the study. How can this study have potential impact on the field of social work or a particular social problem or issue targeted by the investigator? Please cite available literature to support claims of significance.

Innovation (one paragraph -300 words): What about this study is unique and different? Think about the study aims, the methods proposed, the implementation strategy (approach), and the proposed community collaboration. Taking these five things into account, clearly state what is unique and innovative about this application.

Investigator (one paragraph-200 words): Include a brief description of the expertise of the principal investigator and any key personnel who may be working on the application. Include relevant publications and/or scholarly activity (conference presentations, posters, monographs) and any unique skills or training that the investigator has that could facilitate the proposed activity.

Approach (one page- 800 words): In clear language, describe the steps that will be carried out to accomplish the aims of this application. If pilot research is planned, describe the scope of the research (number of subjects involved, type of measures used, variables investigated, analytic approaches used, and the final product of the study). If this involves completion, or enhancement of ongoing scholarly or grant activity, specifically identify the unique activities supported by this application that will lead to that completed product. If the application involves grant-planning activity, describe the activity in detail.

Other Components

Timeline (one paragraph): Provide a timeline that specifies when project activities will be completed and specify precise when a grant application will be submitted. A Gantt chart summarizing expected dates and progress is recommended. ***It is expected that an extramural grant application submission will occur within one year after receipt of funding from this year's DIA.***

Budget (two pages total): Provide an Excel spread sheet (one page) summarizing the expenditures proposed for this application. Additionally, on a separate page, provide a budget justification (one page) for the items listed in the spreadsheet. Support can be requested for personnel to assist with literature reviews, data collection, data analysis and statistical

consultation; funds can also be requested for subject incentives, software, supporting technology and grant planning-related travel. Support will not be provided for salary or computers. **Total funding cannot exceed \$4,000.**

Appendices (up to three relevant items): Appendix items could include: Letters of support from collaborators or consultants; relevant publications by the investigator; measures employed in any planned pilot work.

Review Process: The SSW Associate Dean for Research will evaluate the proposals in consultation with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will review proposals. Optionally, another faculty member with expertise (who is not submitting an award) will be called on to help in the review process.

Full Application Review Criteria: The review group noted above will consider the following criteria in making funding decisions (on a scale of 1 to 5 where “1” is a positive score and 5 is a negative score):

- 1) The application’s feasibility, including the viability of proposed activity, the potential for the application be carried out within the proposed budget and the potential for the project to be completed within the required time frame;
- 2) The quality and strength of the approach
- 3) The potential to generate future extramural funding.

Deliverables: A final report will be expected approximately one year after the receipt of the award (by the end of the Spring Semester of 2022). The report should be sent via email to the Associate Dean for Research. The report will be made available on the Q Drive. The results of the research will be presented at a future ORS exhibition as a poster or a presentation.