

A Letter to UH CLASS Colleagues from the Hobby Center for Public Policy

February 5, 2016

Scan and submit a PDF of your signed proposal online to Dr. Anadeli Bencomo, Associate Dean for Faculty and Research at abencomo@uh.edu. Or, send a hard copy of your signed proposal to Dr. Anadeli Bencomo, 402 AH, CLASS Dean's Office, Mail Code 3000. The deadline for scanned or hard copy proposal submissions is March 18, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. CST.

Dear Colleague:

This letter provides information about a research opportunity offered by the Hobby Center for Public Policy. The purpose of the program is to provide seed funding for interdisciplinary policy-related research projects for CLASS faculty. The funding will support research activities to develop a white paper, ultimately leading to the submission of a proposal for extramural funding; the white paper and proposal submission are required deliverables. The program may fund up to \$50,000 for research activities on policy-related topics for Fiscal Year 2016. The specifics of the program follow; examples of policy-related topics are included in Part II, below. All proposals must adhere to the following guidelines.

I. Submission Requirements and Process

- Proposals with a Houston focus or that are applicable to Houston will be given priority.
- All proposals must be multidisciplinary but can be comprised solely of CLASS faculty; the investigators must demonstrate clearly that the proposed research question requires an interdisciplinary approach.
- The duration of awards can be up to one academic year. Awards for shorter durations (i.e., one semester) are also eligible.
- The investigators' department chairs must sign off on proposals; an electronic signature procedure will be provided through the submission process.
- Proposals must contain four components: (1) a statement of how the research findings have significant implications for policy; (2) a plan for a white paper; (3) a research plan with a timeline for submission of a proposal for extramural funding based on the white paper; and (4) a budget for requested funds with justification.
- Proposals will be judged on: (1) the degree of integration across CLASS disciplines; (2) the effectiveness in articulating potential funding agencies and opportunities (e.g., the probability of successful submission for extramural funding); (3) the effectiveness

in communicating the project's goals, objectives, specific aims, methods, and broader impacts.

- Proposals must not exceed a length of 7 pages (including budget and justification) and no appendices will be considered.
- Curriculum vitae for all primary investigators must be included, limited to 2 pages per investigator (not included in the 7-page limit).
- The cover page (not included in the 7-page limit) for the proposal should contain the title of the proposed project, names of all investigators, and home departments and colleges.
- The submission deadline is **March 18, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. CST.**
- All proposals must be 11- or 12-point font, single spaced, with 1-inch margins.
- All proposals must document that costs are commensurate with activities and objectives. The maximum support for each award is \$10,000.
- Upon completion of the project a final white paper and report must be submitted to the Hobby Center for Public Policy summarizing the accomplishments of the project. These documents will be due 30 days after completion of the project. A mid-term report must also be submitted to the Hobby Center for Public Policy.

II. Opportunity Topics

Topics are the province of the investigators. Suggested topics can include (**BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO**):

- Energy—sources of energy in extreme environments and environmental consequences; efficiency (superconductivity, smart buildings); human interaction with “smart systems” Sustainability—ecosystem health (human-wildlife interface, emerging diseases, environmental contaminants, adverse effects on human and wildlife populations, sociology and education, history and humanities informing us); Houston Ship Channel and Panama Canal impacts and management; energy-water nexus; transportation paradigms; architectural innovations; air quality; recycling; water conservation and availability
- Public Health—disaster preparedness (engineering, health, social programs, logistics); predictive modeling (disease, environmental contaminants, urban pressures); Houston Ship Channel and transport of food (security, safety, environmental health, buffer zones, architecture); cancer (incidence and hot spots; environmental causes and cures); mental health (resource allocation policy, disaster preparedness and response, PTSD, compassion fatigue); obesity (social determinants of health, health disparities, and health equity)

- Urban Resilience—community health; food deserts and interventions; workforce—education, enhancement, identification of needs, employer programs to utilize local communities; building capacity and capabilities; response to emergencies; smart growth (for and against); arts and the creative economy; transportation infrastructure (roads, freeways, toll roads, HOV lanes); gentrification; mass transportation (light rail, commuter rail, bus); law enforcement and community relations; race relations
- Human Capital—general and specific needs of today’s workforce in addressing the human side of corporate, government, and public service entities (job satisfaction, morale, resilience, retention); policy issues related to workforce (diversity, gender equity, work-family balance, health disparities, socioeconomic impacts, incivility)
- Government—term limits; pensions; transparency; ethics; online voting; voter identification; law enforcement; consolidation of services (city and county); recycling; parks; Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones; immigration reform; mental health parity; economic development; school finance; higher education funding

Questions should be addressed to Dr. Elizabeth Anderson-Fletcher or Dr. Jim Granato, Hobby Center for Public Policy. E-Mail: efletcher@uh.edu, jgranato@uh.edu. Phone (713) 743-3970.