The Center for Urban Research and Policy (CURP) announces a request for seed grant proposals. CURP is a research center housed at the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (ISERP), Columbia University. Proposals are due October 15, 2004.

CURP’s seed grant program is intended to support the initial stages of new social science research projects that address urban issues. The projects may be for basic research, reviews/evaluations of existing public policies, or development of new data sets. The seed grant program is intended to support proposal development, pilot research, and other activities that advance a research project to the point at which it can attract outside funding.

Seed grant recipients who receive external grants based on seeded research are expected to administer these grants through CURP and to acknowledge the Center funding in papers and publications that are based on the seeded research.

**Proposals:** Seed grant proposals include the following elements, preferably organized in subsections (Please remember to include the title of the project as well as the department, mail and email address, and phone number for each investigator.):

1. **Cover Page:** Please include your name, the title of your project, the date of proposal submission, your department, your mailing address, and the emails, phone numbers, and addresses for each investigator.

2. **Abstract:** Include a one-paragraph abstract suitable for use in public reports and the CURP website.

3. **Narrative:** Summarize the research question, theoretical grounding, existing literature, plan for empirical research (if relevant), and significance of the larger project that the seed grant will help you develop. Maximum length: 5 pages excluding references, with a minimum 11-point font size.

4. **Plan for Seeking External Funding:** Describe your plans for seeking external funding, including: what government agencies or foundations you might approach, and why; what contacts if any (e.g. prior application, conversations with program officer) you have had with those agencies; when you expect to apply for funds; the expected scale of the larger project; how the seed grant activities will allow you to seek external funding for the larger project.

If the seed grant is related to on-going, funded research, include an appendix describing how it is related, how the seed grant activities benefit the existing project and how the existing project will benefit the seed grant research.

5. **Budget and Budget Justification**
6. Curriculum Vitae for all investigators

**Eligibility:** Faculty and research scholars/scientists at Columbia University and its affiliated schools are eligible to apply for seed grants. Applicants need not have a formal affiliation with the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (ISERP).

**Level of Funding:** Seed grants are generally funded at $2,500 to $3,000. Proposals may not request funding for faculty summer salary or computer purchases.

**IRB Review:** Research projects involving human subjects must undergo IRB review. Proposals that have not undergone such review will be evaluated and support may be awarded, but no funds will be released until the proposal receives institutional IRB approval.

**Reporting Requirements:** Seed grant recipients will be asked to submit a final report or working paper at the end of the fiscal year describing the progress of the grant (May 1). Grant recipients may have their working papers posted on the CURP website and mailed out to people and organizations on the CURP mailing list.

**Deadlines:** In the 2004-05 academic year, the seed grant deadline is October 15, 2004.

**Review Process:** Seed grant applications will be reviewed by a committee composed of CURP staff and other social science faculty members.

**Submission:** Please either email your proposals to Alexandra Murphy at am874@columbia.edu or send them via mail to:

Alexandra Murphy  
Center for Urban Research and Policy  
Columbia University  
420 West 118th St, Room 813  
MC 3355  
New York, NY 10027

**Criteria for Evaluation:** The most important evaluation criteria for seed grant proposals are intellectual merit, potential for generating innovation, and fundability. Proposals that request funding for a stand-alone project only, do not describe plans for seeking external funding, or poorly justify their budget, will not be funded.

Questions?: Please contact Center Director Sudhir Vemkatesh (sv185@columbia.edu) or Associate Director Alexandra Murphy (am874@columbia.edu) at 212.854.2072.