Faculty Research Development Award (FRDA) Related to COVID-19

The Center for Family and Demographic Research (CFDR) has funds for one—two small projects related to COVID-19, with budgets ranging from $7,500-10,000. As part of our P2C Population Infrastructure Award we have funds available immediately to support small-scale awards to facilitate high-quality social scientific research and scholarship linked to COVID-19 and central to the mission of our funders, the Population Dynamics Branch (PDB) of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) https://www.nichd.nih.gov/about/org/der/branches/pdb/programs. These awards are intended to help faculty be more competitive for external support. All CFDR faculty affiliates are eligible, excluding those who have received CFDR FRDA funding in the past two years.

The COVID-19 crisis has led to dramatic changes at both the aggregate and individual level, and these changes have impacts for the health and well-being of children and families, CFDR’s core focus. The criteria for selection of projects includes topical alignment with both the CFDR’s mission to promote research on the well-being of children and families and the mission of the PDB. Additional criteria include significance of the research and its relevance to COVID-19, approach and feasibility of the project, qualifications of the researcher(s), and potential for successful external outcomes (i.e., peer-reviewed publication, reports, external funding). Priority is given to junior faculty.

Recipients are expected to discuss their research plans with the CFDR Director and possibly other faculty (as relevant), to provide updates throughout the research process, and to present at the CFDR Speaker Series.

Projects are reviewed on a first come, first served basis, but the deadline for submission of a three-page proposal is May 1, 2020. Please submit electronically to Libby Allen-Dachik (allenda@bgsu.edu). More information about the award and application requirements follow. Please contact the CFDR director, Karen Guzzo (kguzzo@bgsu.edu) with questions.

There will be a separate award announcement and process for projects not related to COVID-19. This announcement will occur later this spring.
CFDR FACULTY RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AWARD (FRDA)

The COVID-19 crisis has led to rapidly evolving situation, and CFDR’s funding permits us the ability to respond quickly to emerging research needs and opportunities. The CFDR will support research activities related to COVID-19 with up to two small-scale awards to facilitate high-quality research and scholarship central to our mission and the mission of our funding agency, Population Dynamics Branch of NICHD. These funds should be regarded as seed money; they are unlikely to cover the total cost of a research project. We anticipate making up to one-two awards, each with a budget ranging from $7,500-10,000. Faculty will be required to discuss their research project plans with the CFDR director and mentor (when applicable) before beginning research and provide updates throughout the process. Our goal is to help facilitate timely faculty research and increase research productivity. Funds will be available shortly after the review and should be spent by December 31, 2020.

1. Eligibility:

All CFDR faculty members are eligible, excluding those who have received a CFDR FRDA in the past two years.

2. Review Process

The review committee includes the CFDR director, two external reviewers, and one faculty advisory board member. As in the NIH reviews, the reviewers will comment on the project’s significance, innovativeness, approach, and investigator.

The criteria for selection of projects include link to COVID-19, centrality to the mission of the Population Dynamics Branch and the CFDR, feasibility, potential impact of the research, junior status, interdisciplinary collaboration, and potential for successful external outcomes (presentations, reports, peer-reviewed publications, applications to external funding sources). We are seeking applications that make their contributions clear.

3. Application:

Each applicant must submit the following by 5:00 on May 1st, 2020 to Libby Allen-Dachik. An electronic version should be submitted to (allenda@bgsu.edu).

♦ A three-page single-spaced proposal (not including budget, references, or abstract) that follows the basic format of NIH applications. Applicants will describe the specific aims of the project, the background, preliminary studies, the data, and the analytic approach. Please explain how funding for this project will contribute to your research agenda and include a timeline for the project including mechanism and plans for submission for funding.

♦ A current vita.
♦ Applicants who have never received federal funding as a PI will select a faculty mentor who has been an investigator on a funded grant and include a memo from the mentor. The mentor will help ensure the success of the project by committing to work with the applicant and to provide feedback. A mentor can be any faculty member of the BGSU Graduate College with prior NIH support. We can help identify individuals.

♦ A budget page with a brief budget narrative. Applicants may budget for teaching release (with permission from departmental chair), summer support, graduate student support, CFDR services (e.g., programming), travel, course fees, or other justifiable costs. Applications with a cost share from their department will be scored more favorably.

### 4. Conditions of Receipt of Award

Recipients will be required to discuss the research project at the outset with CFDR leadership and periodically during the course of the research project. They will be expected to give a talk in the CFDR seminar series about the research. Within one year of completion of the project, recipients are expected to seek external outlets for their research, including but not limited to: conference presentations, peer-reviewed publications, and/or applications for additional funding from external sources. Awardees will sign a letter agreeing to meet these obligations. We have limited funds so it is important the recipients are serious about submitting a proposal. In case of noncompliance, CFDR services will be suspended and a letter will be sent to the awardee’s department chair, college dean, and Graduate College dean. If appropriate, HSRB approval must be obtained.

The CFDR director will monitor the progress of these projects. The budget will be monitored by the CFDR director, because all expenditures will require the signature of the director. Funds cannot be transferred to another university.