

# SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

## GUIDELINES

### Proposals to the Early Career Awards Program

2007 Proposal Deadline: March 1, 2007

SSSP invites proposals for the funding of projects by early-career applicants that are consistent with the SSSP's purposes of advancing scholarship in and about school psychology and promoting the application of research to the practice of school psychology.

The purposes stated in the bylaws of SSSP are:

1. To advance basic and applied scientific research in all aspects of school psychology;
2. Disseminate important research results concerning school psychology to the general public, scientists, academicians, and practitioners; and
3. Foster communication about the profession of school psychology.

#### Award Program Eligibility

Early Career Award Program eligibility is defined as pre-tenure individuals who are beginning research careers in universities, state or local agencies, or research centers. Generally, "early" is defined as being in a post-doctoral research role for up to five years, including persons who have more than five years post doctoral experience who have recently assumed positions with research expectations and opportunities. Inquiries about eligibility are welcome. Priority is given to persons who have authored (senior authored) one published or in-press article in a refereed journal. The early-career applicant may serve as either principal investigator (PI) or co-principal investigator (Co-PI) for the project.

#### Award Priorities

Priority will be given to:

1. Applicants who have authored (senior authored) at least one published or in-press article in a refereed journal..
2. Applicants who have attended a School Psychology Research Collaboration Conference (SPRCC) sponsored by SSSP either at NASP or APA,
3. Proposals that involve a collaborative, multi-site project,
4. Proposals where the applicant has a designated mentor who has reviewed the proposal and agreed to advise and consult on the project. (note, current members of the SSSP Executive Board cannot serve as mentors), and
5. Applicants who have not been funded previously by SSSP

## Nature and Scope of Projects

A wide array of projects consistent with SSSP purposes can be funded under this grant program. In a typical year, it is anticipated that approximately \$40,000 will be available to fund 3-5 projects (in 2006, the grants ranged from \$8,000-\$16,000). The key features of funded projects are the degree to which funded activities are consistent with SSSP purposes, the scientific merit of the activity, cost effectiveness, potential impact on school psychology scholarship, and potential impact on improving school psychology practice. Projects consistent with the purposes of SSSP generally will fall into one of the following categories:

### Category A. Scientific contributions to psychology.

This category includes projects designed to:

1. deal with important scientific issues in a different way or offer a new perspective on an old scientific problem;
2. summarize research on an important scientific topic;
3. produce empirical results that have important scientific value;
4. explore issues and problems in the relationship of practice to the scholarly foundations of school psychology.

### Category B. Applications of scientific knowledge to school psychology practice.

This includes projects designed to:

1. provide a theoretical framework from which meaningful practical questions will be evaluated;
2. develop education and training models rooted in theory and research;
3. evaluate assessment and intervention techniques, service outcomes, or other practice activities;
4. summarize research on an important practice issue or problem into a coherent picture.

### Category C. Development of scientific aspects of school psychology as a specialty and a profession.

This includes projects designed to:

1. explore ways in which practitioners can integrate research activities within the context of their work;
2. apply psychological methods and theory in dealing with education and public policy issues regarding the practice of school psychology;

SSSP will give a higher priority to projects for which there are no other, or only limited, alternative sources of funds. Jointly funded projects involving cooperation with other organizations also will be considered. Funded projects generally will be of one year's duration; however, projects with longer timelines will be considered. Annual appropriations for multiple-year awards are dependent on the annual availability of funds to SSSP and satisfactory progress in the project toward accomplishing goals.

### Application Process

- Only investigators affiliated with non-profit organizations, public institutions (including schools), or public (and private) institutions of higher education are eligible for funding.
- Applicants should include a letter of endorsement from the appropriate administrative head or organizational authority.
- The SSSP does not support the completion of theses or dissertations, or other awards to students as principal investigators.
- The SSSP does not provide basic salary support for principal investigators.
- The SSSP does not support major equipment purchases (including computers and video equipment), travel, or graduate assistantships.
- Indirect administrative (overhead) costs can not exceed 5 percent of the grant.
- Current officers of the SSSP and members of the Proposal Review Committee are ineligible for funding.

Awards will be made once each calendar year. Proposals must be submitted by March 1, 2007. A Proposal Review Committee appointed by the President of SSSP, with the approval of the SSSP Executive Board, will review all proposals. Applicants can expect a final decision on their proposals by April 30, 2007.

The proposal must be submitted electronically to the SSSP Past-President, who serves as chair of the Proposal Review Committee via e-mail attachment. Applications must be no more than 10 pages, double spaced, in a font size of 10 point or larger. Appendices do not count toward the page limitation.

Applications should be organized into the following sections:

1. Overview of the Project: Provide a succinct one-half-page statement of what will be supported with SSSP funds, major activities, and intended outcomes.
2. Scientific Rationale for Proposal (1-4 pages): The rationale should include the theoretical, empirical, and/or logical foundation for the project. Previous literature, theoretical frameworks, pilot studies and other activities showing promising results and qualitative perspectives are all acceptable for building a rationale. Proposals should include hypotheses to be tested, research questions to be addressed, goals or intended outcomes to be assessed, etc.

3. Rationale for SSSP Funding: Compatibility with SSSP purposes: Discuss how the project rationale is compatible with SSSP purposes. Describe specific ways in which scholarship and/or practice in school psychology will be influenced by the results.
4. Limited availability of other sources of funding: Discuss the rationale of SSSP funding in terms of other available sources of funds or describe how other resources will be combined with SSSP funds to accomplish important goals.
5. Impact: Specify short- and long-term impact on school psychology scholarship or the implementation of research into school psychology practice.
6. Operational Plan: Provide a detailed operational plan through a timeline that integrates rationale, purpose, activities, person(s) responsible for the activities, and indicators of progress toward meeting project goals.
7. Personnel: Briefly describe the qualifications of the person(s) responsible for project activities in a brief vita (up to 3 pages) as an appendix for the key person(s) responsible for project activities. (Vita pages do not count against the page limits).
8. Budget: Provide detailed estimates organized according to the budget categories of: (a) Stipends/Honoraria, (b) Supplies, (c) Data processing, (d) Equipment, (e) Indirect administrative costs (overhead), and (f) Other (specify).

### Criteria for Awards

Awards will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. 30 points: Importance of the scientific rationale and research/project in relation to needs in school psychology
2. 10 points: Rationale for SSSP funding in relation to other sources of funds and SSSP purposes
3. 30 points: Operational plan
4. 20 points: Personnel and agency or institutional capabilities
5. 10 points: Efficiency of resource utilization, including availability of matching funds, effective use of monies, and realistic appraisal of probable costs.
6. 5 points: Bonus pts: Applicants who have a designated mentor (Attach letter from the mentor) who agrees to advise/ assist the young scholar will receive 5 “bonus” points.

### Procedures

The Proposal Review Committee, Chaired by the SSSP Past-President, with members appointed by the SSSP President with the approval of the SSSP Executive Board, will review all proposals.

Proposals will be rank-ordered on the basis of Proposal Review Committee total scores, with final approval by the SSSP board. The SSSP board will approve proposals using this rank-ordering, except for reasons of resource limitations.

Applicants can expect feedback concerning proposals by April 30, 2007. The grant will be for a period of one year, extending from July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008.

Successful applicants will be expected to acknowledge funding by SSSP in any subsequent publication of the results of the research supported by the grant. Successful applicants are encouraged to consider publication in the *Journal of School Psychology*. A grant report will be required at the completion of the grant year.

Proposals to the 2007 Early Career Awards Program must be submitted by March 1, 2007 to Sylvia Rosenfield, Past President of SSSP, via e-mail: [srosenf@umd.edu](mailto:srosenf@umd.edu)

If you have any questions, please contact Sylvia Rosenfield:  
e-mail: [srosenf@umd.edu](mailto:srosenf@umd.edu))  
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