

**MSS Request for Proposals
New Project Funding – Strategic Projects**

The Midwest Sociological Society invites submissions for proposals to advance its Long Range Plan ([SP 2017-20](#)). The New Project Funding (NPF) program is supported with monies from the publishing agreement with Routledge Taylor Francis earmarked for such initiatives. The goal of projects supported by these funds is to contribute to the long-range growth, vitality, and visibility of the Midwest Sociological Society (MSS) by providing monetary awards for focused programs, innovations in annual meetings or in service to the membership, and relevant outreach activities. For example, projects might include creative uses of mini-conferences, new network partnerships, or innovations in social media. These grants will not fund typical individual member research projects (e.g. dissertations, ongoing faculty research projects, applied research for external organizations) nor routine committee expenses (LRP/Committee Luncheon); rather, they should be new projects, including research such as status of the discipline or contributions of sociology in the region, that are in service to the strategic plan of the MSS. For example, a research project might explore the needs of applied and clinical Midwest sociologists as a potentially underserved membership group in the Society and meeting these needs could increase members and attendance at annual meetings. In addition, the MSS Board may put out a call for a request for specific research projects that meet the criteria.

Awards provide scholars with initial funds for enterprises that have the potential to promote the discipline within the region, support MSS member growth and development, and create new networks of scientific collaboration that benefit our mission. The award is intended to provide opportunities that contribute to the increased visibility and influence of sociology in the public realm in our region (which includes “at-large”) and contribute to the position of the MSS as a regional or national leader therein.

Applications due November 15, 2018.

Selection Criteria

Proposals are reviewed for merit by a Proposal Review Committee (PRC) that includes at two members of the Scholarship Development Committee, (one of whom, when possible, is SDC chair or a recent chair who will have participated in LRP Committee Chair meetings), two members of LRP, and one additional MSS Board Member appointed by the MSS Executive Committee. Their charge is to bring forward recommendations for funding based on the proposal's potential to enhance sociology by advancing the mission of the MSS. Awards will be ratified by the full board at Board Meeting III.

Within this context, the specific proposal evaluation criteria are:

- Innovative promise of the project
- The project's potential as a building block in the development of the MSS as aligned with its Long Range Planning goals to--
 - Expand Size and Diversity of Membership
 - Increase the Utility and Vitality of Meetings
 - Enhance Professional Development of Members
 - Promote Awareness of Sociological Knowledge and Public Dialogue
- Feasibility and appropriateness of project design and goals
- Project valuation plan and timeline
- Appropriateness of budget request
 - Note: Event and conference proposals should include a description of activities that will lead to relevant networking, new opportunities for members, and dissemination

Awardees must be current members of the MSS at the time of submission and adhere to the MSS Code of Ethics; both are requirements for the implementation of the funded project. Awardees must also provide documentation of IRB approval for the project, as necessary.

Reporting Requirements

Awardees are required to submit a written report to the Board of activities and accomplishments annually by March 15th and/or at the completion of the project according to deadlines stated in the proposal. The written report should include evidence of targeted outcomes; supporting data or evidence can be submitted using the medium (electronic, written, spoken) most appropriate to the project's purpose and results.

Funding

The amount of each award shall not exceed **\$7,500**. Payment of direct costs for the project can be awarded to an individual(s), institution, or agency. Award money may not be used for an individual's annual meetings expenses or salary, which includes buying out courses. Requests for stipends will only be considered if the application justifies why a stipend is necessary for the successful completion of the proposed project. If the project is a response to an MSS call for a specific research project or if the selection committee so recommends for other projects, stipends may be awarded. All researchers/project leaders involved in the project must be members of MSS at the time of submission. Awardees must agree to the reporting requirements of the award.

The deadline for submission of funding is **November 15, 2018**.

Applicants are required to notify the MSS immediately if additional and/or alternative funding is received for the project. Receiving additional funding does not necessarily disqualify the MSS award, unless that additional funding has goals and objectives that conflict with the MSS project.

Application Process: RFP

To complete the application, the following information is required and all documents must be uploaded in PDF format as a single document:

- Project title
- Name and institutional affiliation of the project leaders and staff
- 100 to 200-word abstract of the research/conference topic
- Maximum of 5 *single-spaced pages* describing the project goals, personnel, equipment, and facility or operations expenses, and assessment and evaluation plans (excluding references and appendices). Font should be 12 pt with 1 inch margins; the narrative can be fewer than 5 pages.
- Detailed budget and timeline, including statement of other pending support
- Bibliography as relevant
- No more than a 5-page vita for each project leader
- Appendices (if applicable)

Submit application, as outlined above, to the MSS Executive Office at themss@unomaha.edu.