



INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY / UCED
INNOVATIVE RESEARCH INITIATIVE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PURPOSE

To provide faculty and graduate students affiliated with the *University of New Hampshire* with increased opportunities to pursue interdisciplinary research and evaluation efforts relevant to individuals with disabilities and their families.

Application Due Date:
4pm, Monday April 24, 2006

CONTACT:

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Research Assistant Professor
INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY / UCED
10 West Edge Drive, Suite 101
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PURPOSE

To provide faculty and graduate students affiliated with the *University of New Hampshire* with increased opportunities to pursue interdisciplinary research and evaluation efforts relevant to individuals with disabilities and their families.

DESCRIPTION

A competitive, peer-reviewed program to build collaborative research partnerships or programs that are broadly related to issues important to individuals with disabilities and their families, and develop applications for additional support at the local, state, and/or national level.

BACKGROUND

The *Institute on Disability* at the *University of New Hampshire* is dedicated to the pursuit of research and evaluation efforts that benefit individuals with disabilities and support their full inclusion and participation in their communities. The following is the mission statement of the *Institute on Disability*:

“The Institute on Disability advances policies and systems changes, promising practices, education and research that strengthen communities and ensure full access, equal opportunities, and participation for all persons.”

The *Institute on Disability* announces the first *Institute on Disability Innovative Research Initiative* to support faculty and graduate students from any college or department at the *University of New Hampshire*. The goal of this initiative is to support interdisciplinary research and evaluation projects that address issues relevant to individuals with disabilities and their families. Applications are now being accepted for the 2006-2007 year.

PROGRAM

To achieve this goal, the *Institute on Disability* has made available \$20,000 to support a competitive awards program. The *Institute on Disability* will award up to two grants and awards will be up to \$10,000 each. The award provides support for a one-year period. Each proposal may request up to \$10,000 to support course release time, summer salary, travel, equipment, student stipends, supplies, pilot data collection, external subcontracts and/or service providers, etc. If additional funds will be used to support the project, that information should be included in the budget as well. All proposals must include a letter of support from the appropriate Dean or Director. Projects that require approval by the Institutional Review Board need not have received approval at the time of application; however approval is needed prior to the release of funds. At the termination of the funding period, recipients will be required to submit a brief three to five page report summarizing the research findings and outcomes as well as budgetary expenditures.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

University of New Hampshire faculty and graduate students are eligible to be principal investigators on these proposals. Faculty members may be tenure-track, tenured, clinical, research, or extension faculty. Graduate students must be enrolled in a program of study at the time of application submission and continue to be enrolled through May 2007. Graduate students must also work in collaboration with a faculty advisor of their choosing. An individual may be the principal investigator for only one application, but may serve in other capacities on more than one application. Individuals who do not meet the eligibility criteria to apply (e.g., a faculty member from Dartmouth) can still be part of a research team in collaboration with an eligible applicant.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be reviewed by the *Institute on Disability* Innovative Research Committee. In the review process, each proposal will be assigned a score between 0-100, based on the extent to which the proposal meets the following criteria:

- **Significance – 20 points:** Does the project address an important problem? How will the project advance scientific knowledge in the field? Does the project have strong potential to lead to additional funding and support? Does the project seem likely to have an impact at the local, state and/or national level?
- **Approach – 10 points:** Are the concepts, design, methods, and analyses adequate and appropriate to achieve the stated goals?

- **Budget and Budget Narrative – 10 points:** Are the funds requested appropriate to achieve the stated goals?
- **Innovation – 20 points:** Does the project employ novel approaches or methods? Are the aims original? Does it have the potential to advance our understanding of disabilities?
- **Investigator – 10 points:** Is the investigator and/or research team appropriately trained and well-suited for the project? Does the project directly involve individuals with disabilities and/or their families, if appropriate?
- **Collaboration – 10 points:** Does the project develop or expand interdisciplinary areas of inquiry? Does the work take advantage of any unique features of UNH or New Hampshire?
- **Practical Relevance for Individuals with Disabilities and their Families – 20 points:** How relevant is the project and its outcomes to the everyday lives of individuals with disabilities and their families and communities?

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

The proposal should be written such that it conveys the potential of the project to address issues relevant to individuals with disabilities, support collaborative partnerships, and/or lead to additional support. Proposals should also define the anticipated outcomes of the project, such as submission of an application to a national funding agency, presentation at a national conference, or submission of findings for publication. Proposals should be written for a cross-disciplinary panel of reviewers.

Possible research methodologies include quantitative (e.g., observation, administration of assessment measures, survey, pilot data), qualitative (e.g., semi-structured interviews, case studies), and mixed-method approaches. Acceptable methodologies include primary collection of data and secondary analyses (e.g., analyses of large, existing databases or meta-analyses of previously published studies). Literature reviews leading to production of annotated bibliographies are also acceptable.

Please use a font no smaller than 12 point, margins no less than 1 inch, and single spacing. The project description is limited to 5 pages and the total application (including all of the materials listed below) should not exceed 20 pages. Any documentation provided beyond the 20 page limit will not be reviewed.

A successful application will include the following materials in the order listed:

- Cover Sheet
- Project Description (5 page limit) including Specific Aims, Background and Significance, Research Design and Methodology, and Outcomes
- References
- Budget and Budget Narrative
- NIH Biosketch for each Faculty Member and Graduate Student (the NIH form can be found at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>)
- Letter of Support from the appropriate Dean or Director

Proposals should be submitted to Michelle Sullivan (see contact information below) and include three double-sided, stapled copies of the complete application. No appendices or addenda should be included.

DATES OF IMPORTANCE

The deadline for receipt of proposals is 4:00 pm on Monday April 24, 2006. Awards will be announced by May 15, 2006 and funds will be available for summer 2006.

INQUIRIES

Questions about this initiative and/or completed proposals may be directed to:

Michelle Sullivan, Ph.D.
 Research Assistant Professor
 INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY / UCED
 10 West Edge Drive, Suite 101
 Durham, NH 03824
 Phone: (603) 862-0284
 Email: michelle.sullivan@unh.edu
 Website: www.iod.unh.edu

INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY
Innovative Research Initiative
COVER SHEET

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: _____ Title: _____

College and Department: _____

UNH Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Project Title: _____

Total Budget Requested: \$ _____

Will the project require IRB approval? YES NO (circle one)

Is the project approved? YES NO (circle one)

Name of Faculty Advisor (for graduate students only): _____

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT (UP TO 200 WORDS)

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Applications must be received by 4:00 pm on **Monday April 24th** by Michelle Sullivan at the *Institute on Disability* at 10 West Edge Drive, Suite 101. Please contact Michelle Sullivan at michelle.sullivan@unh.edu or (603) 862-0284 with any questions about the initiative or proposals. Applications should include three double-sided, stapled copies with the following items in order:

1. Cover Sheet
2. Project Description
3. References
4. Budget and Budget Narrative
5. Vita or NIH Biosketch
6. Letter of Support from the Dean or Director