



Request for Proposals

Early Childhood Initiative

Duke Center for Child and Family Policy

The new Early Childhood Initiative (ECI) within the Duke Center for Child and Family Policy (CCFP) is pleased to offer small-grant funding opportunities for Duke faculty to conduct research on any aspect of early childhood policy, broadly defined.

Early childhood (ages 0-8) is a crucial development period. Rapid brain development, changes in social and behavioral abilities, and interactions with family members, schools, and other settings during this period all lead to rapid skill acquisition, with potential long-lasting consequences for children. Although the importance of early childhood is well established, less is known about the educational, community, and social services interventions during this period that can set children on successful long-term paths. The ECI seeks to bring together scholars from across Duke to address these challenges and produce world-class scholarship that will help maximize the potential of all children during the early childhood years.

The ECI will consider research related to early childhood policy, broadly defined. Relevant research may be conducted in a variety of settings, such as child care centers, schools, pediatrics clinics, community centers, social service providers, nonprofits, and families' homes. Examples of relevant research topics include, but are not limited to, early childhood social-emotional development, early childhood education, community and social services for young children, and using technology to support early intervention efforts.

Recipients of ECI grant funding are expected to participate in the inaugural-year activities of the ECI, including attendance at the ECI 2016-17 seminar series.

Specifics of this request

Amount of support: The ECI anticipates funding 3-5 research projects, with a maximum budget of \$20,000 per project.

Application deadline: Friday, August 26, 2016, 5:00pm EDT.

Eligible applicants: All regular-rank Duke faculty members.

Application requirements: The proposal should contain the following:

- Cover page, including project title and applicant name, title, and contact information
- Project description (five pages maximum)
 - Specific Aims
 - Background and significance
 - Proposed research methodology
- References (not included in the above page limit)
- CV of Principal Investigator
- Budget and budget justification (one page maximum). Allowable expenses include supplies, salary support for research assistants, graduate students, and technicians, salary support for the PI, and other justifiable research expenses. Indirect costs are not allowable expenses. Travel expenses are allowable only if essential to conducting the proposed research activities. Travel to scientific conferences is not allowed.

Submission format: Please combine all proposal elements into a single PDF file named Firstname_Lastname_ECISmallgrant and submit to Jennifer Copeland (Jennifer.Copeland.1@duke.edu) by the application deadline.

Notification of awards: Notification of awards will be announced on or before September 30, 2016.

Inquiries about this funding opportunity should be directed to Elizabeth Ananat (eoananat@duke.edu) or Anna Gassman-Pines (agassman.pines@duke.edu).