

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Applications due Friday, August 15, 2008

West Coast Poverty Center

Dissertation Fellowships

Purpose

The West Coast Poverty Center invites applications from doctoral students at the University of Washington for the 2008-2009 West Coast Poverty Center Dissertation Fellowships. These awards will support outstanding doctoral student dissertation research on poverty, poverty-related issues, and anti-poverty policy in the U.S.

About the West Coast Poverty Center

The West Coast Poverty Center (WCPC) was established in October 2005 with core funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE). The Center, sponsored jointly by the University of Washington School of Social Work, the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs, and the College of Arts and Sciences, is a regional hub for research, education, and policy analysis leading to greater understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and the effects of public policy on poverty in the West Coast states.

The Center provides intellectual support and resources for outstanding doctoral students at the University of Washington who are conducting research on poverty-related issues in the U.S. The Center also disseminates knowledge about effective state and local policies for addressing poverty to policy makers, practitioners and the community.

About the Dissertation Fellowships

In this round of competition the Center will award one quarter of support for up to three students completing dissertations on topics relating to the causes, consequences and effective responses to poverty in the U.S. Applications are encouraged from students whose dissertation research directly addresses, as a whole or in part, (1) issues of poverty in the U.S. and (2) the structure, effects and/or implications for policy. The Center supports research on a broad range of poverty-related topics and on the role of public, nonprofit,

private market and community institutions. Quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-method approaches are all encouraged as are submissions from students in any discipline. Of special interest are proposals that have a regional focus on the west coast and those that are related to the Center's current priority issues:

- Changing labor markets and their consequences for economic security and social well-being;
- Changing patterns of work and family life, and the consequences of transformations in family formation, employment, and caregiving arrangements for the well-being of parents and children.
- Changing demographics and their implications for poverty and public policy, including issues of race, ethnicity, gender and immigration.

For a description of previous awards, please see the West Coast Poverty Center website at www.wcpc.washington.edu.

Criteria for Award

Proposals will be evaluated by an interdisciplinary group of faculty affiliated with the WCPC and representatives of the U.S. DHHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. Criteria for evaluation include:

- Potential for the dissertation to contribute to knowledge about the causes, consequences and reduction of poverty in the U.S.
- The relevance of the project to current community, state, regional or national policy issues.
- The quality of the project's theoretical justification and study design, including the choice of research methodology and data.
- The originality of the research question and/or approach, including use of innovative methods, use of new data sources, or innovative applications of existing data.
- The feasibility of completion within 12 months of the start of funding.
- The value of the Fellowship to the progress of the student, including evidence that the student will benefit from affiliation with the Center and its faculty and student affiliates.

Terms of Funding

1. The Dissertation Fellowships will provide tuition and a stipend (equivalent to .50 FTE at the University rate for Ph.D. candidates employed as Research Assistants) for one quarter. Students may apply for support for any quarter during the 2008/2009 academic year (including Fall 2008 and Winter, Spring and Summer 2009).

2. Stipends are intended to support candidates in the completion of their dissertations and will not entail additional responsibilities as Research Assistants with the Center. Priority will be given to applicants who will complete their dissertation within 12 months of the start of the funding period.
3. Applicant must be a Ph.D. student in good standing at the University of Washington. Applicant must have advanced to candidacy and have an approved dissertation plan at the start of the funding period. Faculty supervisors may be affiliated with any academic unit of the U.W.
4. Awardees will be West Coast Poverty Center Fellows. During the award period, Fellows are invited and expected to participate in the Center's activities, including seminars, conferences and workshops.
5. In the quarter following the Fellowship, awardees must submit a brief report of activities during the funding period. As a condition of the award, Fellows will submit at least one paper (suitable for publication) from their dissertation within 6 months of the end of the funding period. The paper will be posted, contingent on review, as a working paper on the Center website.

Application Instructions

Please provide **6 SINGLE-SIDED COPIES** of the following in the order listed:

1. Cover sheet. PLEASE USE THE TEMPLATE ON THE LAST PAGE OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT. The template can also be downloaded from the WCPC website at wcpc.washington.edu. Please e-mail the completed cover sheet to wcpc@u.washington.edu and print and include it as the first page of the hard copy proposal. The cover sheet will include the following information:

- a. The applicant's name and department affiliation, mailing address, email address, and phone number.
 - b. Title of the dissertation and one paragraph abstract describing the dissertation research.
 - c. The name, department affiliation, and contact information for the faculty supervisor or sponsor.
 - d. Date of actual or expected advancement to candidacy and approval of dissertation plan, and expected date of completion.
 - e. Requested quarter for support.
- 2. Description of the dissertation research** in no more than 6 pages (double-spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins), exclusive of references. Proposals will be reviewed by scholars from several disciplines. Therefore, we encourage applicants to avoid discipline-specific jargon and use language that is accessible across disciplinary areas. The description should cover the following:

- a. Contribution to poverty knowledge (1 paragraph)

State in 1 paragraph the specific contribution of this research to the understanding of poverty and improving anti-poverty policy.

b. Methods (3-4 pages)

Provide a brief overview of the theoretical justification for the study and review of the relevant literature. Use language that is clear and accessible to reviewers from multiple disciplines who may not be familiar with your specific theoretical constructs. References may be included on a separate page.

Include a statement of specific research questions; if appropriate to your study design, state your main hypotheses. Questions should be clearly related to the theoretical constructs and prior literature; demonstrate specific and feasible objectives for the research; and relate directly to your proposed methods. *If questions relating to poverty and policy are relevant to only a portion of the dissertation, describe these questions specifically and indicate how they relate to the overall research.*

Clearly describe the methods used in the study (including study sample, sample selection methods, data collection methods and/or data sources, and data analysis methods, as appropriate) and how these methods will answer each of the proposed research questions. Use language that is accessible to reviewers who use a diversity of qualitative and quantitative methods.

Discuss major limitations in the study design (as appropriate) and how they will be addressed.

c. Feasibility (1 page)

Describe progress to date on the dissertation research and any preliminary data collection, analysis or written products from the research.

If needed, describe the timeline for Human Subjects approval and/or obtaining the necessary agreements for access to data or subjects.

Provide a timeline for each stage of the research and expected completion date.

3. **A candidate's statement**, of no more than 2 pages (double-spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins) discussing:

- a. How the fellowship will support the candidate's development as a scholar
- b. Statement of career goals
- c. Paper submissions and publications, conference presentations, receipt of fellowships or other support.

4. **A letter from the faculty supervisor or sponsor** which addresses:

- academic performance and promise,
- ability to complete dissertation in a timely manner, and
- likely contributions of the dissertation to scholarly literature.

5. Names and contact information for 2 additional references.

6. NOTE: All dissertations requiring human subjects review must have approval before funding can be disbursed.

The award committee reserves the right to request additional supporting documentation as necessary. **Applications that are received after the deadline, are incomplete, exceed page limits, or are otherwise nonresponsive to these guidelines may not be reviewed.**

Timeline and Important Dates

- Application deadline – 5:00 p.m., August 15, 2008
- Notification of award – September 19, 2008

Contact Information

Send Applications to:

West Coast Poverty Center
2008-2009 Dissertation Fellowships
Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs
Parrington Hall
Box 353055
Seattle, WA 98195

Direct questions to:

Rachel Lodge
Program Director
West Coast Poverty Center
206-616-2858
wcpc@u.washington.edu

Director's Discretion: *Nothing in this announcement should be construed as obligating the WCPC to make any awards.*

Core funding for the WCPC and this competition are provided by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Please submit cover sheet on following page.

Cover Sheet
WCPC DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP PROPOSAL
Due August 15, 2008, 5:00 p.m.

Table cells will lengthen as needed to accommodate contents, but please do not exceed one page. This form is also downloadable from wcpc.washington.edu. Please e-mail the completed cover sheet to wcpc@u.washington.edu and print out and include it as the first page of your hard copy proposal.

Student information:	Name: Department: Mail address: E-mail address: Phone:
Dissertation title	
Abstract (250-word limit)	
Faculty Supervisor	Name: Department: E-mail/Phone:

Advancement to candidacy or approval of dissertation plan	Date:
Completion expected	Month/year:
Requested support	Quarter: