Funding Opportunity

The Minnesota Census Research Data Center (MnRDC) invites applications for a one-time small grants program. The purpose of these grants is to support innovative new research within the MnRDC by providing funds for a research assistant to assist the Principal Investigator in RDC research. MnRDC will award 3-4 grants of up to $15,000 to pay a graduate research assistant. This funding will provide 10 hours a week for the academic year or 20 hours a week for a semester. Funding from MnRDC is contingent on approval of the project by a relevant federal agency.

Eligibility: University of Minnesota faculty and P&A researchers are eligible Principal Investigators. Graduate students may apply with a faculty mentor as Co-PI.

Submission Instructions: Work with the RDC Administrator, Gina Erickson, to submit a proposal to the U.S. Census Bureau, NCHS or AHRQ. Notify Gina that you would like to be considered for the grant program when you submit your proposal to the appropriate agency.

Deadlines: Proposals submitted by March 31, 2011 will be considered. Preliminary awards will be made by May 1, but project will not receive funding until the project is approved by the relevant agency. Funds must be spent by August 2012. The March deadline will allow sufficient time for agency review so the project can start in time to make use of the funds.

Selection Criteria: MnRDC Steering Committee will evaluate proposals on the basis of their scientific merit and benefit to the MnRDC. Priority will be given to researchers with interdisciplinary projects, projects with the potential to grow into a long-term research program, and proposals with innovative uses of RDC data.

Special Sworn Status: All MnRDC researchers must become Special Sworn Status (SSS) employees of the Census Bureau. SSS employees are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data they access; failing to protect confidentiality subjects them to significant financial and legal penalties. Faculty mentors who submit applications with graduate students must also go through Special Sworn Status.

For more information about the Minnesota Census Research Data Center see www.mnrdc.umn.edu