

Request for Proposals

Robert D. and Ann E. Brown Research Fund

This Fund is designated to be used in support of research related to enhancing the learning and development of children with special needs and/or their parents in the College of Education and Human Sciences (CEHS), University of Nebraska-Lincoln. 'Children with special needs' is defined as children, birth to age 21, categorized with autism, developmental disabilities, mental retardation, mental handicap, multiple impairments, Down syndrome, hydrocephaly, microcephaly, and traumatic brain injury. This definition does not include communication disorders and learning disabilities.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals submitted in response to this RFP are to demonstrate that the research will have impact on the learning and development of children with special needs and/or their parents. Additionally, proposals shall provide evidence of yielding potentially publishable quality results by including:

- ♣ An appropriate review of relevant literature
- ♣ A theoretical foundation
- ♣ Indications of potential for practical implications, as evidenced by, for example, aiding instruction or assessment by teachers, parents, school staff or care providers as well as special education teams in fostering the learning and development of their children.
- ♣ Evidence of potential for future related programmatic research.
- ♣ Evidence of collaboration with teachers of children with special needs, school systems or the Nebraska Department of Education in the planning and/or implementation of the study. Indications of potential for generating external funding

Awarding of this fund will be based on the recommendation of the CEHS Research Committee and a special education staff member from either the Department of Education or Lincoln Public Schools. The Fund shall not be used for faculty salaries or teaching release time. The maximum amount of this award is \$10,000 for a maximum duration of 18 months. The recipient of this funding must submit an IRB protocol and obtain approval prior to conducting the research.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Applicant must be a UNL faculty member on a continuous appointment (tenure-leading or tenured with a rank of Assistant Professor or above). Basic salary support shall come from state and/or federal appropriations.

REVIEW PROCESS

- ♣ An electronic proposal submission process will be used. Faculty will develop a signature page, obtain signatures from the relative Chair/Head, and create a pdf file including the signature page, abstract, the narrative, budget, and vitae. This file should be sent to the CEHS Research Liaison, nmiller3@unl.edu. Please label the proposal as Robert D. and Ann E. Brown Fund Proposal.
- ♣ CEHS Research Committee and LPS/NDE representative will rank the proposals based on the criteria above and make recommendation to the CEHS Dean.
- ♣ Dean will forward her decision to the University of Nebraska Foundation for final approval.

PROPOSAL PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

The proposal should be no more than 15 pages in total (not including the cover page). **Applications of more than 15 pages will not be considered.** The proposal should include sufficient detail to convince reviewers

of its scientific or scholarly merit, but be written in language understandable to non-specialists in the field. The application must include:

- ♣ **Completed cover sheet** with the required signatures (1 page, not included in the 15 page total)
- ♣ **A 250-word abstract** on a separate sheet (1 page)
- ♣ **10-page maximum project description** (double-spaced, 1” margins, 10 pt font minimum). Format the description using the following three subheadings. Information currently listed under each heading is only suggested for clarification of information that may be included under the subheadings. It is strongly suggested that the ‘Selection Criteria’ section of this RFP (above) be examined for clarification of the intent of this request for applications. References are optional.
 - Significance or Need
 - ♣ Problem statements
 - ♣ Relevant literature and theoretical foundation
 - ♣ Potential contribution or impact
 - ♣ Researcher(s) qualifications
 - Project Description
 - ♣ Problem statements, research questions
 - ♣ Description of data collection and analysis, activities involved
 - ♣ Time line
 - Outcomes
 - ♣ Application of research findings
 - ♣ Evaluation for the proposed project
 - ♣ Potential for future funding and publications
- ♣ **Budget and justification sheet** (1 page) – Note that this fund cannot be used for faculty salaries or teaching release time.
- ♣ **Curriculum vitae** (3 page-maximum) Must include PI’s name, current title, relevant refereed publications of the last 3 years, internal and external funding received in last 3 years.

AWARD INFORMATION

- ♣ Awards will be made in fall 2007
- ♣ Anticipated award period: November 2, 2007 - March 31, 2009.
- ♣ A report with a one–page abstract must be submitted to the Office of Research by April 15, 2009

SUBMISSION INFORMATION/DEADLINES

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| October 1, 2007 | Electronic proposals submitted through Chair/Head to CEHS Research Liaison no later than 4:00 p.m. to be eligible for further consideration. |
| October 25, 2007 | CEHS Research Committee and LPS/NDE representative will make recommendation to the CEHS Dean. |
| November 2, 2007 | Faculty are notified if they have received the award or not. |

For additional information contact:

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