



Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership Call for Proposals: Research Grant Application (Spring 2018)

Summary

The Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership takes as its mission promoting effective leadership, bipartisan approaches to public policy, and well-researched policy. The Thompson Center funds faculty research that will advance public leadership and help leaders to address pressing policy challenges. Grant(s) are intended to help faculty and UW-Madison faculty and researchers advance evidence-based decision-making in Wisconsin and beyond.

“Tommy G. Thompson Research Grant(s)” will fund five basic activities:

- Collection of original data;
- Analysis of existing data;
- Hiring of student assistants;
- June 2018 summer salary support for faculty members who devote significant time in the month (before the fiscal year end date of June 30) toward the completion of their research projects; and
- Funds to further the “impact” of the research with the public and/or public decision-makers.

Eligible Applicants

All faculty members (tenured or tenure-track) and researchers affiliated with UW-Madison are eligible to apply. Applications from research teams are allowed. Professors and researchers from any discipline at UW-Madison are welcome to propose projects, as long as they address or have clear implications for public leadership and make important contributions to the study of American politics and policy.

Award Amounts

The Thompson Center has allocated a sizable amount of money for grant(s). Grant award(s) may range from \$5,000-\$400,000.

Award Period

*Due to the compressed nature of the budget cycle, award recipient(s) must present a plan for, and spend all funds by **June 30, 2018**.* Thompson Center research grant(s) need to be expended by this date because it marks the end of the fiscal year.

Due Date

Applications must be submitted via email to Assistant Director Anna Fosdick by Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 5:00 PM. (anna.fosdick@wisc.edu)

Application Process

Applications must be no longer than three-pages, single-spaced (which includes a proposed budget that addresses how applicants will expend funds by June 30, 2018). The Center reserves the right to seek additional information, to hold in-person interviews with applicants, and to modify proposed budgets.

Research Priorities

Tommy G. Thompson Research Grant(s) will support innovative research that addresses today's toughest public leadership challenges. Applicants must clearly explain how the proposed funding will positively influence public leadership and leadership issues in Wisconsin and beyond.

The Center is interested in research projects that examine ways to enhance public leadership, to get more citizens involved in public leadership, and other projects that involve public leadership.¹ Projects may be quantitative, qualitative, contemporary, or historical. They may address substantive topics that involve public leadership, or they may focus on leadership skills themselves. The Center prioritizes research on leadership in American political and legal institutions, public policy making, and program implementation that exemplify cutting-edge legal, government, and political solutions. So long as the project involves ways to enhance public leadership in the current political world, broadly defined, it is relevant.

Proposals for research awards must explain how the applicants will share the research findings with a larger audience than typical academic research. Creativity in achieving this goal is encouraged and will be assessed by the awards committee. Research must be important to the academic community and to the broader public.

Award criteria

The Faculty Advisory Board (or its designated subcommittee) will judge applications on the relevance, importance, and expected impact of the research.

¹ The Thompson Center conceives of public leadership broadly. For example, any position that influences a community could be a public leadership position. This includes national, state, or local elected officials as well as bureaucrats, health officials, educators, and others.

Awardee Responsibilities

Awardee(s) must agree to work with Thompson Center staff to perform the following tasks:

- to promote the findings and implications of the funded work;
- to post summaries of their research findings on the Center's website;
- to provide a public presentation of their results, either on the UW-Madison campus or at an alternative location, which must be a reasonable distance away; and
- to evaluate her/his success in achieving impact in a short report and/or presentation to the Center.

Award Notifications

The Center will notify grant recipient(s) in writing after the committee finalizes its decisions (which we expect will occur in March). The Center will disperse funds shortly thereafter.

Restrictions

Recipient(s) cannot use funds to buy out courses or to support work by non-UW-Madison students.

Questions

Direct all questions to:

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