

Phase 2: Call for Research Project Proposals from TIAA-CREF Institute and the Pension Research Council/Boettner Center of the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania¹

2013 TIAA-CREF Institute and PRC/Boettner Research Project Competition

Proposals due May 31, 2013 at 4 p.m. EST

The TIAA-CREF Institute and the PRC/Boettner Center at the University of Pennsylvania are proud to announce *Phase 2* of their competition to support research projects to promote high-quality and innovative research on financial well-being, retirement planning, and organizational success for institutions and employees in the educational, non-profit, and public sectors.

RESEARCH RATIONALE

If politicians handle the national deficit by paring Social Security benefit growth rates and raising taxes, this could seriously erode the future retirement security of American workers. Yet the current policy crisis also provides an opportunity to strengthen the U.S. retirement system by developing policy reforms that help restore budget balance and design a more coherent retirement system for a 21st century workforce.

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Grant funds are intended to provide support for innovative and topical research projects on financial well-being, retirement planning, and organizational success for institutions and employees in the educational, non-profit, and public sectors. Priority topics include:

- The role of lifetime income in retirement security;
- Whether and how deferred annuities might insure against Social Security and Medicare reform
- Costs and benefits of financial education and advice;
- Improved retirement plan design;
- Impacts of financing and provisions of retiree health care;
- Retirement security policy in an era of tight government budgets;
- Innovative retirement product design to meet the needs of an aging population.

All research projects must have final reports submitted prior to December 31, 2014.

ELIGIBILITY

Standing faculty at North American institutions of higher education are eligible to apply for support under this competition. Grant funds can be used to pay graduate assistants. Proposals for clinical medical research are *not* eligible for consideration.

PROPOSAL REVIEW AND GRANT AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

Proposals will be reviewed by a Review Committee consisting of TIAA-CREF Institute and PRC/Boettner Center and/or their representatives and decided in their sole discretion. Grant awards will be announced June 15, 2013.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSAL SUBMISSION: May 31, 2013, 4 p.m. EST

¹ For more information about TIAA-CREF Institute and PRC/Boettner, please see their respective websites:
 TIAA-CREF Institute: <http://www.tiaa-crefinstitute.org/institute/grants/index.html>
 PRC/Boettner: <http://www.pensionresearchcouncil.org/>

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS

Grant recipients will comply with any and all IRB and human subject requirements at the researcher's home institution; and submit a *Preliminary Report* by September 30, 2013. Thereafter, progress reports should be submitted January 31, 2014 and June 30, 2014, and the *Final Report* by December 31, 2014. Reports should be in MS Word and tables/charts in MS Excel.

The *Final Report* must include:

- A working paper in electronic form suitable for posting to TIAA-CREF's and PRC's respective websites, including the findings of the research project described in the funded proposal;
- An executive summary of not more than 300 words written for a layperson;
- A nontechnical report of 3,000-5,000 words written for a policy audience;² and
- Separately a bullet list of three to four key findings.

If requested by TIAA-CREF Institute, the awardee will provide one oral presentation of the research (funding for any necessary and reasonable travel expenses would be separately financed by TIAA-CREF Institute.

The awardee shall acknowledge TIAA-CREF Institute and PRC/Boettner funding on all papers, presentations, and materials arising from research funded by the grant.

REQUIREMENTS

Size of Award: Selected grant recipients must take their funding through their home institutions. Provide total project cost budgets in increments of \$25,000, not to exceed \$125,000. As per TIAA-CREF policy, no overhead/indirect costs are payable from grant funds.

Application: The proposal narrative should not exceed 5 pages and will include:

- Title and research investigators involved, including their respective academic affiliations;
- Research questions and specific aims of the proposed project, along with its relevance to the priority areas identified above;
- Potential significance;
- Analytical framework;
- Data and methods (including whether IRB approval or exemption will be necessary);
- Research design, time line for successful completion of the proposed research, and dates of progress reports and final project report;
- References cited.

In addition, and not counted as part of the proposal narrative page limit, each application must include:

- 150 word abstract;
- Proposed budget, including justifications.
- Curriculum Vitae for key project personnel.

Submit all components of your proposal in one integrated file as an e-mail attachment to:

Ms. Irene Shaffer ishaffer@wharton.upenn.edu
 Ms. Marilyn Grande mgrande@tiaa-cref.org

² The report should be suitable for publication as a TIAA-CREF Institute *Trends and Issues*.