**Mosaic Collaborative Seed Grants:**

**Special Call – NSF Interdisciplinary Behavioral and Social Science Research (IBSS)**

**(Revised December 17, 2014)**

In line with its mission as an incubator for social science collaborative research, Project Mosaic is using its existing Collaborative Seed Grant Program to solicit the formation of teams of researchers in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences with the explicit aim of submitting a proposal to the anticipated 2015 NSF Interdisciplinary Behavioral and Social Science (IBSS) Research competition.

NSF has articulated the objectives of the IBSS competition as follows. “The Interdisciplinary Behavioral and Social Science Research (IBSS) competition promotes the conduct of interdisciplinary research by teams of investigators in the social and behavioral sciences.  Emphasis is placed on support for research that involves researchers from multiple disciplinary fields, that integrates scientific theoretical approaches and methodologies from multiple disciplinary fields, and that is likely to yield generalizable insights and information that will advance basic knowledge and capabilities across multiple disciplinary fields” (<http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=504832>). Interested faculty are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the specifics of prior calls for submissions to place themselves in the strongest position possible to submit a compelling seed grant proposal and ultimately be a successful team. Faculty may also wish to acquaint themselves with previous awards for this program (http://nsf.gov/awardsearch/simpleSearchResult?queryText=IBSS&ActiveAwards=true).

The Collaborative Seed Grants (CSG-IBSS) Program targets seed funding requests in the range of $5,000 to $15,000. All proposals must be submitted by a team of UNC Charlotte researchers in different disciplines (which commonly would mean different departments). Some team members may hail from traditions other than the social sciences (e.g., natural sciences, statistics, computing, engineering, arts, etc.). Although collaborators external to UNC Charlotte may be included, our focus is on supporting the formation of research teams based at UNC Charlotte.

**Highlights:**

* CSG-IBSS proposals range from $5,000-$15,000.
* CSG proposals should be concise and must be submitted by January 31 at 5pm.
* The Project Mosaic Director will appoint a review committee to evaluate the proposals whose purpose will be to advise on the funding priorities of the CSG-IBSS Program.

**Conditions:**

* At least three PIs from two different disciplines (i.e., with a focus on different content areas). These often would be different departments, preferably two different colleges. Additional PIs can be added to the research team after award of a CSG-IBSS.
* At least two PIs must have a track record of research and scholarship in social, behavioral, or economic sciences.
* Research projects must be collaborative, cross-disciplinary, and data-driven.
* New research teams are particularly welcome to apply.
* All faculty meeting the conditions of eligibility for UNC Charlotte Faculty Research Grants (http://research.uncc.edu/proposal-development/locating-funding/faculty-research-grants-program#Eligibility) are also eligible for CSG-IBSSs.
* Funds must be expended before the 2015 deadline for IBSS proposal submissions. In case the 2015 IBSS competition were cancelled, the PIs would work with Project Mosaic Director to identify alternative funding opportunities leveraging the preparation work accomplished with seed grant funding.
* With proper justification, funding can be allocated to:
	+ Software, hardware, and data
	+ Field work
	+ Support for meetings among team members (including travel) or workshop attendance
	+ Graduate assistance
	+ Faculty summer stipends
	+ Outside consultants
	+ Small pilot studies
* Partial awards are possible. Project Mosaic reserves the right to adjust the budget to reflect funds availability, scientific priorities of Project Mosaic, and funding restrictions.

**Research Priorities of the Collaborative Seed Grants Program:**

The research priorities of Project Mosaic are focused on two timely themes, 1) Human and Social Capital, Innovation, and Quality of Life, and 2) Metropolitan Centers, World Trade, Transportation and Communication.

The first theme, Human and Social Capital, Innovation, and Quality of Life, focuses on the interrelationships among education and learning, personal well-being and health, and on institutional interventions – such as policing, and social and health services. It also will consider innovation and entrepreneurship, and community contextual variables and the resulting social dynamics.

The second theme, Metropolitan Regions, World Trade, Transportation and Communication, pertains to the measurement, longitudinal tracing and forecasting of economic and social trends of spaces framed by metropolitan centers at the continental and global scopes, as enabled and evidenced by global trade and communication flows.

These two themes will be considered as a matter of priority, but other research themes in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences are also welcome.

**Restrictions:**

* Expenditures that are not allowed:
	+ Expenditures generally made by departments and colleges (e.g., office supplies, travel to professional conferences, etc.)
	+ Delivery of outreach programs or services
	+ Requests for funds for meals and snacks should be minimal
	+ Student projects (masters, dissertation research)
	+ Publication charges

**Criteria for Review**

* Original ideas that involve cross-department, cross-program and/or cross-college (interdisciplinary) collaboration.
* Research ideas that have higher potential to be funded in the IBSS competition.
* Size and scope of the IBSS proposal to be submitted for external funding, following the granting of a CSG-IBSS.
* Clarity of the objectives of the CSG-IBSS request.
* Clarity of the work plan to develop a compelling proposal and assemble a strong research team.
* Scientific merit and feasibility of the project envisioned for external funding.
* Quality and coherence of the research design and detailed plan of activities funded by the CSG-IBSS.
* Proposals must make a clear contribution to social, behavioral, or economic sciences.

**Structure and Submission of Proposals**

Proposals must be submitted as one single PDF by email to Project Mosaic ProjectMosaic@uncc.edu. To complete your proposal submission, please follow the instructions provided below and download the proposal budget template from the Project Mosaic web site.

The proposal must be clear, readily legible, and conform to the following requirements:

* Font size of 12 points
* Double spaced
* 1-inch margins

To be considered for CSG-IBSS funding, the following must be included in your submission:

1. **Cover Sheet** (one page) The cover sheet contains the project name, abstract (200 words maximum), 3-5 descriptive keywords, PI and collaborator(s) name and contact information, total CSG-IBSS funds requested, anticipated budget request on the external proposal submission.
2. **Project Description** (not to exceed 1500 words) The project description should address the following points:
3. *Purpose, Significance, Planned Activities*: Provide a clear and concise explanation of (i) rationale of this funding request, (ii) the proposed activities for which CSG-IBSS funding is requested.
4. *Overall Project*: Provide a clear and concise explanation of (i) the objectives of the overall project, (ii) the significance and value of the overall project for which external funding will be sought to the social, behavioral, and economic sciences. Provide the key idea that motivates the work. Explain the core question or questions that the overall project seeks to address, and why these questions matter in social, behavioral, and economic sciences.
5. *Research Team*: Describe the qualifications, roles, and responsibilities of all research project team members currently considered.
6. *Work Plan and Timeline of the CSG-IBSS*
7. **Bibliography** (no more than 15 references) Optional, supply only if needed.
8. **A one-page Biosketch (vita) for each participant which includes:**
9. Education, including the dates when degrees were awarded;
10. Current employment status;
11. Three most relevant publications (to the current project);
12. Most relevant social science experience (including but not limited to software programs, methods known, and training)
13. Funding history. Supply a list of all proposals (both internal and external) prepared in the past three years. Indicate the requested funding level, whether the proposal was funded, is pending or was not funded. Indicate for each whether it is UNC Charlotte-internal or external.
14. **CSG-IBSS Budget and Justification**

Complete the form provided (<http://projectmosaic.uncc.edu/collaborative-seed-grants-ibss>) and supply a budget justification for the costs requested.

**Project Reports and Credit**

Investigators are expected to provide a brief (maximum two pages) final report upon completing the seed project and submission of your NSF proposal, including the activities conducted and progress towards the submission of a proposal for external funding. Individuals having received a CSG in a prior period, but who did not comply with the requirements (i.e., did not submit a final report, did not submit a grant proposal, etc.) must provide details documenting the reasons for non-compliance. The Director of Project Mosaic will be responsible for determining whether the justification for non-compliance permits the individual to be considered for a present or future CSG or FSSG.

External funding must be sought for the “overall project” for which seed funding was requested within the indicated time frame. It is expected that PIs will credit Project Mosaic at the time of submission and approval of the proposal through NORM.

If during the course of your seed project you find that you need to make changes to the project team, description, design, or budget, please send a note to the Project Mosaic Director, ProjectMosaic@uncc.edu with specific details of these changes.

Should you have any questions about this seed funding opportunity, please contact:

* Jean-Claude Thill, Director, Project Mosaic, Phone: (704) 687-5909, ProjectMosaic@uncc.edu.

**Budget Instructions**

* ***Project Costs***

All of the items listed, must be reasonable, necessary to accomplish project objectives, allowable in terms of the applicable federal cost principles, auditable, and incurred during the grant period. Charges to the project for items such as salaries, fringe benefits, travel, and contractual services must conform to the written policies and established practices of the University.

* ***Budget Items***

**1. Salaries and Wages**

Provide the names and titles of the principal project personnel. For support staff, include the title of each position and indicate in brackets the number of persons who will be employed in that capacity. For persons employed on an academic year basis, list separately any salary charge for work done outside the academic year.

**2. Fringe Benefits**

List each rate and salary base.

**3. Consultant Fees**

Include payments for professional and technical consultants and honoraria. Provide detail as to daily rates, any consultant travel, etc.

**4. Travel Costs**

The lowest available commercial fares for coach or equivalent accommodations must be used and foreign travel must be undertaken on U.S. flag carriers when such services are available.

For each trip, indicate the number of persons traveling, the total days they will be in travel status, and the total subsistence and transportation costs for that trip. All foreign travel must be identified as such and listed separately from domestic travel.

**5. Supplies and Materials**

Include consumable supplies, materials to be used in the project and items of expendable equipment (i.e., equipment costing less than $5,000 and with an estimated useful life of less than a year).

**6. Services**

The costs of project activities to be undertaken by a third-party contractor should be included in this category as a single line item charge. A complete itemization of the cost comprising the charge should be provided in an attachment. If there is more than one contractor, each must be budgeted separately on the form and must have an attached itemization.

**7. Other Costs**

Include any participant stipends and other items not previously listed. Please note that “miscellaneous” and “contingency” are not acceptable budget categories.

**8. Total Direct Costs**

Total the sum of items 1-7.