

Grant Title: UNDERSTANDING THE ACQUISITION, INTERPRETATION, AND USE OF RESEARCH EVIDENCE IN POLICY AND PRACTICE

Funding Opportunity Number: N/A

Agency/Department: William T. Grant Foundation.

Area of Research: Research on policies and practices that affect youth ages 8 to 25.

Release and Expiration: N/A

Application Deadline: Letters of inquiry: Annually in May.

Amount: \$100,000 to \$600,000, covering direct and indirect costs for two to three years of work.

Length of Support: Up to three years.

Eligible Applicants: Grants are limited, without exception, to tax-exempt entities for purposes that are described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Foundation only funds projects which include a Primary Investigator who is a full-time employee of the organization applying. Usually, this excludes graduate students. They can, however, be listed as Co-Primary Investigators.

Summary: The William T. Grant Foundation has a longstanding interest in supporting research that can inform policy and practice. The particular focus is on policies and practices that affect youth ages 8 to 25 in the United States. In this area, there are significant gaps between research and policy, and between research and practice. Researchers express frustration that policymakers and practitioners do not use or misuse research findings. Policymakers and practitioners suggest that research is often not relevant to their work or is not easily accessible or understood. Many researchers, research funders, and intermediary organizations have sought to address these gaps by encouraging the production of more rigorous research evidence, better research syntheses, and improved approaches to disseminating research evidence. Policymakers have also tried to improve the connection between research and practice by mandating the use of research findings through law or regulation. Relatively little research attention has been devoted to understanding the user side—that is, studying what affects policymakers' and practitioners' acquisition, interpretation, and use of research evidence. The Foundation believes studies of this topic will increase the understanding of how to improve the production and subsequent use of research for and in policy and practice. The Foundation will consider applications for newly initiated studies and add-on studies to existing projects. Add-on studies must address research questions not covered by prior funding from us or other funders, but can cover secondary analyses of existing data or collection and analyses of new data. The Foundation encourages interdisciplinary projects, and welcomes applications from researchers in various fields and disciplines such as anthropology, communication studies, economics, education, family studies, human development, organizational studies, political science, prevention research, psychology, public administration, public policy, public health, social work, and sociology. Through this RFP, the Foundation will support empirical, theory-building studies of what affects policymakers' and practitioners' acquisition, interpretation, and use of research evidence. The foundation is interested in policy and practice directly relevant to youth ages 8 to 25 in the United States. Areas of focus could include education, justice, child welfare, health, family support, employment, and youth programs.

Detail Information:

http://www.wtgrantfoundation.org/funding_opportunities/research_grants/rfp_for_the_use_of_research_evidence