



NEBRASKA CENTER FOR RESEARCH
CHILDREN, YOUTH, FAMILIES & SCHOOLS

CYFS Research Fellowship Program

Applications Due: February 17, 2014

Start Date: August 18, 2014

The Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools (CYFS) together with the College of Education and Human Sciences (CEHS) Office of Research is pleased to announce the **Research Fellowship Program (RFP)**, intended and committed to support the continued advancement of research and grant-directed activities among faculty and faculty affiliates. The RFP is intended to provide an “*in-house professional leave*” for faculty who have made measurable progress on a dedicated program of research, and who are in need of additional time and support to elevate their work by broadening it in both depth and breadth. Specifically, the emphasis will be on assisting faculty fellows make qualitative shifts in their research through the investment of dedicated time and substantial resources. The fellowship experience will provide planned and defined opportunities to engage in a research-rich interdisciplinary environment with colleagues and potential research partners. The **intended outcome** is to enhance the scope and quality of fellow’s research agendas/portfolios, and position faculty for successful grant development, submission and securement. This is accomplished by advancing and extending (scaling up) fellows’ current work in qualitatively distinctive ways, resulting in competitive, funded grant applications and creating broader impact and productivity.

The CYFS Research Fellowship Program will secure faculty mentorship, time and resources for intensive research activities. To ensure these objectives can be met, selection of fellows will be based in large part on the presence of fully-developed research ideas and evidence of progress toward research aims with the intent of scaling up. Each year, one or two Research Fellows will be selected.

Specific Objectives of the CYFS Research Fellowship Program are to:

- Provide an in-house faculty leave experience to engage in intensive research activities that broaden and extend fellows’ current research programs.
- Provide specific, targeted research support to CYFS fellows, including advanced data analytic work on existing data sets and grant development opportunities.
- Provide faculty mentorship, time and support necessary to maximize success in grant writing and securing funding for research.
- Introduce fellows to new or expanded research collaborators to strengthen the capacity and impact of current and future research.
- Allow focused, supported time to dedicate to the analysis of existing data and grant-writing activities, including data mining, interpretation, or dissemination.

Eligible Participants:

- CEHS faculty who are nominated by their department chair;
- Tenured faculty or research faculty at the Associate Professor or Professor level; and
- Researcher with sufficient data or progress on a targeted project who can demonstrate clear potential for project completion and advancement to an external grant application.

Length of Participation:

- One year active fellowship in program
- Ongoing active affiliation with CYFS

CYFS Research Fellows Will Receive:

- Full access to all supports provided by CYFS (see <http://cyfs.unl.edu/supports.shtml>).
- Dedicated research space in CYFS to maximize access to supports.
- Interactions with collaborators across a range of potential interdisciplinary teams.
- Mentorship and guidance from CYFS Director.
- Dedicated support with research methodology and data analyses.
- Specific and targeted assistance associated with tasks necessary to complete and submit an external grant proposal (e.g., grant scouting, proposal development, and coordination).
- Assistance in the development of grant package, including research plan, budget preparation, and creation of biosketches and other supporting documentation.
- Release from one course for each of *two consecutive semesters* (supported in collaboration with Department Chairs and Dean of CEHS).

Fellow Activities, Expectations and Outcomes:

- Develop a fellowship plan that includes:
 - a. Details on the objectives for the fellowship and activities to be completed during the one-year program, including CYFS supports needed to accomplish objectives.
 - b. Three-year action plan for scaling up a fundable program of research in which there are clear plans for grant writing and securement of external funds.
- Devote time to Center-supported activities aimed specifically at ensuring the completion of the Research Fellows' targeted activities and grant proposal writing.
- Prepare a white paper or concept paper to present to one or more program officers.
- Submit two-page report to Center Director summarizing outcomes of participation in the fellowship program within 90 days of completion, to include timeline for grant submission.
- Submit grant proposals through CYFS, with at least one full proposal for external funding within one fiscal year of completing the program.

Application Procedures

Step 1. Department Chair Letter of Nomination

A letter of nomination from the fellows' academic department chairperson should indicate the applicant's potential for independent, grant supported research; evidence of sufficient research activity; and assurance of good-standing in the department. A brief summary statement acknowledging chair support of the fellow's desire to complete the fellowship is required.

Step 2. Fellowship Application

In addition to the nomination by department chair, applicants apply by submitting:

- ✓ A current and complete CV
- ✓ Completion of the CYFS Research Fellowship Application form
- ✓ A personal statement (2-3 pages maximum) that includes:
 - A summary of the focus of your research including evidence of progress;
 - A preliminary plan for how you see your research scaling up; and
 - Previous grant-writing efforts and anticipated needs regarding mentoring in the grant-writing experience.
- ✓ Submit all materials (Department Chair letter of nomination, CV, application form, personal statement) as one pdf document or in a zipped folder to Sue Sheridan at cyfs@unl.edu.

Step 3. Review and Acceptance

Criteria for reviewing applications include the following:

- ✓ Evidence of research productivity.
- ✓ Evidence of sufficient progress on a study (e.g., data collected; aims or research questions clearly articulated) that requires support for completion.
- ✓ Specification of clear objectives for how the fellowship will support progress on research goals and the development of external grant products that will result in research scale up.
- ✓ Demonstrated commitment to grantsmanship (e.g., previous attempts at securing grants, participation in workshop or training, a clear and viable plan).

**For more information, address questions to
Susan Sheridan, ssheridan2@unl.edu or 402-472-6941**