

W.E. UPJOHN INSTITUTE
FOR EMPLOYMENT RESEARCH

2008 Grant Program

The Upjohn Institute invites submission of proposals to conduct policy-relevant research on employment issues under our 2008 Grant Program. We expect to fund research on a variety of issues related to employment policy and economic development.

The Institute awards both Research Grants and Mini-Grants. For Research Grants, the maximum funding amount is \$75,000. For Mini-Grants, the maximum funding amount is \$5,000.

The Upjohn Institute will be funding its Grant Program at a level that is comparable to prior years, but unlike prior years, there will be a **single grant cycle in 2008** (see Submission Deadlines and Notification Dates within).

Research Grants

Through its Research Grant Program, the Upjohn Institute supports policy-relevant research on employment issues as described in our Research Program. (See <http://www.upjohninstitute.org/program.pdf> for details.) Grants made under this program are expected to result in research of a rigorous nature that is accessible and of interest to practitioners and policymakers. The research is expected to produce a book-length manuscript publishable by the Upjohn Institute.

The Institute will consider all employment-related topics. Successful grants in the past have included the following:

- An integrated compilation by an author of a series of published articles on a research area that extends previous findings,
- A thorough analysis of an employment-related policy—historical development, research or evaluation evidence on efficacy and equity, suggested policy improvements or alternatives,
- Use of a new, innovative source of data to analyze an important issue on either the demand or supply side of the labor market.

The following paragraphs suggest topics that would be of interest; however, applicants should feel free to pursue any topic that fits the general area.

Social Insurance

The Institute maintains an active interest in social insurance programs and empirical evaluation of their design and performance. We are interested in studying systems that cushion wage earners against the vagaries of a market economy, including unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, disability insurance, and public retirement programs. Our interest also extends to the impact of protective labor legislation, including prohibitions against discrimination in employment by age, gender, race, disability, and other factors.

Employment Relationships

Research is encouraged on employment relationships between workers and firms, how they are changing, and the policy implications of these changes. Research should explore the reasons underlying changes in such areas as the level and distribution of worker compensation, training and productivity, and unemployment, as well as the implications of these changes for policy. Research that compares recent developments in the United States with those in other countries is also encouraged.

Low Wages and Public Policy

The Institute is interested in supporting research on policy responses to the problems of low earnings of the poor

and to the sluggish wage growth of the middle class. Policies of interest include wage subsidies, education and training, economic development, public service jobs, minimum wages, unionization, and tax policy.

Workforce and Economic Development Programs

Studies are encouraged that address the efficacy of government programs that promote workforce and economic development. These studies may address the effectiveness of states and localities in matching local resources to local needs, explore the proper incentive structure to accomplish program goals, assess the outcomes achieved by programs, and analyze program impacts on human capital development and economic growth.

Application Procedure

- Applicants will submit 8 copies of both a 3-page summary outlining their proposed research and a vita that describes their professional qualifications.
- The selection committee will evaluate the preliminary proposals and invite a subset of applicants to submit a full 15-page proposal for evaluation and selection. The invitation to submit a full proposal may include suggestions and comments by reviewers on ways to strengthen the proposal.

The 3-page summaries and full proposals will be evaluated according to the same criteria. We anticipate that about half of the *invited* full proposals will be funded.

Evaluation Criteria

The selection committee will consider all proposals that contribute to the Institute's research program. Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Contribution to important policy issues and to the professional literature
- Technical merit
- Professional qualifications
- Likelihood of timely completion of the project
- Cost-effectiveness
- Consistency with the Institute's research agenda.

Mini-Grants

The Institute will consider proposals for funds to conduct research and write scholarly papers on innovative research topics.

The purpose of the Mini-Grant Program, which is reserved for untenured junior faculty within six years of earning their PhD degree, is to provide flexibility to meet special funding needs that, without support, would prevent researchers from pursuing the project.

Funds could be used as summer compensation or to acquire special data sets, meet unusual computer processing or programming needs, or to cover travel to collect primary data. Special consideration will be given to those who use data from the Institute's *Employment Research Data Center* (see <http://www.upjohninstitute.org/erdc/index.htm>).

We recognize that research universities provide many of these services, but we also recognize that empirical research, particularly that oriented toward policy, may have unusual expenses that prevent the pursuit of topics that are particularly relevant to policymakers or practitioners.

Unlike the Research Grants, a book-length manuscript is not required, although always welcome. Instead, we expect the recipient to submit his or her paper to a reputable journal, to prepare a synopsis of the research for consideration as an article in the Institute's newsletter, *Employment Research*, and to enter the paper in the Institute's working paper series.

Application Procedure

- Applicants will submit 8 copies of both a 3-page summary outlining their proposed research and a vita that describes their professional qualifications.
- Mini-Grant proposals will be evaluated solely from a 3-page summary. The submission of full proposals will not be required.

The summary should address the innovative nature of their research and how the funds requested are critical to successful completion.

Evaluation Criteria

The selection committee will consider all Mini-Grant proposals that are policy-relevant and that contribute to the Institute's Research Program. Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Contribution to important policy issues and to the professional literature
- Technical merit
- Professional qualifications
- Special funding needs.

Submission Deadlines and Notification Dates

February 1, 2008 – Deadline for 3-page summary applications.

February 29, 2008 – Research Grant finalists invited to prepare full 15-page proposals.

April 11, 2008 – Full proposals due and Mini-Grant proposals due.

May 9, 2008 – Announcement of awards.

General Instructions

For the Research Grants, the maximum funding amount is \$75,000. Requested funding levels are an important consideration in the grant selection process. Grants that approach the funding ceiling typically include the administration of surveys or the compilation of unpublished administrative data.

For the Mini-Grants, the maximum funding amount is \$5,000. Most of our grant budget is allocated to Research Grants, and we expect to fund only a few Mini-Grants each year.

The Institute does not pay indirect costs but will entertain any legitimate research expense as part of the budget. Acceptable items include costs for professional, technical, and support personnel; data acquisition; materials and supplies; computer services; and some travel. The Institute does not fund dissertation research (although it does have a Dissertation Award program).

Although we expect the research to be completed within a year, we recognize that up to an additional year may be needed to complete a book manuscript suitable for publication. The principal investigator of each Research Grant is expected to present the study at the Institute before the manuscript is submitted for final review.

Grant awards are essentially performance-based contracts. Payments under the grants will be made on a quarterly schedule, conditional on timely completion of the research and the book manuscript.

Applications for grants (both three-page summaries and full 15-page proposals) and all work submitted under grants become the property of the Upjohn Institute. It is Institute policy to assume ownership, copyright, and all publication rights to all manuscripts deemed acceptable for publication. Unaccepted proposals and rejected manuscripts will be returned upon request, without restrictions on further use by others. It is also Institute policy to encourage publication of the sponsored research in scholarly journals following submission of the book manuscript to the Institute. Submission of any material waives all rights to make any claim because of any use thereof by the W.E. Upjohn Unemployment Trustee Corporation, its agents and employees.

Fax and e-mail submissions will not be accepted.

This grant announcement, along with lists of recent grantees and FAQs, may be found at

<http://www.upjohninstitute.org>.

Applications are to be addressed to:

**Institute Grant Committee
W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research
300 South Westnedge Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007-4686.**

Inquiries may also be sent to

webmaster@upjohninstitute.org.