

Small Research Grants to Analyze the National Survey of Reproductive and Contraceptive Knowledge

I. Overview

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy is seeking proposals to analyze newly available data on knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and behavior related to sexual activity and contraception among unmarried young adults—both male and female. The National Campaign's primary goals in funding these analyses are to:

- **identify key factors or dynamics that influence the likelihood of having unprotected (or inadequately protected) sex and/or having an unplanned pregnancy;**
- **tease out the implications of these findings for concrete steps and actions to reduce the risk of unplanned pregnancy among single young adults; and**
- **introduce these important data to the research community and encourage further work.**

We anticipate awarding three to four grants of approximately \$30,000 to \$40,000 each. In addition to analyzing the data, grantees will be asked to write and submit a research manuscript for publication in a peer reviewed journal. Grants will cover a period of up to 12 months. Junior faculty, recent recipients of a PhD, or PhD students partnering with senior advisors are strongly encouraged to apply. **Letters of Intent are due April 12, 2010 and full proposals are due April 19, 2010.**

II. Background

Numerous factors influence the ability of young adults to use contraception effectively and thus prevent unplanned pregnancy. While some of these factors, such as cost of and access to contraception, have been studied at length, other factors such as knowledge, attitudes and beliefs about contraception have received less attention. In response to this critical data gap, The National Campaign funded the Guttmacher Institute to conduct the National Survey of Reproductive and Contraceptive Knowledge. This telephone survey, conducted in 2009 and based on a rigorous probability sample, yielded 1,800 respondents and is nationally representative of unmarried 18 to 29 year-olds with respect to gender, age and race/ethnicity. A link to the questionnaire appears below.

Topline descriptive results of this survey were recently published by The National Campaign in [*The Fog Zone: How Misperceptions, Magical Thinking and Ambivalence Put Young Adults at Risk for Unplanned Pregnancy*](#). These first runs covered young adults' sexual and contraceptive behavior, their knowledge, beliefs and attitudes regarding contraception and their expectations of family formation in the future.

To further delve into what these new data imply for concrete actions to improve contraceptive use and reduce unplanned pregnancy, The National Campaign is seeking to sponsor additional research that goes beyond the basic descriptive tabulations presented in the Fog Zone report and that focuses more purposefully on particular topics of interest.

While the data will not be publically available until late Spring 2010, researchers funded under this solicitation will have full access to the data upon award, which is anticipated in late spring. Grantees will receive a copy of the full data set in either ASCII or STATA format as well as the questionnaire, codebook, and other data documentation.

III. Guidelines for Submitting Proposals

Purposes of the Grant:

- 1) identify key factors or dynamics that influence the likelihood of having unprotected (or inadequately protected) sex and/or having an unplanned pregnancy;
- 2) tease out the implications of these findings for concrete steps and actions to reduce the risk of unplanned pregnancy among single young adults; and
- 3) introduce these important data to the research community and encourage further work

Level of Funding: three to four grants of approximately \$30,000 to \$40,000 each.

Grant Period: 12 months, with an anticipated start date in late spring of 2010.

Deadlines:

- Applicants must submit Letter of Intent (LOI) by April 12, 2010. LOIs need only contain the name(s), affiliated organization(s) and contact information of the principal investigator(s), as well as a sentence or two stating the research question of interest. LOIs will be used solely to give us a preview of the applicant field—they will not be scored and all those who submit an LOI are welcome to submit full proposals.
- Full proposals are due April 19, 2010. The required format is outlined below.

Method of Submission: LOIs and full proposals may be submitted hard copy or electronically.

- Materials sent in hard copy should be mailed to the address below and must be postmarked by the deadlines stated above:
The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy
Attn: Kelleen Kaye
1776 Massachusetts Ave, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036
- Electronic submissions must be in either WORD or PDF format and e-mailed to Kelleen Kaye (kkaye@thenc.org. Please include “small grants program” in the subject line.)

Contact Information: Questions regarding this solicitation may be directed to Kelleen Kaye: kkaye@thenc.org (Please include “small grants program” in the subject line) or 202-478-8512.

Required Proposal Format:

- Proposals must clearly articulate the research to be done within 8 pages or less, double spaced, with 12 point font and 1 inch margins.
- Proposals also must include, within the 8 page limit, a budget stating the total cost broken out by labor, other direct and indirect costs, as well as the percent time commitment and

rate for all key personnel. If sub-awards are proposed, similar detail should be provided. Applicants are strongly encouraged to proposed a rate no higher than 15%.

- Proposals also must include, within the 8 page limit, a brief discussion of the role to be played by key personnel and related qualifications and/or experience.
- Proposal also must include up to date curriculum vitae, NIH biosketches, or resumes for all key personnel (this will *not* count toward the 8 page limit). Resumes, vitas or biosketches should include a list of peer-reviewed publications.
- Proposals also must also include a cover page (this will *not* count toward the 8 page limit) clearly stating:
 - Name, contact information and affiliated organization for all key personnel
 - Research question
 - Proposed cost of research

IV. Research Topics of Particular Interest

The National Campaign will fund analyses of *research questions that are both interesting and actionable*. Successful proposals must go beyond results already presented in the Fog Zone report listed above and *go beyond descriptive tabulations*. Below are topics of particular concern to the National Campaign, but applicants are also welcome to focus on other topics they feel will advance efforts to reduce unplanned pregnancy among single young adults:

- Analyses that focus on particular racial/ethnic groups or highlight differences across groups, and implications of these analyses for strategies to prevent unplanned pregnancy
- Analyses suggesting how different sources of information on reproductive health may help or hinder efforts to prevent unplanned pregnancy.
- Analyses suggesting how men’s perspectives might inform strategies to prevent unplanned pregnancy.
- Analyses focusing on long acting, reversible contraceptive methods (LARCs), and suggesting how the utilization of these methods might be increased.
- Analyses focusing on attitudes, expectations and/or ambivalence regarding future marriage and childbearing, and the implications of these analyses for preventing unplanned pregnancy.
- Analyses that further illuminate the fear of side effects apparent in the data, the role of such fears in explaining unprotected sex as well as gaps in contraceptive coverage, and the implications of these analyses for preventing unplanned pregnancy.
- Analyses that further illuminate the high levels of fatalism apparent in the data, its role in explaining unprotected sex, and the implications of these analyses for preventing unplanned pregnancy.

Applicants should pose specific research questions within their chosen topic of interest, and are strongly encouraged to thoroughly consult . To inform their proposal, applicants are strongly encouraged to read [The Fog Zone](#) report, and thoroughly review the [survey questionnaire](#) and [supplemental tables](#) (links provided below).

V. Criteria for Reviewing Proposals

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis. To be successful, proposals must:

- Clearly articulate the specific research question or hypothesis of interest and its importance as it relates to unplanned pregnancy among single young adults.
- Clearly translate the question of interest into an analytic design, with examples of outcome and explanatory variables to be considered, a brief description of statistical methods to be used, and conceptual models or theories underlying the proposed approach.
- Provide concrete examples of how results of the proposed work might directly inform strategies to prevent unplanned pregnancy.
- Include a description of dissemination plans, including provisions for writing and submitting a research manuscript to a peer reviewed journal, along with a brief list of specific journals the applicant might consider.
- Clearly demonstrate that key personnel have the qualifications and experience needed to successfully complete the work proposed.
- Include a budget that shows the total cost broken out by labor, other direct and indirect costs, as well as the percent time commitment and hourly rate for all key personnel.

VI. Further Considerations in the Award Process

While The National Campaign anticipates awarding research grants from this solicitation in the spring of 2010, it reserves the right to make no award if no suitable applications are received or if other unforeseen circumstances arise. Grantees will be required to submit brief mid-year and final progress reports and to engage in ongoing communication with the project officer as reasonably required to keep The National Campaign apprised of project developments. Below are suggested online resources pertaining to *The Fog Zone: How Misperceptions, Magical Thinking and Ambivalence Put Young Adults at Risk for Unplanned Pregnancy*:

Full report: <http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/fogzone/PDF/FogZone.pdf>

Supplemental tables: http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/fogzone/PDF/supplemental_table.pdf

Questionnaire: http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/fogzone/PDF/survey_questionnaire.pdf

Survey methodology: <http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/fogzone/PDF/methodology.pdf>

**Recommended Budget Template for Project Proposal
to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy**

Applicant:				
Grant Term:				
Proposal Date:				
		Total Project Budget	Requested from the Campaign	Requested from other sources (if applicable)
EXPENDITURES				
Personnel Expenses				
<u>Staff Name</u>	<u>Total Salary</u>	<u>% if time on project</u>		
(Project Director)				
(Other main staff)				
(Other main staff)				
(Other main staff)				
(Administrative support)				
Fringe Benefits @ XX%				
Total Personnel Costs:				
Travel				
Number of trips * amount for airfare, lodging, meals, and ground transportation (please specify)				
Conference expenses, or other (please specify)				
Contractual				
Consultant 1 (attach budget)				
Consultant 2 (attach budget)				
Other Program Expenses				
(i.e. website, printing, etc.)				
Other (please specify)				
Other (please specify)				
Other (please specify)				
Total Non-Personnel Expenses:				
Total Direct Charges				
Indirect Costs @ XX% (note: applicants are strongly encouraged to propose a rate no higher than 15%)				
Total Direct and Indirect Expenditures:				

