CALL FOR PROPOSALS: 2017 CWPA RESEARCH GRANTS

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Funding Opportunities and General Information

The Research Grants Committee (RGC) of the Council of Writing Program Administrators (CWPA) invites proposals for research projects that investigate issues and practices in writing program administration.

General and Targeted Funding Opportunities

We seek proposals in two funding-opportunity categories: "General Research" and "Targeted Research." Both grants are intended to legitimate the work of writing program administration research.

General research: The General Funding category funds several smaller-award projects that investigate a wide variety of issues related to the work of writing program administration in its various forms.

Targeted research: The Targeted Funding category funds fewer but larger-award projects that address much needed research in our field. This year, the CWPA Executive Board requests targeted research projects that examine core mission elements of CWPA. In the CWPA constitution, our mission states

> The National Council of Writing Program Administrators (CWPA) represents teachers and researchers whose teaching and scholarship focus on intellectual and pedagogical aspects of writing programs and their administration. Its goal is to provide resources, support, and services on matters attendant to the administration of writing programs. Writing programs, for CWPA's purposes, specifically include all writing-across-the discipline programs, writing centers, and writing courses with multiple sections.

For this round of grant proposals, we seek projects that investigate topics like this or other core mission elements of CWPA:

- Utilization of data regarding WPA demographics and/or institution type
- Examination/analysis of WPA membership
- Considerations of CWPA People of Color Caucus
- Issues of social justice in relation to CWPA work
- Impact of one of the many CWPA Statements or Resolutions
- Work of WPAs and related practices (training, assessment, placement, curriculum development and so on).

Table 1: Summary of General and Targeted Funding Opportunities

	General Research	**Targeted Research**
Research emphasis / funding source	Research that addresses important issues for WPAs and other writing-instruction professionals.	Research projects that explore the core mission elements of CWPA.
Funds available, number of awards, maximum award	$5000 awarded to four to eight recipients; average award about $1000; maximum award $1500.	$4000 awarded to one or two recipients; average award between $2000 and $4000; maximum award $4000.
Eligibility	Applicants must be current CWPA members. Proposals from CWPA Executive Board or Research Grants Committee members who have served during the current year or previous three years will not be considered.	
Special considerations	We encourage proposals • from individuals or groups working at two-year colleges and from colleges that service historically underrepresented groups; • with budgets that include matching funds from their institution or other funding agencies.	
Deadline	Proposals are due Friday, June 2, 2017 at 11:59pm MDT.	

Organization of the Proposal

Please organize your proposal into the following sections:

1. **Cover page** separate from actual proposal:
   a. Names and institutional affiliations of all investigators. (Do not identify yourself or your institution in any other part of the proposal);
   b. Project title;
   c. Contact information: mailing address, email address, and phone number for main contact person;
   d. Funding Preference: state whether you want your proposal to be considered for "General Research" or "Targeted Research" funding.
2. **Project overview (two pages maximum),** single-spaced, in which you do the following:
   a. Explain the problem or question your research project will investigate or attempt to solve, and make clear, if necessary, why this is a significant problem/question for the field.
   b. Clearly outline the methodology you plan to use to approach the problem. Make sure we understand how your methods will yield findings/data that will address the problem you have identified.
   c. Provide a timetable detailing how the project will proceed.
   d. Connect the project to previously published research and scholarship.
   e. Describe your (and/or your team's) expertise and experience in this area.
   f. Describe how the results will be shared professionally (see "Expectations of Reward Recipients" page 5).
3. **Realistic, detailed budget and timeline (two pages maximum)**. For grants over $1000, in-kind budget items or alternative budget sources must be included in the budget. State whether you will accept partial funding. Include a realistic timeline for your project.

Criteria for Selection

Successful proposals pursue research that furthers the CWPA's mission as stated in its constitution:[1]

> The Council of Writing Program Administrators (CWPA) represents teachers and researchers whose teaching and scholarship focus on intellectual and pedagogical aspects of writing programs and their administration. Its goal is to provide resources, support, and services on matters attendant to the administration of writing programs. Writing programs, for CWPA's purposes, include all writing-across-the-disciplines programs, writing centers, and writing courses with multiple sections.

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[1] http://wpacouncil.org/files/CWPA%20Constitution%202009%20draft%203-1.pdf.

The RGC will use the following criteria to conduct a blind review of all proposals:

Significance, relevance, generalizability
✓ Does the project address an important problem that is relevant to the work of writing program administrators—i.e., that will make an original and significant contribution?
✓ If the aims of the project are achieved, how will writing-program-administration knowledge and practice be advanced?
✓ Will the project's aims apply to contexts outside of the immediate institutional context of origin? (Note: "proof of concept" and "model program" projects may be considered generalizable.)

Innovation
✓ Is the project original and innovative? For example, does the project challenge existing practices or address an innovative hypothesis or critical barrier to progress in the field?
✓ Does the project develop or employ novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools, or technologies for this area?

Methods and feasibility
✓ Are the methods appropriate and clearly described?
✓ Is the methodology adequately developed, well reasoned, and likely to result in useful findings that answer the research question?

Environment(s)
✓ Is/are the environment/environments well suited to the aims—i.e., does the proposed project benefit from the unique features of the institution, or populations, or employ useful collaborative arrangements?
✓ Not required but helpful: Does the proposal aim to study populations or settings that have been underrepresented in writing-program research?

Cost Effectiveness
✓ Does the budget clearly explain all costs and expenditures?
✓ Are the budget items reasonable? When appropriate, does the budget (or narrative) explain why certain items are justified?
✓ Do the project's outcomes justify the project's expenses—are the CWPA and its members getting a good "bang for the buck?"
✓ Not required for grants under $1000 but helpful for all proposals: Does the budget include in-kind or matching funds from other sources (such as the institution or other funding agencies)?

Sharing of project findings
✓ A plan for dissemination of the project findings is included.

Restrictions and Preferences
Ordinarily, funding will not be considered for any of the following:
- Release time for the grantee or others
- Outside consultants or evaluators
- The production of non-researched materials
- Dissertation research
- Equipment
- Travel to present research at WPA or any other conference (funding for travel to conferences for research purposes may be considered)

- Supplements to existing grants, unless it is clear that the CWPA grant provides an opportunity to extend the project in new directions
- Institutional overhead (in rare cases, proposals requesting a maximum of 10% of the award total may be funded)
- Multiple proposals in a given funding year (i.e., do not submit more than one proposal)
- Proposals from CWPA Executive Board or Research Grants Committee members who have served during the current year or previous three years

The RGC will give first consideration for awards to those who have not received an award for three or more years.

Expectations of Award Recipients

Publication: Recipients are expected to publish or present their research in one or more of the following venues:
- *WPA: Writing Program Administration,* the journal of the Council of Writing Program Administrators: grantees are expected to submit articles resulting from the research to *WPA* for first consideration (RGC-funded research receives no special consideration from the journal's editors or reviewers);
- Other print or online journals relevant for the topic;
- WPA Summer Conference; research can be presented during a session or as a poster.

Final Report: Grantees are expected to submit a final written report of their research outcomes to the Chair of the Research Grants Committee by June 15 of the year after the completion of the grant. Ordinarily, reports will be five to seven pages in length, but up to ten pages is acceptable. These reports should outline specific plans for submitting an article reporting the results to the *WPA: Writing Program Administration* journal and/or other plans for sharing results.

Guidance for Developing Strong Proposals

The RGC is eager to help you develop strong projects and proposals. We also want to help you avoid wasting your time on projects that have little chance of success.

Getting Advice and Guidance about Your Project and Proposal

For advice about specific projects, you can attend the Editors' Roundtable at the annual Research Network Forum that occurs the day prior to the annual Conference on College Composition and Communication. Members from the Research Grants committee will be there to talk with you about potential projects. Additionally, please contact RGC co-chair Chuck Paine at cwpa.research.grants@gmail.com for advice and direction. Because he will not participate in the scoring or selection of proposals, you can discuss the specifics of your project with him and get specific advice and direction.

Submitting the Proposal

Please submit your proposals as a Microsoft Word or RTF documents; please do *not* send as Adobe pdfs. **Email them as** attachments to an email sent to RGC Chair Chuck Paine at cwpa.research.grants@gmail.com. **Please use this email subject line: "CWPA Research Proposal 2017."**

Confirmation

You will receive a confirmation that your proposal has been received within 72 hours after it's received. If you do not receive this confirmation, please contact Chuck Paine (cpaine@unm.edu).

Deadline

Emails must be received no later than June 2, 2017 at 11:59pm MDT.

Award Announcements

Those who submit proposals will be informed about funding decisions by email approximately three weeks after the due date. Winners will be announced publicly at the 2017 CWPA conference in Knoxville, TN.