Scott M. Elliott  
Cross-Disciplinary Pilot Grant Program  
Department of Economics  
Illinois State University

Application Guidelines

Purpose
The Scott M. Elliott Cross-Disciplinary Pilot Grant Program is a multi-year endeavor funded by a generous contribution from Scott M. Elliott, 1985 alum of the Department of Economics. The objective of the pilot grant program is to foster greater collaboration between faculty in the Department of Economics and the rest of the University in the enhancement of external grant funding. Specifically, the pilot grant program will provide interdisciplinary research teams with initial funds to conduct preliminary research with the objective of a grant submission for external funding from government agencies and/or foundations in the amount of at least $100,000.

Proposals must be received from teams of at least two faculty members. Members from all Colleges are welcome to submit proposals with the stipulation that at least one faculty member from the Department of Economics is an active member of the research team. All faculty, regardless of employment status (tenured, tenure-track, or NTT), are invited to participate in the program. Possible research areas are cultural economics, health economics, economics of technology and innovation, economics of education, agricultural economics, etc.

The distribution of indirect funds generated from a successful external grant submission as a result of this pilot grant program will be negotiated between the Chair of the Department of Economics and members of the research team.

Award Funds
The pilot grant program funds are intended to provide the most flexibility to the respective research teams to maximize the potential for successful completion of the preliminary research and grant submission. Funds from the pilot grant program can be allocated towards equipment, supplies, software, databases, travel support, course buyout, and/or stipends as outlined by the research team in their proposal and budget request. The maximum amount of the pilot grant award is $15,000 per research team.

No more than three pilot grant awards will be distributed per year. It is very possible that fewer than three proposals will be funded based on the overall quality of the proposals and assessment of the likelihood of successful external funding. Research teams will receive two-thirds of the overall funding upon award of the pilot grant and the remaining one-third upon completion and submission of a grant proposal to an external granting agency that was based on the results of the pilot grant program.
Application

The proposal should contain:
1. Completed Application Form including Detailed Budget
2. Proposal Narrative with brief overview of the project (maximum three pages)
3. Budget Narrative explaining expenses
4. List of all grants (received and proposed) by each PI and Co-PI
5. Curriculum Vitae of each PI and Co-PI
6. List of targeted government agencies and foundations for submission of the external grant proposal, including proposal due dates

The submission deadline is January 17, 2012. Decisions on submissions will be completed by February 28, 2012.

Review Criteria and Process
The Review Committee will include the Chair of the Department of Economics (non-voting), the CAS Associate Dean for Research, Technology, & Facilities, one Economics faculty member (appointed by the Economics chair), and three past recipients of an Elliott Cross-Disciplinary Grant (across disciplines). Proposal evaluation will be based on the quality of the proposal, the grant experience of the research team members, the dollar amount of the grant request, the degree of faculty involvement from the Department of Economics, and an assessment of the likelihood of successful external funding. Preference will be given to proposals from faculty members who have not yet received an Elliott Cross-Disciplinary Grant.

Obligations
Research teams must submit a formal external grant submission based on the pilot grant project no later than one year after receipt of the initial pilot grant proposal funding through the University’s Research and Sponsored Programs with copies of the submitted grant proposal sent to the Department of Economics and the College of Arts and Sciences.