REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Gun Violence Prevention Research

The Fund for a Safer Future, a project of the New Venture Fund, is pleased to announce this request for proposals to support research that will help answer the question: What works to prevent gun violence?

Background

Gun violence takes a serious toll in the U.S., with over 100,000 Americans injured or killed by firearms every year. The Fund for a Safer Future is a donor collaborative committed to achieving effective public policies to reduce gun injuries and deaths, including homicides, suicides and accidental shootings. The Fund supports national and state-level projects to inform and advance evidence-based policy reform. Expanding research to inform the development and implementation of policies to prevent gun violence is a core priority of the Fund.

The Fund is announcing this competitive funding opportunity for academic institutions and researchers, to support projects that will inform gun violence prevention policy. The fundamental goal of this funding is to produce within the next 3 years applied research that can be used to advance the development and/or implementation of gun violence prevention policy, and that is mindful of the legitimate concerns of responsible, law-abiding gun-owners.

Grant Awards

The Fund will support projects between $25,000 and $300,000 that will result in peer-reviewed, published articles within 3 years.

Eligibility

Non-profit organizations, institutions of higher education and individuals associated with institutions of higher education are eligible to apply.

Research Priorities

Eligible projects are those that can advance the development and/or implementation of gun violence prevention policy within the next 3 years.

The following research topics are of particular interest:

- Research on the risk factors for gun violence, including prior criminal involvement, history of domestic abuse, and mental illness
- Research that evaluates the benefits, costs and effectiveness of specific gun violence prevention policies, including policies to require background checks for all gun purchasers
- Research on the characteristics of illegal firearms markets
- Research on the effectiveness of policies and interventions for preventing firearm suicide
• Survey research on private gun ownership, to improve information on: quantity and types of firearms owned; training received; practices for acquisition, disposal, transfer, safety and storage; and theft of firearms.

How to Apply:

Applicants should submit a brief (up to 3 pages) letter of intent (LOI) no later than November 17, 2013 outlining the proposed project. The LOI should address the following questions:

• What question(s) will the project seek to answer and how will it build on existing knowledge?
• How will the project advance the field of gun violence prevention?
• How will the results inform the development or implementation of specific gun violence prevention policies?
• Does the project address a priority research topic(s) indicated above?
• What is the proposed research methodology?
• What is the expected completion date?
• What is the budget for the project?¹
• How will you disseminate the results?
• Are there other funders for the project? Do you have any proposals pending or do you plan to submit other proposals to support all or a portion of the project?
• What are the qualifications and experience of the proposed research team?
• Will the project expand the pool of researchers working in the field of gun violence prevention?

LOIs will be reviewed by a research advisory group, which will evaluate the LOI based on the responses to these questions. Selected applicants will be invited to submit full proposals. Applicants will receive a response by December 1, 2013, with full proposals due no later than January 15, 2013.

Full proposals should include:

• **Executive summary** (1-2 pages);

• **Project narrative** (up to 10 pages), including the research question(s) to be addressed, how the proposed project would address them, key relevant challenges to the project and the strategies to address the challenges, and plans for dissemination of findings;

• **Description of the organization**, including its background, purpose, objectives, and experience in the area for which funds are sought;

• **Itemized project budget with narrative**, current and pending funding sources, amount of funds requested, the proposed use, and the time period over which funds will be expended;

¹ Note that project budgets may include up to 15% indirect costs.
• **Names and qualifications** of people involved in the project;
• **Board members**, their titles, outside affiliations, and telephone numbers;
• **Organizational expenses** and income for previous, current, and coming fiscal year;
• **Audited financial statements** and **Internal Revenue Service** Form 990 plus attachments for the most recently completed fiscal year;
• **Internal Revenue Service verification** that the organization is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization and qualifies as a public charity as defined in IRS Code section 509 (a)(1), (2), or (3). A copy of the IRS tax-exempt determination letter must accompany the proposal.

**Criteria**

Applications will be considered based on the following criteria:

• Likelihood that project will yield significant, unbiased information relevant to the understanding of gun violence prevention
• Relevance to priority research questions
• Experience of research team in gun violence prevention research, or similar relevant research
• Likelihood that the team will be able to successfully complete the proposed research with the funds requested in the time frame proposed
• Budget

**Contact information:**

Letters of intent should be submitted electronically to Chris Hobbs at the New Venture Fund: [chris.hobbs@arabellaadvisors.com](mailto:chris.hobbs@arabellaadvisors.com). Questions regarding this RFP may also be addressed to Chris Hobbs.

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