Methodology Center
Collaborative Research Funding

The Methodology Center at Penn State is funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to develop innovative methods for research in the prevention and treatment of substance abuse and related problem behaviors and disorders. A portion of this funding has been designated for small projects to develop collaborations and generate new externally funded research projects in prevention and treatment methodology.

“Methodology” includes research such as
- statistical models, methods, and procedures for the analysis of observational and experimental data on substance use, including use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; behaviors that are antecedents or consequences of substance use; and HIV risk behaviors;
- quantitative modeling of individual or organizational behavior;
- analysis of intensive longitudinal data, such as data collected via ecological momentary assessments;
- analysis of complex biological data such as genetics or fMRI;
- latent variable models;
- software development for statistical modeling and analysis to increase the use of innovative methodological approaches; and
- experimental designs to test the effectiveness of prevention programs and treatment regimens.

The purposes of this funding opportunity are to
- bring talented and energetic researchers into the field;
- foster new collaborative research ties between Methodology Center researchers and others; and
- generate new methodological research projects funded by NIDA and other agencies.

Who may apply. Tenure-track/tenured faculty and Ph.D.-level research faculty at Penn State in any field. Prior experience in substance-abuse prevention or treatment research is not required. We encourage proposals from quantitatively oriented researchers with backgrounds in statistics, engineering, computer science, economics, psychology, education and other fields who can bring exciting, new perspectives to the study of treatment and prevention. Applications from persons employed outside of Penn State may also be considered if the proposed work (a) involves significant collaboration between the applicant and one or more Methodology Center
researchers, and (b) shows promise of leading to future grants and joint publications with Methodology Center investigators.

**Use of funds.** Funds may be requested for a portion of an applicant’s salary (e.g., course buyout for a faculty member during the academic year); supplemental (e.g., summer) salary for applicant; travel for research-related meetings and conferences; support of research assistants; and/or computing equipment, software, books, and supplies directly related to the proposed research.

**Duration and amount.** Studies are expected to last up to 12 months. Total amount should not exceed $20,000.

**How to apply.** Applicants should submit a brief (3-5 pages, single-spaced) proposal that includes the following sections:

1. Title of the research project, lead scientist, and collaborators (as applicable)
2. Proposed start and end dates (projects are typically 12 months)
3. Requested amount, budget, and brief budget justification
4. Motivation for the proposed research, including the scientific issues to be addressed, and how the research will impact and improve the science of prevention and treatment
5. Specific aims
6. Methods to achieve aims
7. Expected products from this funding opportunity, such as
   - grant proposal (funding agency, type of grant, and expected submission date)
   - publications (target journal and expected submission date)
   - conference presentations (name of conference and expected year)
8. Methodology Center scientist(s) to be involved and the nature of the collaboration

With your application, please also submit a current CV or NIH biosketch.

**Where to apply.** Email applications (as a Word document or PDF) to Becky Perry at blp18@psu.edu with the subject “MC Collaborative Research Funding.”

**Duties of awardees.** Funding recipients are required to submit written reports on their progress at six-month intervals, along with copies of any technical reports, conference presentations, drafts of articles, research proposals, and other products (e.g., software) generated by the project. Researchers at Penn State are expected to participate in our monthly business meetings (held at noon one Thursday per month) and are strongly encouraged to participate in regular Center activities, including The Methodology Center’s weekly research seminars (held each Thursday at noon). Phone and video conferencing can be arranged.
Questions? If you have an idea for a new research project but are not sure whether it would qualify for this funding opportunity, please contact Bethany Bray (bcbray@psu.edu) or any of our Center researchers. We welcome questions and are glad to offer informal advice.