Requests for Applications  
Fall 2015

The study of international development spans disciplinary boundaries, benefitting from insights and methodologies from many fields. The AidData Project within the Institute for the Theory and Practice of International Relations (ITPIR) invites current William & Mary Professional and Instructional Faculty to apply for funding to support new or ongoing research that utilizes its data to advance our knowledge of development finance. Our hope is to seed initial research activities that can then be scaled up to larger projects. We also want to encourage W&M faculty to explore our various data holdings and linkages with their existing or ongoing work. We encourage faculty to creatively consider how knowledge and research from their disciplines could contribute to our understanding of AidData’s work.

AidData expects to make awards in the range of $5,000, with the possibility of special consideration for exceptional projects. These research grants are made possible from a parent grant from the Hewlett Foundation.

Focus: Applications should focus on one or more of the below categories:

1. Understanding how development finance or activities are located or targeted within one or more countries;
2. Assessing what impacts development finance or activities have had (or are likely to have);
3. Developing and testing spatial methodological innovations or novel approaches to spatial analysis that can be used to study development finance or activities;
4. Understanding the impacts of transparency initiatives or informational interventions related to development finance and activities;
5. Creating innovative uses of aid information: building on current research projects by utilizing subnational development finance data or AidData’s data products.

Eligibility: This competition is open to all William & Mary Professional and Instructional Faculty.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

All applications should be submitted by 4:00 PM U.S. Eastern Time on November 16, 2015 by emailing submissions to wosp@wm.edu & jwells@aiddata.org. Successfully submitted applications will receive an email acknowledging receipt.

Please follow these instructions carefully when developing your application:

Full Project Applications:

1. The application attachments should include:
   a. Application Cover Sheet
   b. Research Narrative
   c. Budget Spreadsheet & Narrative
2. **Application Cover Page**: The application cover page should include the following components:
   a. Applicant Name
   b. Applicant Department
   c. Title of Project
   d. Proposed Project Duration
   e. Proposed Budget Total
   f. Department Chair Signature

3. The **Research Narrative** must include responses to all questions listed in the Narrative Guidelines (provided in a separate section below).

4. **Budget**: Please provide a budget and be sure to list all budget expenses including travel that may be required for data collection or project implementation. You must also include a written budget narrative describing (1) the purpose of each budget line item and (2) all unit cost calculations (e.g., daily rates, travel estimations, per diem rates).

**RESEARCH NARRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS**

All applications should cover the following topics in at most 2 pages:

**I. Project Name**
Please provide a short project name.

**II. Project Summary**
Summarize the research question that will be addressed by the project and provide a description of how this project will fill gaps in the literature. Indicate countries/regions of focus (if applicable).

**III. Outcomes and Research Strategy**
Detail the strategy you will use to answer the research question. Please provide information regarding the type(s) of data that will be used and the methods that will be used to gather and analyze the data. Studies whose aims include causal inference should describe the empirical strategy to be used. Studies proposing new methods should describe the strategy to develop these methods and how they will be validated with existing data.

**IV. Timeline for Implementation**
Include dates of intervention, start and end dates for data collection, and a list of expected international trips (if applicable) including start and end dates.
EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. **Research Quality**: Academic merit of the proposed project and contribution to the existing literature.
2. **External Validity/Scalability**: Degree to which the results from the projects can be generalized to other settings and/or be scaled up to a larger project

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

**Human Subjects**: Before funds are released, winning applicants with research involving human subjects must provide official approval of their research protocols by the William and Mary Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects.

REVIEW PROCESS

Submitted proposals will be reviewed by (1) the William & Mary Faculty Research Committee and (2) a panel of ITPIR and AidData staff.