SCRA Public Policy Initiative
DRAFT DESCRIPTION SMALL GRANT PROGRAM

In June of 2009 the Executive Committee of SCRA, in consultation with the Public Policy Committee, agreed to undertake a public policy initiative. This decision was made because of our belief that community psychology had a great deal to contribute to public policy discussions. Community psychology offers a contextual understanding of social problems, such as a broader understanding of prevention and a focus on community strengths. The field also has a significant wealth of scholarship to draw upon.

A major point of that initiative is to support SCRA members in public policy work. As part of this broad initiative, SCRA will provide a small grants program to support the work of members on public policy initiatives.

General Description of Small Grants Program

The purpose of the program is to support public policy work among SCRA members.

It is anticipated that proposals will address a wide variety of policy issues, affecting communities at the local, state, national, or international levels. Although this may not happen every funding cycle, the Executive Committee may choose to issue requests for proposals focusing on a specific policy issue of interest to the general membership.

Projects can take a multitude of forms, but preference will be given to collaborative projects and those that increase the capacity of SCRA and its members to engage in effective and innovative policy work.

Proposals should specify their goals and deliverables, and it is expected that these goals and deliverables will take a variety of creative forms. Regardless of the specific form of their deliverables, all projects should in some way increase our collective capacity to engage in policy work. All proposals should indicate how the results will be disseminated, including such possibilities as an article in AJCP, a column in TCP or a presentation at the Biennial or APA, as well as broader avenues for dissemination. The expectation is that all projects will be completed within two years of funding. Recipients will provide regular reports of their work to the EC on June 1st and January 1st of each year until the project is completed.

Specific Criteria for Evaluating Proposals

The lead applicant on the proposal must be an SCRA member.

No activities funded through this program may result in a violation of SCRA's 501(c)(3) status or SCRA by-laws.

Proposals will be evaluated based upon how well they:

- address a public policy issue that is current and important to the community of interest;
- connect to community psychology scholarship;
- address a policy area where community psychology, as a field, has a unique contribution to make;
- demonstrate the potential to build upon relationships with other organizations and their resources;
- demonstrate the potential to have a successful impact;
- increase the capacity of communities and groups (including SCRA) to influence pubic policy;
- include an appropriate budget that effectively supports the proposed activities.

Process:

- Proposals will be solicited from the general membership of SCRA.
- The request for proposals will be widely distributed by the EC through TCP, the SCRA listserv, and through an email to the SCRA membership.
- For each funding cycle, the EC, in consultation with the Public Policy Committee, will appoint a review committee of five members, two from the EC and three from the Public Policy Committee.
- The review committee will conduct a blind review of the proposals and will make recommendations to the EC regarding funding. Members of the committee may not submit proposals.
- After the awarding of grants and after the completion of the projects, the Public Policy Committee will assess the process and the impact of the grants and make a recommendation to the EC regarding continuation and/or improvement in the program.

Budget:

- $15,000 for a minimum of 3 awards, with a maximum of $5,000 each. The Policy Task Force will, based on the number and scope of the projects, be able to specify the number and amount of the awards.

Funding Cycle:

This program will run for three funding cycles and then undergo review by the EC and the Public Policy Committee for evaluation and potential modification. The specific timing of those three cycles will be determined by the EC.