



September 9, 2021

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to alert you to an important new opportunity forthcoming from the Criminal Justice Research Center's (CJRC) seed funding program. As you may know, the CJRC has traditionally offered seed funding of up to \$5000 to faculty who are seeking to develop research ideas into fundable proposals for external support. We will continue to offer this support, with a solicitation to be released in October as usual.

In addition, though, we will offer an *enhanced* seed grant program this fall, with awards of up to \$20,000. The higher funding level on offer under the enhanced program will allow us to support larger projects that may require more time or effort to shape into proposals with a high potential for success at seeking external funding. This funding is made available to us through the generous support of the Social Science Research Institute. As with our regular seed grant program, the enhanced program seeks research proposals that have the potential to advance the science of criminology and criminal justice and that have a very strong and clearly articulated prospect for securing external funding. The ongoing availability of the CJRC seed grant program is dependent on our ability to demonstrate success in meeting these objectives. We will evaluate proposals to the extent that they contribute to one or more of the CJRC's four pillars of research: (1) Courts and Sentencing, (2) Corrections and Re-Entry, (3) Treatment and Rehabilitation, and/or (4) Public Safety and Crime Prevention. *Additionally, for the enhanced funding, we will place particular emphasis on projects that reach across disciplines or campuses.* This is consistent with SSRI's mission and is likely to require additional funding. Examples include projects that connect University Park researchers with those at Hershey Medical School, Commonwealth Campuses, or Agency Partners.

The formal solicitation for the enhanced program will be released in October, so please begin to think about a possible submission and look for further information from the CJRC on this. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss a proposal.

We look forward to receiving a strong crop of proposals for the enhanced program this fall and we hope that yours will be one of them.

Sincerely,

Gary Zajac
CJRC Managing Director
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