



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Small Grants: New Perspectives in Studies of American Governance and Representation

As American governing institutions (Congress, the presidency, and the federal bureaucracy) evolve with respect to gender, race/ethnicity, capacity, and culture, so must the range of theoretical, methodological, and demographic perspectives that researchers bring to bear in studying those institutions. With support from the Hewlett Foundation's US Democracy Program, American University's *New Perspectives in Studies of American Governance* program (NP) incentivizes scholars to consider new research questions and to broaden the range of perspectives and experiences upon which they draw when pursuing insights into American governance at the federal level.

The *New Perspectives* Program, a collaboration between American University's *Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies*, its *Washington College of Law*, and Purdue University's *Center for Research on Diversity and Inclusion*, will award 5-7 grants (**up to \$15,000 each, inclusive of up to 10% in indirect costs**) to new projects that stand to transform political scientists' collective understanding of American governance and/or representation (especially as it relates to Congress, the Presidency, and/or the federal bureaucracy).¹

We welcome proposals from inter-disciplinary research collaborations, and from "emerging" scholars (including PhD candidates and those without formal academic appointments)—either individually or as part of inter-generational scholarly teams. We **strongly encourage** proposals from scholars whose backgrounds and/or viewpoints have been historically underrepresented in political science and in the academy more generally. This includes, but is not limited to, underrepresented perspectives pertaining to race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and social class. We appreciate a variety methodological approaches (observational-statistical, experimental, qualitative, mixed methods).

Proposals must include the following items:

- A Title Page that includes author names, affiliations, and contact information
- Project Abstract of up to 500 words
- Project Summary of up to 3,000 words, which includes:
 - The research question, *emphasizing its novelty and importance*
 - Theory—*again, with an eye toward novelty*
 - Brief review of highly relevant literature (such as it stands)
 - Proposed research design and methodology
 - Anticipated outcomes and impact
- Bibliography of relevant scholarship (not necessarily referenced in Project Summary)
- Proposed Budget (Spreadsheet) and Budget Justification (up to 800 words)
- Curriculum Vita(e)

¹ The Hewlett Foundation caps indirect costs at 10%, so these sub-contracts cannot exceed that.



Selection

A diverse selection committee of scholars will evaluate proposals and determine awards.

Evaluation Criteria include:

- Novelty and importance of the research question
- Analytical Rigor of the proposed research design
- Clarity of writing
- Potential impact
- Project viability

Deliverables

- Final Report
- Conference Paper/Presentation
- Manuscript Submission to peer-reviewed outlet

Timeline

- Deadline to submit proposals March 1, 2024
- Award notifications April 1, 2024
- Funds awarded ~June 1, 2024
- Final reports/conference presentations (American Univ.) ~December 1, 2025

Submission

Applicants should submit proposals electronically (via email) to:

Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies
American University
ccps@american.edu