



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### Understanding Legislative Negotiation Research Grants

Negotiation is vital to public policymaking, but it is becoming a lost art. Over the past generation, despite regular public demands for the denizens of Capitol Hill to work together, legislative productivity has given way to routine gridlock. If “the people’s work” is to resume in earnest, greater appreciation of effective negotiation dynamics—as applied specifically to Congress—is critical. Unfortunately, despite some recent energy and investments toward this end (Mansbridge and Martin 2015), the edifice of knowledge with respect to such dynamics remains underdeveloped.

To address this shortcoming, with support from the Hewlett Foundation’s Madison Initiative, American University’s *Program on Legislative Negotiation* (PLN) is investing in rigorous research to understand and improve American legislative negotiation. In 2020, the PLN will award 5-10 grants (between \$10,000-\$20,000 each) to political scientists, legal scholars, and scholars of negotiation whose research stands to impact the field significantly, both theoretically and practically. The PLN encourages investigations that have the potential to influence actual legislative behavior. Analytical rigor is paramount, which can be made manifest through a variety of methodological approaches. The PLN strongly welcomes proposals from emerging scholars, including PhD candidates and those without formal academic appointments, and from scholars whose personal characteristics have been historically underrepresented in the field.

**Proposals** must include the following items:

- Title Page that includes author names, affiliations, and contact information
- Project Abstract of up to 600 words
- Project Summary of up to 3,000 words that includes:
  - Research question and importance
  - Brief review of highly relevant literature
  - Proposed research design and methodology
  - Anticipated outcomes and impact
- Bibliography of relevant scholarship (not necessarily referenced in Project Summary)
- Proposed Budget (Spreadsheet)
- Budget Justification of up to 800 words
- Curriculum Vita

**Evaluation Criteria** are as follows:

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



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## Timeline

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| • Deadline to submit proposals                              | October 31, 2019  |
| • Award notifications                                       | December 15, 2019 |
| • Funds awarded   | February 1, 2020  |
| • Progress reports due:                                     | August 1, 2020    |
| • Paper Drafts and invited conference (American University) | March of 2021.    |

## Deliverables:

- Brief Progress Report and Interview:
- Conference Paper and Presentation:
- Manuscript Submission to peer-reviewed outlet.

Applicants should submit proposals electronically (via email) to:

*Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies*  
*Program on Legislative Negotiation*  
American University  
ccps@american.edu