NORD / InfoReady Corporation

Research Grants in Research Development

Synopsis: This opportunity funds projects that support the disciplinary field of Research Development. For Research Development to enhance the skills of its professionals, broaden recognition and understanding of its activities, and deepen its impact on the scientific enterprise, we need research that defines and standardizes the terms used to identify skills and practices, as well as metrics that allow us to measure both activities and their outcomes for Research Development. Additionally, the field requires academics from other disciplines that take the activities and outcomes of Research Development as subjects for their work. To develop a robust understanding of Research Development and its impacts, we are interested in a wide range of projects, including empirical studies (e.g., surveys, interview studies, case studies, reviews), as well as theoretical, conceptual, and even purely descriptive or definitional studies.

Deadlines: Applications will be reviewed twice a year. The deadlines are at 5:00 p.m. Eastern on the following dates:

- 2nd Monday of March
- 2nd Monday of November

Award: *up to $1,500* **for projects lasting for a one (1) year term (see budget development guidelines below). We expect to make 6 awards over 2 cycles in 2018.**

Eligibility: Open to all interested researchers, whether or not they are members of the National Organization of Research Development Professionals (NORDP). Projects may list more than one investigator, but one individual must be identified as the PI and all correspondence, as well as funding, will be directed to that individual and their institution (if applicable). *(Note: we expect most applications to come from Research Development professionals employed by universities or other not-for-profit research institutions. In such cases, NORD/InfoReady grants will be made to the institution on behalf of the PI. Funding for individuals who are self-employed in Research Development, who work for for-profit institutions, or who will conduct the research outside of their institutional affiliation, are still eligible to apply. Payment in such cases will be worked out on a case by case basis.)*

For assistance or additional information:

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Guidelines

Funding Source: Funding for these awards has been generously provided by InfoReady Corporation.

Goal: To support research in the area of research development.

Topics: While NORD will consider research on any topic in research development, we are especially interested in research in the following areas:

- Gender: Research Development offices have an internal gender imbalance, but there is often also a gender imbalance among the academic leadership to which research development offices report. In this context, we are interested in the role that gender plays in how research development is structured, the ways in which it operates, salary differentials, power issues, opportunities for advancement, and similar questions.
- Pipeline: We want to understand where members of the profession come from. This is important for recruiting into the profession and for ensuring that training is most effectively structured. NORD therefore seeks research that explores this pipeline, including the level and types of training, prior experience, experience outside of the academy, etc.
- Quality Assessment: How is research development quality measured and assessed? Projects in this area could include either a) specific assessment of research development activities designed to develop appropriate categories, methods, and metrics, or surveys or b) reviews intended to understand the range and types of existing quality assessment efforts in research development.
- Distinction from Research Administration: How do Research Development activities differ from Research Administration activities, what is the value add of research development activities, and how are they measured?
- Effectiveness of Training: Research Development professionals conduct training locally within institutions and nationally in conference and webinar settings, but we have no uniform measures (studies, metrics, or standards) for assessing effectiveness. Research projects are sought in order to develop our understanding of the effectiveness of training programs and how it should be measured.
- Resubmission Assistance: A subset of Research Development tasks are associated with resubmission. Research is sought to understand the nature and effectiveness of resubmission assistance.
- Limited Submission Processes: A subset of Research Development tasks are associated with competitions to identify candidates for limited submissions. Research is sought to understand the nature and effectiveness of practices related to limited submission processes.
- Intramural Funding Management: A subset of Research Development tasks are associated with competitions to award pilot funds from intramural funding sources. Research is sought to understand the nature and effectiveness of practices related to effective competitions. What makes an intramural grant mechanism impactful? How is return-on-investment measured?
- Collaboration and Team Building: Research Development professionals are often tasked with fostering collaboration, and building and supporting teams in different contexts – e.g., ideation, proposal development, cross-sector networking, etc. Research is sought to

understand the nature and effectiveness of the skills and processes brought to bear on these collaboration building activities.

Types of Research Projects: In order to develop a robust understanding of Research Development and its impacts (locally, nationally, and internationally) a wide range of projects will need to be undertaken. Some of these will be empirical studies (e.g., surveys, interview studies, case studies, reviews) but others must be theoretical, conceptual, and even purely descriptive or definitional. In many ways, the path to Research Development becoming a field must begin with research that helps the field define and standardize the terms used to identify skills and practices, as well as metrics that allow us to measure both activities and their outcomes for Research Development. Additionally, the field requires academics from other disciplines taking Research Development, its activities and its outcomes as subjects for their work. The following is a brief summary of the types of research projects that the NORD/InfoReady Grant Program intends to support. This list is by no means exhaustive; if you have another type of project in mind, or if you have questions about the suitability of your project for NORD/InfoReady funding, contact David Stone at the above address before beginning your proposal.

- Description of processes, practices, skills
- Big Data studies
- Evaluation of specific programs, practices, offices
- Quality assurance studies
- Development of typologies and definitions for practices, processes, skills, abilities, functions
- Literature reviews
- Development of concepts and conceptual frameworks (e.g., positioning)
- Case studies

Application Guidelines: All applications will be submitted and reviewed using InfoReady Review. You may begin your application using the link here. https://nordp.infoready4.com

- o Grant proposals must be uploaded into InfoReady Review as **one file (Project Description and Budget/Budget Justification, maximum of eight (8) pages -** please upload in PDF format) and should include the following elements:

  - o **A Project Description that may not exceed six pages, single-spaced, Arial 11-pt with a 1-inch margin on all sides.** The project description must be **jargon-free** and written in **terms that would be understandable to an educated layperson**. The project description should address the following:
    - Introduction/Needs assessment
    - Objectives/Goals
    - Significance/Impact
    - Methodology/Approach
    - Outcomes/Deliverables
    - Timetable
    - Description of the investigators and their ability to carry out the project, which may include a 3 page CV, but should indicate any institutional or other resources or infrastructure that will support the project.

- A **budget request and budget justification that may not exceed two pages, single spaced, Arial 11-pt with a 1-inch margin on all sides.** Travel costs for conducting the proposed research are allowable, but not for dissemination of research results. Facilities and administrative (F&A) costs, indirect costs, overhead costs, and contingency funding are not allowed.

Regulatory Compliance:

If the proposed project involves the use of human subjects, approval from an Institutional Review Board (IRB) must be obtained before work can be initiated or else the applicant must clearly state why this approval is not required. The Principal Investigator (PI) is allowed to submit the compliance approval after the application has been approved for funding. Confirmation of compliance approval is required before funds will be disbursed.

Reviews: Reviews will be carried out by members of the NORD subcommittee. The subcommittee may also employ ad hoc reviewers as needed. Criteria for review will include: the significance of the project; the likelihood the approach will result in the project's intended outcomes; the applicant's abilities and qualifications, and the project's feasibility.

Application Deadline	Award Announcement	Final Report Due
2nd Monday of March	1st week in April	60 days after the project's end date
2nd Monday of November	3rd week in November	

Dissemination: Recipients of NORD/InfoReady grants are encouraged to present results from their studies at regional or national NORDP meetings or other appropriate scientific and/or technical conferences. A copy of such presentations, or publications in any form resulting from work funded wholly or in part by NORD/InfoReady grants, should be forwarded to the NORDP Secretary and may be published in the members-only section of the NORDP website. All such products should reference NORD/InfoReady as a source of support.