

CNCS FY2018 Community Conversations Research Competition

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Where can I find information about the 2018 Community Conversations research grant opportunity? How do I apply for this research grant?**
 - We ask that you please visit our Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) webpage (<https://www.nationalservice.gov/build-your-capacity/grants/funding-opportunities/2018/community-conversations-research-competition>), read all the documents posted, especially the NOFO and the application guidance, as that will tell you about the requirements, and follow the specified directions for submitting your proposal.

2. **Does this grant competition allow for multiple submissions from a single institution? If yes, is it possible to submit a Notification of Intent to Apply for each proposal, or is only one Notification of Intent to Apply allowed per legal applicant (via the surveymonkey link)?**
 - Yes, the 2018 Community Conversations Research Competition allows for multiple submissions from a single institution. But often times, institutions of higher education have policies that limit multiple applications for the same grant, so check with your Office of Sponsored Programs (or the equivalent) and check on your institution's policy. Also, see Notice, Section C.1. Eligible Applicants, "Legal applicants can submit more than one application from Program Directors. CNCS seeks to fund a diverse pool of applicants and it is therefore unlikely that more than one application per legal applicant will be funded."
 - Institutions can submit separate Notifications of Intent to Apply for each proposal. We recommend that a separate letter of intent be submitted for each proposed application.

3. **How do I submit the letter of intent?**
 - Please visit our NOFO webpage (<https://www.nationalservice.gov/build-your-capacity/grants/funding-opportunities/2018/community-conversations-research-competition>), and read the NOFO for information on how to submit the letter of intent. Alternately, you may visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/communityconversations2018> and submit your intent to apply.

4. **Where can I find Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on this research grant competition? Which website should I check?**
 - Please visit our NOFO webpage (<https://www.nationalservice.gov/build-your-capacity/grants/funding-opportunities/2018/community-conversations-research-competition>), and scroll down or click on Notice of Funding Opportunity to find the FAQs.

5. **I am interested in applying for the Community Conversations Grant and have a list of questions for the Program Officer. Would someone be able to give me this person's contact information? Or, can I call the number that is listed in the Notice of Funding?**
 - We recommend you send in your questions to the competition email inbox (nationalserviceresearch@cns.gov), as our program officers are monitoring this email frequently, and can answer any questions you send in.
6. **I am a non-profit research organization working with communities in need. We work with universities too. Can we apply for this grant?**
 - Unfortunately, at this time, this research grant competition is only open to institutions of higher education within the United States. In other words, the legal applicant on this grant has to be an institution of higher education within the United States.
7. **My prospective Principal Investigator (PI) is part-time faculty at our University. Would this meet the grant requirements for the Principal Investigator, or do I need to find a full-time faculty member to join the research team?**
 - A part-time faculty member is eligible to apply for this grant on behalf of the institution of higher education. However, please remember that the legal applicant is the institution of higher education, and not the PI. If the PI chooses to move institutions, the grant stays with the legal applicant.
8. **Our institution is considering an application for the 2018 Community Conversations Research Competition. Is this the first year that this particular competition has been offered? Will the same research grant opportunity be offered next year? We are trying to determine our ability to respond effectively prior to the upcoming deadline.**
 - Yes, this is the first year that this particular research grant competition has been offered. Funding is subject to the availability of annual appropriations, so we cannot say at this point if we will be offering this research grant opportunity in future years.
9. **Can graduate students apply for this grant? Or is it strictly for institutions of higher education?**
 - The 2018 Community Conversations Research Competition grant is open to only institutions of higher education. We offer other research grant competitions that are open to dissertators too. We ask that you please visit our Funding Opportunity webpage (<https://www.nationalservice.gov/build-your-capacity/grants/funding-opportunities>) periodically to search for such opportunities.
10. **When does the period of performance start for the 2018 Community Conversations research grant?**
 - The period of performance for the 2018 Community Conversations research grant starts on October 1, 2018.
11. **Does the total funding level of \$100,000 include indirect costs?**
 - Yes, the funding level includes indirect costs.

12. For the purposes of the Community Conversations research grant, how is community defined? Does it have to be a geographically defined community or can it be a community as defined by occupation?

- Please refer to the NOFO (available at <https://www.nationalservice.gov/build-your-capacity/grants/funding-opportunities/2018/community-conversations-research-competition>), to review how we define community (on page 3). Please also review the funding priorities (on page 5) to see which of the priorities would apply to your situation.

13. Is the maximum funding level \$100,000? Is that for one year or over two years?

- CNCS expects to make awards in the range of \$50,000 to \$100,000 per year. Receiving Year 2 funds is dependent on the availability of funds, as well as the grant recipient meeting the review criteria after year one. See *Notice* Section B (page 6).

14. Since funding is for each year, should the application list what year two work might entail?

- Yes, the application should include the research design and plan for both years. CNCS will want to see the plan for Year 2 to determine the overall merit of the proposal.