Call for Proposals: NCAA Innovations in Research and Practice Grant Program

September 15, 2016

The NCAA Innovations in Research and Practice Grant Program supports research and data-driven pilot programs designed to enhance student-athlete psychosocial well-being and mental health. In 2017, the NCAA will award $100,000 in grants to member institutions that are piloting on-campus programs designed to enhance the well-being of NCAA student-athletes. Grant recipients will be invited to present their pilot programs to hundreds of key stakeholders in intercollegiate athletics in January 2018 at the NCAA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Potential topics include, but are not limited to, managing transitions (e.g., from recruit to first-year student; transferring between universities; adapting from youth sports to college sports environment; developing independence from parents), identity development, stress management, substance use, bystander intervention, cultivating healthy relationships, career exploration and sport exit strategies.

Proposals will be judged on their originality, feasibility, clarity and, most significantly, the potential to result in campus-level programming that can positively impact student-athlete psychosocial well-being and mental health at a range of member institutions (e.g., across divisions, geographic regions and resource availability levels).

Grant funding
Applicants may request up to $25,000 in funding; a total of $100,000 in funding is available. A minimum of four grants will be funded in 2017. Proposals from NCAA Divisions II and III campuses will be given special consideration in the 2017 grant cycle.

Eligibility and restrictions
Project directors must be affiliated with NCAA institutions. Interdisciplinary proposals bringing together athletics department administrators, coaches, student affairs practitioners and faculty are strongly encouraged. Project team members will be responsible for coordinating reviews of their work with Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) on their own campuses, if applicable.

Proposal format
Please merge the eight proposal components outlined below into one PDF document to upload with your application. Any supplemental materials must also be included in the singular PDF and can only be submitted for review via Program Hub, not via email.

1. **Cover page.** The cover page should indicate the title of the proposal, member institution(s) with which the project director is affiliated, contact information for the project director (name, title, address, email, phone number), and contact information for the campus grants/sponsored projects office.

2. **Proposal narrative.** The proposal narrative should be detailed but concise (1,500 words or less is encouraged for this section) and must include the following elements:
a. **Problem statement.** Clearly identify the issue(s) that the pilot program is designed to address. How does this problem manifest itself on campus (locally) and how it is a part of the landscape of intercollegiate athletics (national context)?

b. **Description of campus-level pilot program.** The proposal should clearly identify, create and/or support specific programs at the institutional level designed to improve student-athlete well-being that have the potential to be adopted or adapted at a range of member institutions.

c. **Program evaluation plan.** Please discuss the relevant data/research guiding the proposed program, discuss how key findings will be applied in a practical environment or educational setting, and clearly describe how programmatic outcomes will be evaluated both in the short-term and over time (e.g., participant feedback survey at the end of the program; follow-up survey eight weeks later to see if students retained and/or used information gained during program).

3. **Citations.** Appropriately reference (APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.) any works cited throughout the proposal narrative.

4. **Timeline.** Provide a timeline for the various aspects of the proposed program, with an end date by January 8, 2018, not to exceed two pages.

5. **Proposed budget.** Grants may be used for salary support, data collection, equipment and miscellaneous programmatic expenses such as software, food and books. *Indirect costs, living expenses, conference registration fees and conference travel will not be supported.* Separate funding will be provided for the project lead to attend the 2018 NCAA Convention. Those funded will be required to submit records of expenses to the NCAA as part of the interim and final grant reports.

6. **Budget narrative.** The narrative should provide a rationale for the items listed in the project budget, not to exceed one page.

7. **Resume.** Please include the resume of the project director(s), limited to two pages per person.

8. **Letter(s) of Support.** Please include at least one letter of support for your proposed project/pilot program. This letter should, at a minimum, attest to the feasibility of your proposed research or pilot program and the ability of the PI/team to accomplish the proposed research or programming. A letter of support from the Director of Athletics or Senior Woman Administrator is strongly encouraged.

**Submission instructions**

NCAA grants and scholarships are operated from the NCAA Program Hub. Innovations Grant applications **must** be uploaded to this website directly ([http://www.ncaa.org/programhub](http://www.ncaa.org/programhub)), and applicants should expect the process (including Program Hub registration) to take 15-20 minutes. Those submitting grants who have not accessed the Program Hub previously need to create a New Profile. Detailed instructions can be found [here](http://www.ncaa.org/programhub). A confirmation page will be displayed after the proposal is submitted.
Funding disbursement

Funding will be linked to the grant schedule. More specifically, two-thirds of the total award will be disbursed at the beginning of the grant period (after the funding contract with the NCAA has been signed), one-sixth upon the acceptance of the interim report, and one-sixth upon the acceptance of the final report.

Dates and deadlines
September 15, 2016    Announcement of grant program
December 1, 2016     Deadline for proposals, 4 p.m. Eastern time
February 15, 2017    Announcement of winners
July 24, 2017        Interim report due
January 8, 2018      Final report due

Review process
A committee of NCAA research staff, NCAA Research Committee members and independent external reviewers will evaluate proposals once they have been vetted for completion. Successful and unsuccessful PIs will be notified when the External Review Panel has made its decision.

Restrictions
Grant recipients retain legal rights to intellectual property developed during grant funding. The development and dissemination of future deliverables beyond the 2018 NCAA Convention are strongly encouraged. Grant recipients are expected to make results and products available to the membership at minimal or no cost.

Questions
Please visit the Frequently Asked Questions page on the Innovations Grant website. If your question is not answered there, please contact Dr. Lydia Bell, Associate Director of Research, at lbell@ncaa.org.