

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
FLORENCE STIER RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AWARD
DUE MARCH 29, 2024

What is the Florence Stier Research Development Award?

The Florence Stier Research Development Award is an endowment that has been provided to the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. The intent of the award is to support faculty research and development. These funds are awarded every other year.

What Does the Award Provide?

The Florence Stier Research Development Award will provide 1 faculty member with a 2-year, \$15,000 research award to support a specific research project (including, but not limited to, small projects, pilot projects, and supplements to larger projects for specific purposes).

Priority will be given to projects of focusing on an issue or problem focused on some aspect of social justice and equity that is relevant to social work. Priority will also be given to projects that propose to hire and train social work students (BASW, MSW or PhD) in carrying out the project. The awardee is highly encouraged to put the required final report in the Digital Repository for the University of Pittsburgh, D-Scholarship.

Who Can Apply?

All faculty (as defined within the bylaws of the University Faculty Senate, Article 1 Section 3) within the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work can apply for the Florence Stier Research Development Award. *Post-Docs can apply if they are co-submitting with a faculty member.* Awards cannot be used to support faculty salary or conference travel. However, awards can be used to support faculty training costs that require travel.

Pre-Award Process

Applicants should use the standard School of Social Work pre-award process. As soon as you decide to apply, please complete the SSW Grant Submission Request form on the SSW Sharepoint Site at [SSW Research Proposal Submission Request \(office.com\)](#) If you have any difficulties finding or completing the form, please contact Laurie Mejia at lam15@pitt.edu or Mary E Rautkis mar104@pitt.edu

Applications and Process of Selection

Applications must be submitted by **March 29** to: mar104@pitt.edu

- Applications consist of a 3–5-page research proposal, formatted with 1.5 spacing and 0.5 inch margins.
- Page limit does not include references or title page.
- Application must be submitted as single pdf file.

Proposal Sections

(1) Clearly define the problem the research project intends to address and its relationship to social justice.

(2) Provide an overview of the research plan/methods.

(3) List the proposed project team.

(4) Explain how successful completion of the project advances the field, the faculty member's research agenda, and is of high impact to social work; and

(5) Include a budget and budget justification. In the budget, estimate costs for student help/hours and incentives. This will be finalized with Laurie's assistance before submitting or if awarded, after.

- Proposals will be evaluated according to the scoring matrix. (at the end)
- Applications will be evaluated by members of the Committee (see the list of committee members at the end of this announcement).
- **The committee will decide at the April meeting.** The award recipient will be announced at **the end of April 2024.** Members of the advisory committee will recuse themselves from the review process.
- All applicants will receive copies of their scores on their project proposals, will have access to the minutes from the review meeting, and can ask questions regarding their individual review to the Research Advisory Committee Chair.
- After receiving the award, the applicant will work with Kathy Ann Papciak on post-award processes.
 - Funds can be drawn down July 1, 2024.

Following the Completion of the Award

- Following the completion of the project the award recipient will be asked to give a 10–15-minute presentation on the project in the School of Social Work faculty meeting most closely following the completion of the grant.
- Recipients will also be required to provide a 1–2-page (1.5 spacing, 0.5-inch margins) report on the use of the funds at the closing of the project to the Research Advisory Committee and the Dean of the School of Social Work.
- Faculty will be encouraged to store the final report in the digital repository of the University of Pittsburgh, D-Scholarship.



About Florence Stier

Florence Ray Stier (1917-2011) received her MSW from the University Of Pittsburgh School Of Social in 1941 and her PhD in Social Work from Columbia University in 1967. While in Pittsburgh, Stier was the head of a settlement house and in 1946 moved to Cleveland to be the executive secretary of the Welfare Federation Group Work Council. While there, she is credited with achievements in the field of juvenile delinquency, and improved inter-racial and inter-cultural relations.

In 1965, Stier joined the faculty of the University of Washington School Of Social Work where she taught and mentored students for 22 years. Stier developed the Community Organization track in the graduate social work program; it was noted in her University of Washington obituary that she was the only female faculty in this track for a time, and Stier was described as a “pioneer”. The national Council on Social Work Education has recognized Florence for her role as a mentor to social work students and graduates.

Research and Advisory Board Committee Members (Appointed)

- Shaun Eack Ph. D,
- Mary Beth Rauktis, Ph.D.
- Marlo Perry, Ph.D.
- Katie Greeno Ph.D.
- Jamie Booth, Ph. D Associate Dean of Research and Chair
- Laurie Mejia, Research Manager
- Kathy Papciak, Research Grant Administrator
- Jeff Shook Ph.D.
- Nev Jones, Ph.D.
- Elizabeth Farmer, Ph.D.
- Ray Engel, Ph.D.
- Jay Huguley Ph.D.
- Kyaien Conner, Ph.D.

Past FLORENCE STIER RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

2017-2019 *Animal ownership in low-income households: Is there a relationship between human and animal food insecurity?*, M. E. Rauktis. MSW graduates from 2018 & 2018 worked on the project and Hyunji Lee

2020-2022 *The impact of COVID-19 on human service organizations and the essential services they provide.* Engel, R., Shook, J., & Goodkind, S.

2022-2024 *Leah Jacobs, Assessing racial bias in mobile crisis services.*

FLORENCE STIER RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AWARD SCORING MATRIX

PROJECT TITLE:

| Range | Score | Descriptor | Characteristics | Problem Definition * | Research Methods* | Project Team* | Project Relevance to social work* | Budget Justification inc student hiring* |
|---------------|-------|--------------|---|----------------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| High | 1 | Exceptional | Exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses | | | | | |
| | 2 | Outstanding | Extremely strong with negligible weaknesses | | | | | |
| | 3 | Excellent | Very strong with only some minor weaknesses | | | | | |
| Medium | 4 | Very good | Strong with numerous minor weaknesses | | | | | |
| | 5 | Good | Strong but with at least one moderate weakness | | | | | |
| | 6 | Satisfactory | Some strengths but also some moderate weaknesses | | | | | |
| Low | 7 | Fair | Some strengths with at least one major weakness | | | | | |
| | 8 | Marginal | A few strengths but with a few major weaknesses | | | | | |
| | 9 | Poor | Very few strengths and numerous weaknesses | | | | | |

*Scored sections correspond to page 1, paragraph 5, points 1-5 of the “Applications and Process of Selection” section above.