



**National Science Foundation**  
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**Dear Colleague Letter: Law and Social Sciences**

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National Science Foundation  
Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE)  
Division of Social and Economic Sciences

The Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences funds proposals that advance the National Science Foundation's strategic plan of transforming research frontiers and providing innovation for society. In order to achieve these goals, successful proposals need to draw on the strengths of researchers in a variety of disciplines, and to create links between researchers working on similar topics from different perspectives. In order to ensure that we draw upon these strengths and create these links, the Law & Social Sciences (LSS) Program has issued a new solicitation inviting proposals from scholars working in the subfields of law and social sciences.

The LSS Program especially seeks to enhance its support of scholarship within the Law School academy by encouraging proposals from social scientists within law schools. We hope to generate innovative research for understanding complex phenomena concerning law, and to promote interactions across the Social Science and Law School academies. The new LSS solicitation offers scholars an opportunity to request salary support beyond the NSF standard of two months, which may be particularly relevant to social scientists within law schools. Law school faculty interested in requesting support should apply through the standard research grant mechanism outlined in the new solicitation and proposals should follow the general guidelines specified therein. As specified in the solicitation, interested scholars should consult with LSS program officers prior to the submission of a proposal that involves monthly support during the academic year. Research proposals may, as always, request support for a PhD student in the social sciences, and necessary travel to support the proposed activity.

Proposals should focus on a project of significant scientific merit, and must demonstrate how the proposed activities will contribute to advancing interdisciplinary, social scientific understandings of problems within the study of law. These awards will support interdisciplinary research projects or the development of social science research skills that require release from teaching. A principal investigator might use this time to expand an existing LSS research program, work collaboratively with colleagues in the social sciences, or develop a research skill in a social science field.

If you have questions, please contact a LSS Program Officer. Additional information, including contact information, can be found at the LSS Program web site at:

[http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=504727&org=SES&from=home](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=504727&org=SES&from=home)

Sincerely,

Dr. Myron Gutmann  
Assistant Director  
Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences