



APSA DOCTORAL DISSERTATION RESEARCH IMPROVEMENT GRANT

Applications Due June 1, 2025



DDRIG Overview

- NSF-sponsored program to support dissertation-related research expenses (such as fieldwork, surveys, software, etc.)
- Student submits the grant application (working with their advisor, grant officer), with funds disbursed through their institution
- Intend to give approximately 20-25 awards of \$10,000-\$15,000 each
- Professional development (workshops, travel grants, reception, etc.)
- Deadline: June 1, 2025

Eligibility

- Graduate students enrolled at U.S. university (**no citizenship requirement**)
- At the point of completing dissertation research (advanced to candidacy but not yet completed dissertation)
- Projects must be empirically-oriented basic research taking any methodological approaches and substantive focuses that fall within the broad categories of citizenship, government, and politics
- 1 or 2-year grants, with no-cost extensions considered

Types of Projects Supported

- Travel to conduct research at field sites, archives, specialized collections, and/or facilities away from the student's campus
- Data-collection activities including conducting surveys, experiments, or focus groups
- Costs for equipment necessary for the conduct of the research
- Costs for non-routine materials and supplies
- Costs for data transcription or translation (be careful with online services & AI data processing for IRB, data management ethics)

Application Materials

- Proposal summary
- Project description and research plan
- Disclosure of other sources of financial support
- Professional development plan
- Budget and budget justification
- Data management plan
- Letter of support for dissertation advisor
- Institutional support form
- Research and professional ethics requirements

Review Process

- Review panel of 15-20 experts will meet over two rounds in July.
 - **Round 1:** 3 reviewers, balanced by subfield and methodological fit.
 - **Round 2:** Full panel to make final funding determinations.
- NSF Criteria:
 - **Intellectual Merit:** the project's potential to advance knowledge and understanding within political science or across fields.
 - **Broader Impact:** the project's potential to benefit society more broadly.

Successful Applications

- Address the review criteria explicitly
 - Intellectual Merit
 - Broader Impact
- Consider your audience (all political scientists)
- Focus on the impact of the grant on improving your project and our understanding of what you are researching
- Be clear and specific in your budget request
- Clearly explain any preliminary results and how the proposed activities will strengthen or extend them
- [APSA DDRIG Reviewer Advice - YouTube](#)

Program Data

- Application Pool (2020-2024, n = 754)
 - Average 157 applications per year & 23 awardees per year
- Representing all subfields in political science (2020-2024, n = 117)
 - American Politics: 15.4% grantees
 - Comparative Politics: 54.7% grantees
 - International Relations: 14.5% grantees
 - Other (law & courts, REP, political economy, etc.): 15.4% grantees
- Methodologically diverse (2020-2024)
 - ~80% of applicants & winners propose using more than one method.
 - ~60% of applicants propose mixed methods research.

Other DDRIG Programs

- Professional Associations
 - American Sociological Association (November deadline)
 - Law and Science (May & November deadlines)
- National Science Foundation
 - Decision, Risk and Management Sciences
 - Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics
 - Two deadlines annually (January & August)

Cannot hold two DDRIG awards concurrently

More Information

- Visit our website:
<https://www.apsanet.org/PROGRAMS/Doctoral-Dissertation-Research-Improvement-Grants>
- Other APSA grant opportunities:
<https://connect.apsanet.org/centennialcenter/>
- For more questions email Elizabeth at dissertations@apsanet.org