The National Science Foundation’s Decision, Risk, and Management Science (DRMS) program supports scientific research directed at increasing the understanding and effectiveness of decision making by individuals, groups, organizations, and society.

Disciplinary and interdisciplinary research, doctoral dissertation research, and workshops are funded in the areas of judgment and decision making; decision analysis and decision aids; risk analysis, perception, and communication; societal and public policy decision making; and management science and organizational design. The program also supports small grants for exploratory research of a time-critical nature, such as decision making in response to extreme events.

Funded research must have implications in an operational or applied context, be grounded in theory, be based on empirical observation or subject to empirical validation, and be generalizable.

The program conducts a special joint NSF and private sector initiative through which NSF funding is matched by contributions from private firms to conduct basic research that is firmly grounded in real and practical contexts.

In the past few years the DRMS program has funded proposals in the following topic areas:

- Decision Making: cross-cultural decision making; memory and choice; group decision making; hypothesis testing; measurement theoretic issues; information distortion during decision making; and influence of affect on decision making.

- Risk: risk management; risk perception and communication; methodological issues; and risk and decision making.

- Management: learning and human performance and human factors; organizational theory and behavior; methods: group processes and teams; and information technology.


The National Science Foundation’s Economics Program supports research designed to improve the understanding of the processes and institutions of the U.S. economy and of the world system of which it is a part. The program strengthens both empirical and theoretical economic analysis as well as the methods for rigorous research on economic behavior.

Topics of current interest are computational economics, the transformation of command economies, human resource-related issues (poverty, labor productivity, the family, gender and racial discrimination, etc.), and global environmental change.

The program also funds conferences and interdisciplinary research that strengthens links among economics and the other social and behavioral sciences as well as mathematics and statistics. The program supports research in almost every subfield of economics, including econometrics, economic history, finance, industrial organization, international economics, labor economics, public finance, macroeconomics, and mathematical economics.

**Homeownership and Affordable Lending**

The Department of Housing and Urban Development funds technical studies that will guide development of public policy to increase affordable lending, reduce down payment constraints, and promote homeownership, especially for low- and moderate-income and minority families and in geographical areas which have been underserved by the mortgage finance system.

HUD particularly seeks studies that will provide empirical basis for its regulation and monitoring of two government-sponsored enterprises—Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, including the effects of such regulation and monitoring on affordable lending in the primary mortgage market. Maximum award is $40,000. Deadline is July 21.

**Education Policy**

The American Educational Research Association is accepting applications for grants to support research on education policy. The proposed research must use at least one data set from the National Center for Education Statistics or the National Science Foundation. Individual awards will be up to $20,000 for one-year projects or up to $35,000 for two-year projects. Deadline is September 5.

**Spencer Foundation**

The Spencer Foundation’s Small Research Grants Program supports short-term research projects (two years or less) that require no more than $35,000 to complete. The program is appropriate for modest-sized research projects, exploratory studies, phases of larger investigations, and projects that arise in response to unusual opportunities.

The Small Research Grants Program encourages researchers with diverse perspectives to develop ideas and approaches that extend the conventional boundaries of a research question, area, or method. The program supports individual efforts as well as collaborations. There are no deadlines.

**Japan Foundation**

The Center for Global Partnerships’ Intellectual Exchange Programs seek to harness the collective insight and determination of the world’s scholarly communities, building multilateral initiatives around a core of collaboration between the United States and Japan, and in turn with other countries.

The following have been selected as priority areas for funding of U.S.-Japan collaborative research and dialogue in International Economic Relations:

- Growth Potential of the Asia-Pacific Region
- Evolution of the Global and Regional Institutional Architecture of the World Economy
- Opportunities for Bilateral U.S.-Japan Cooperation

Deadline is July 1.

**Poverty and Race Research**

The Poverty and Race Research Action Council (PRRAC) is a nonprofit organization. Its mission is to generate, gather, and disseminate information and resources regarding the intersections of race and poverty in the United States and to promote the development and implementation of policies and practices that alleviate conditions caused by the interaction of race and poverty.

PRRAC’s Small Grants Program for research and advocacy funds social science research tied directly to ongoing advocacy projects. The Council’s purpose is to support, encourage, and disseminate action-oriented research; to make connections between and among those who engage in action, advocacy, organizing and research; and to build public awareness about the various dimensions of and challenges faced by those at the intersections of race and poverty.

The maximum grant is $10,000. Proposals are accepted throughout the year.