



ASCA Research Grant Program 2019 Call for Proposals

The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) is now accepting research project proposals for its 2019 grants. The grants review committee is particularly interested in studies that utilize student and school data. Researchers are invited to submit projects that address one of the following areas:

- **Effectiveness of the ASCA National Model, in improving specific student outcomes** (e.g., career readiness, academic achievement, self-esteem, absenteeism, graduation, etc.).
- **Effectiveness of RAMP (Recognized ASCA Model Program) vs. non-RAMP in improving specific student outcomes**
- **The optimal student-to-school-counselor ratio** for effective school counseling practice.
- **Effectiveness of the ASCA Mindsets & Behaviors for Student Success in improving social/emotional learning**, funded by a grant from the Learning Policy Institute (<https://learningpolicyinstitute.org>)

DESCRIPTION

ASCA is the foundation that expands the image and influence of school counselors through advocacy, leadership, collaboration and systemic change. ASCA empowers school counselors with the knowledge, skills, linkages and resources to promote student success in the school, the home, the community and the world. The mission of ASCA is to represent school counselors and to promote professionalism and ethical practices. Since launching the grants program in 2017, ASCA has awarded nearly \$90,000 in funding for a total of 11 research projects. These projects have provided, and continue to provide, valuable research that supports effectiveness of school counselors and comprehensive school counseling programs in improving student outcomes.

AWARDS

ASCA will fund and award individual grants of up to \$10,000 for research projects of one year or less, although proposals requiring a longer period will be considered. (Typical awards may range from \$2,500 to \$10,000 each.) Funding will be provided only for expenses directly related to the project. Grant funds will not provide for institutional indirect costs or overhead. Although ASCA does not want to determine the specific use of these awarded funds, the proposed budget outlined in the proposal will be evaluated for efficient and effective use of the awarded funds. ASCA has received special funding from the Learning Policy Institute for a study that examines the effectiveness of the ASCA Mindsets & Behaviors for Student Success in improving social/emotional learning, as indicated above.

ELIGIBILITY

This request for proposals is not restricted to any one discipline or tailored to any particular methodology. To be eligible for an ASCA grant, your institution and proposal must meet the following requirements.

- Applicants must be affiliated or employed by an accredited degree-granting university with a nonprofit status or a research institution with nonprofit status and based in the United States.

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- Institutions must have access to the knowledge, resources, and skills necessary to carry out the proposed research.
- Applicants must provide university Institutional Review Board and school district(s) (where research is conducted) letters of support before grant funds are distributed.
- Applicants cannot be (nor related to) ASCA board members and staff, or grant selection committee members.
- Proposals that are incomplete or request funds in excess of the maximum award will be excluded from the selection process.
- Principal investigators may only participate in a single ASCA grant during the grant cycle.
- 2017 and 2018 grant recipients are not eligible for this grant cycle. However, exceptions may be granted at the discretion of ASCA and the grants committee to expand an existing project.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Proposals submitted for consideration should contain the following information and be no longer than five pages in length (12-point font), not including appendices (curriculum vitae for each researcher, instrumentation for research methods, letters of support, etc.). Please also submit a blind version of your proposal for review by the ASCA grants committee.

Project title and abstract. The abstract must contain:

- A *nontechnical* description of the project that states the problem to be studied, and explains the project's broader significance and importance.
- A technical description of the project that states the goals and scope of the research, and the methods and approaches to be used.

Project description: Describe the set of research questions that will be addressed, research methods that will be used to answer the questions, and the significance of the findings for the counseling profession.

Biographical information, contact information, and letters of support. This section must contain:

- Brief description of institution and its program to prepare school counselors, including number of graduates in the past five years.
- Brief description of each researcher that includes affiliation, relevant prior research, publications, and professional experience. Describe the role of individual researchers on the project and how their skills and knowledge enable them to address the question proposed. (Include researchers' CV in appendix.)
- Contact information for principal investigator.
- Letter of support from Institutional Review Board.
- Letter of support from school district(s).

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Research approach. This section must contain:

- Description of the theoretical framework and methodological approach the researchers will use to address the research question(s). Include a discussion of the research methods, data collection instruments, and planned data analysis.
- Description of how the researchers will handle any legal and ethical challenges.
- Brief summary of related research, including references where appropriate. Identify the relationship between the literature and the proposed study, and what new knowledge the proposed will study generate.

Use of funds and other support. Provide a detailed budget (U.S. dollars) describing how the award will be used. The budget should be presented as a table with the total budget request clearly indicated. Include other contributions to this project (cash, goods, and services), if any, but do not include the use of university facilities that are otherwise provided on an ongoing basis. Grant funds will not provide for institutional indirect costs or overhead, including salaries. (Note: Grant funds may be used to fund the work of research assistants.) Grants may not be used to fund travel to promote or present research. Note that grant recipients will be required to submit an original letter on department letterhead certifying the commitment of any additional or matching support described in the proposal.

Schedule. Present a plan for completion of the project, including milestones that will be used to measure progress and when they are expected to be completed. A brief status update is due to ASCA at the halfway point of the project schedule. If the project proposed is part of a larger ongoing research program, estimate the time for completion of this project only.

SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

All proposals received by the submission deadline and in compliance with the eligibility criteria will be reviewed by a panel of school counseling and educational professionals appointed by ASCA. Based on evaluations by the review panel, ASCA will select the worthiest proposals for funding. ASCA reserves the right to fund winning proposals at an amount greater or lower than the amount requested, up to the stated maximum amount.

All proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Addresses an important research question that, if answered, has the potential to have a significant impact on that challenge.
- Potential for wide dissemination and use of knowledge, including specific plans for scholarly publication, including publication in ASCA's *Professional School Counseling journal* and repurposed on SCALE (www.scale-research.org), public presentations, and white papers. (Awarding of a grant does not guarantee publication in ASCA media or acceptance of an ASCA conference session proposal.)

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- Ability to complete the project, including adequacy of resources available, reasonableness of timelines, and qualifications of identified contributors.
- Qualifications of principal investigator including previous history of work in the area, successful completion of previous funded projects, research or teaching awards, and books published.
- Collaboration between researchers and practicing school counselors.
- Possible additional information as requested by the review panel, which might be requested via a conference call after the submission date.

CONDITIONS

Grant recipients agree to the following as a condition of this award:

- Researchers agree that ASCA may use their name and likeness to publicize their proposals (including all proposal content) in connections with the promotion of the research awards in all media now known or later developed.
- Researchers agree to contribute to presentations or publications to describe their project experiences.
- Funded researchers must seek approval of their institution's review board for any work that involves human subjects.
- ASCA makes no claims on any of the data collected as a part of this research, but at the completion of the project, requires funded researchers to submit to ASCA a report that describes the project and its findings, with recommendations.

TIMELINE AND SUBMISSION

Proposals must be submitted electronically to ahickman@schoolcounselor.org no later than May 1, 2019. Send questions to the same address. Grant recipients will be notified in July 2019. Funding will be sent to grant recipients no later than 30 days after notification, assuming eligibility requirements have been met.

Notes: ASCA shall have no obligation to maintain the confidentiality of any submitted proposals. Therefore, proposals should not contain information that is confidential, restricted or sensitive. ASCA reserves the right to make the selected proposals publicly available, except those portions containing budgetary or personally identifiable information. Because of the anticipated volume of submissions, ASCA cannot provide individual feedback on proposals that are not funded.

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