

newDEMOCRACY

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR RESEARCH FUNDING– MAY 2015

Overview

The newDemocracy Foundation (nDF) funds research which contributes to active democratic innovation. It is calling for proposals from individuals and research institutions to undertake innovative research on deliberative forms of citizen engagement.

nDF's most direct interest is in expanding knowledge in the field of deliberative democracy. Our focus is on identifying democratic models, which are more representative, less adversarial and quantifiably improve trust in public decisions.

nDF operates practical trial projects on active political issues. This library of projects is available to researchers to draw upon. It is our hope that our unique ability to design, fund and operate multi-month real-world test scenarios is of interest to an academic community that may not have the capacity or resourcing to undertake this independently. Applicants are encouraged to freely draw upon access to people and documents related to nDF projects.

nDF supports research on the use, effectiveness and impact of democratic innovations that involve representativeness, deliberation and influence. nDF also welcomes research that examines broader aspects of democratic renewal, including the interrelationships between different kinds of deliberative activities and institutions.

Participatory Projects

Participatory projects undertaken by nDF are detailed at: <http://newdemocracy.com.au/our-work>

The Foundation aims to undertake a mix of work at local, regional, state and national levels and applicants are encouraged to focus on any current *or future* project of nDF in making their submission. Proposals which draw on nDF projects are preferred.

Forthcoming participatory projects for nDF are likely to include a large scale online and in-person deliberative process on public health for a state Government (100+ participants), a project focused on strategic planning and land use, a fully devolved State Government ministerial decision, and we are actively seeking a Federal Government project, which would commence in early 2016.

Applicants are welcome to contact Iain Walker, Executive Director at nDF directly (ph: 0412 544 116 or iain.walker@newdemocracy.com.au) for further details.

Key Dates

Release of this document: Tuesday May 26th 2015
Submissions close: Tuesday July 7th 2015
Decision and notification: Tuesday July 21st 2015

Funding Available

In this round nDF expects to allocate up to \$75,000. Funding proposals can be for any amount from \$3,000 to \$50,000.

Decision Making

The Academic Advisory Sub-committee (AAS) of nDF works with the executive staff to review and shortlist research proposals. A member of the Board of nDF also acts on the AAS.

The final funding decision is taken by the full Research Committee of newDemocracy.

Criteria for selection

Proposals will be considered against the following selection criteria (in priority order):

1. Contribution to the field of deliberative democracy
2. Capacity to impact a reform agenda and promote more trusted public decisions.
3. Quality and Innovation of the Research
4. Quality of Research Team
5. Reference to and usage of nDF participatory projects.
6. Methodology and Feasibility
7. Value for money

Researchers should not take a partisan or ideological approach as to “right” or “correct” policy. nDF takes no policy position on any issue.

Deliverables

nDF requires any paper produced to be available for reproduction on a perpetual, non-exclusive royalty free basis.

Research Themes

Primary research themes include, but are not limited to:

- Inclusion and Representation
 - Response rates of different recruitments techniques*
 - The use of technology*
 - Representativeness*
 - Diversity*
 - Inclusion*

- Experiences
The process and effectiveness of deliberation
Citizens' experiences
Views of stakeholders/interest groups/elected representatives
- Trust
On the relationship between democratic innovations and trust in government, politics and the broader democratic system
- Impact
Impact of democratic innovations on policy outcomes, policy actors, institutions and relationships?
Longitudinal impacts
- Leadership
Role of leaders in democratic innovations
Types of leaders that engage in democratic innovations
Effect of democratic innovation on leaders
- Context and Connectivity
How do democratic innovations work in different contexts (crisis, highly partisan, consultation fatigue etc.)?
How well do and can democratic innovations connect to other institutions and modes of public input/discussion?
- Mass Media and Social Media
How does the media engage (or not) in and around democratic innovations?
What are the views and responses of opinion leaders?
What challenges and opportunities do social media and the web present for democratic innovations?

Submission Guidelines

nDF welcomes concise summary papers no longer than four pages in length which must include:

- ✓ Central research theme and innovation
- ✓ Research question and aims
- ✓ Research design and methodology
- ✓ Expected contribution to existing knowledge on deliberative democracy
- ✓ Proposed timeline (with key milestones for completion)
- ✓ Communication of research findings
- ✓ Background and role of principal researcher(s) and their institution (PhD students are welcome to submit)
- ✓ Proposed budget and justification

Submissions should be made via email to Research@newdemocracy.com.au