

RESEARCH CALL 2011/2012

***Research Call closing date extended to 15 August due to requirements of the European Journal**

On behalf of OFMDFM and the EQUALITY AND SOCIAL NEED research programme

The research programme of the cross-departmental equality and social need group in conjunction with the OFMDFM research management group covers the areas of equality; poverty; good relations; economic policy; the development of the Programme for Government and Sustainable Development. The 2011 research programme is under development and proposals are invited that support the aims of the strategy as outlined below.

The aims of the strategy are as follows:

- 1. To assist our understanding of the extent, distribution and causes of inequality and social exclusion in Northern Ireland society and the consequences of policies and actions aimed at their reduction, and to assess their impact on those affected. The impact of the social investment fund and the social protection fund will be key themes in this regard.***
- 2. To assist Departments to access the data they need to inform their implementation of 'Lifetime Opportunities', the new anti-poverty strategy for Northern Ireland, and to monitor its impact.***
- 3. To assist our understanding of public opinion and attitudes in respect of all of the issues covered under the themes of Cohesion, Sharing and Integration and to commission policy relevant research in these areas.***
- 4. To promote improved economic policy, sustainable development and contribute to the development of the Programme for Government.***
- 5. To assist Departments and Public Bodies in complying with their statutory duty under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act.***
- 6. To promote policy relevant research in response to new and emerging priorities.***

The general themes under which proposals will be considered include the following:

Addressing Gaps in research and information

Establishing Baselines

Statistical Indicators

Researching Causes and Dynamics

Neighbourhood Focus

Identifying and Addressing Social Exclusion

Researching Community Capacity

Improving Implementation

Identifying Best Practice

Assessing Policy Impact

Projects may focus on one or more of these themes but in terms of offering research grants the intention is to establish a broad programme of work that covers as wide a range as possible. It is recognised that this may take several years to achieve.

For this call we are seeking project grants of up to £100K per annum. The £100K limit may be extended depending on the circumstances and value of the project as assessed within the research grant appointment process. Projects will typically be between 1 – 3 years in duration and may relate to research and statistical infrastructure development as well as topic specific research. Details of the aims, principles and background to the research strategy can be found on the OFMDFM website:
<http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/equalityresearch>.

We are inviting project grant applications by 1st August 2011* (deadline extended to 15 August).

Application forms can be found at the above website address.

Applications should be submitted to: Research Branch, OFMDFM, Block E, Room 4.15, Castle Buildings, BT4 3SR.

For further details please contact: Dr Stephen Donnelly
Tel: 02890-523284 or stephen.donnelly@ofmdfmi.gov.uk