

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH  
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK  
**FLORENCE STIER RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AWARD**  
**DUE MARCH 31, 2022**

**What is the Florence Stier Research Development Award?**

The Florence Stier Research Development Award is an endowment that has been provided to the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. The intent of the award is to support faculty research and development. These funds are awarded every other year.

**What Does the Award Provide?**

The Florence Stier Research Development Award will provide 1 faculty member with a 2-year, \$15,000 research award to support a specific research project (including, but not limited to, small projects, pilot projects, and supplements to larger projects for specific purposes).

*Priority will be given to projects of focusing on an issue or problem focused on some aspect of social justice and equity that is relevant to social work. Priority will also be given to projects that propose to hire and train social work students (BASW, MSW or PhD) in carrying out the project. The awardee is highly encouraged to put the required final report in the Digital Repository for the University of Pittsburgh, D-Scholarship.*

**Who Can Apply?**

All faculty (as defined within the bylaws of the University Faculty Senate, Article 1 Section 3) within the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work can apply for the Florence Stier Research Development Award. *Post-Docs can apply if they are co-submitting with a faculty member.* Awards cannot be used to support faculty salary or conference travel. However, awards can be used to support faculty training costs that require travel.

**Pre-Award Process**

Applicants should use the standard School of Social Work pre-award process. As soon as you decide to apply, please complete the SSW Grant Submission Request form on the SSW Sharepoint Site at <https://pitt.sharepoint.com/sites/SSWSharePointHub>. The form can be found on the main Sharepoint page under the "Useful Information and Forms" heading. If you have any difficulties finding or completing the form, please contact Laurie Mejia at lam15@pitt.edu.

**Applications and Process of Selection**

Applications consist of a 3-5 page research proposal, formatted with 1.5 spacing and 0.5 inch margins. Page limit does not include references or title page. Application must be submitted as single pdf file. Sections in the proposal must:

- (1) Clearly define the problem the research project intends to address and its relationship to social justice;
- (2) Provide an overview of the research plan/methods;
- (3) List the project team;

- (4) Explain how successful completion of the project advances the field, the faculty member's research agenda, and is of high impact to social work; and
- (5) Include a budget and budget justification.

Proposals will be evaluated according to the scoring matrix on page 4.

Applications must be submitted by **March 31, 2022** to the Research Advisory Committee of the School of Social Work (email materials to: [mar104@pitt.edu](mailto:mar104@pitt.edu) and [kap86@pitt.edu](mailto:kap86@pitt.edu) ). Applications will be reviewed and scored by members of the Committee (see the list of committee members at the end of this announcement). The committee will decide at the April meeting. Award recipients will be announced **April 31, 2022** (*Members of the Research Advisory Committee applying for the grant will recuse themselves from the grant review process*). And grants can **begin July 1<sup>st</sup>**. All applicants will receive copies of their scores on their project proposals, will have access to the minutes from the review meeting, and can ask questions regarding their individual review to the Research Advisory Committee chair.

After receiving the award, the applicant will work with Kathy Ann Papciak on post-award processes.

### Following the Completion

Following the completion of the project the award recipient will be asked to give a 10-15 minute presentation on the project in the School of Social Work faculty meeting most closely following the completion of the grant. Recipients will also be required to provide a 1-2 page (1.5 spacing, 0.5 inch margins) report on the use of the funds at the closing of the project to the Research Advisory Committee and the Dean of the School of Social Work. Faculty will be encouraged to store the final report in the digital repository of the University of Pittsburgh, D-Scholarship



#### About Florence Stier

Florence Ray Stier (1917-2011) received her MSW from the University Of Pittsburgh School Of Social in 1941 and her PhD in Social Work from Columbia University in 1967. While in Pittsburgh, Stier was the head of a settlement house and in 1946 moved to Cleveland to be the executive secretary of the Welfare Federation Group Work Council. While there, she is credited with achievements in the field of juvenile delinquency, and improved inter-racial and inter-cultural relations.



In 1965, Stier joined the faculty of the University of Washington School Of Social Work where she taught and mentored students for 22 years. Stier developed the Community Organization track in the graduate social work program; it was noted in her University of Washington obituary that she was the only female faculty in this track for a time, and Stier was described as a “pioneer”. The national Council on Social Work Education has recognized Florence for her role as a mentor to social work students and graduates.

Research and Advisory Board Committee Members (Appointed)

Shaun Eack Ph.D, Associate Dean for Research and Chair

Mary Beth Rauktis, Ph.D.

Marlo Perry, Ph.D.

Christina Newhill Ph.D.

Katie Greeno Ph.D.

Jamie Booth, Ph.D

Laurie Mejia, Research Manager

Kathy Papciak, Research Grant Administrator

Jeff Shook Ph.D.

Nev Jones, Ph.D.

Elizabeth Farmer, Ph.D.

Ray Engel, Ph.D.

Past FLORENCE STIER RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

**2017-2019** *Animal ownership in low-income households: Is there a relationship between human and animal food insecurity?, M. E. Rauktis.MSW graduates from 2018 & 2018 worked on the project and Hyunji Lee*

**2020-2022** *The impact of COVID-19 on human service organizations and the essential services they provide.Engel, R., Shook, J., & Goodkind, S.*

<b><i>FLORENCE STIER RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AWARD SCORING MATRIX</i></b>								
<b><i>PROJECT TITLE:</i></b>								
<b>Range</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Descriptor</b>	<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>Problem Definition *</b>	<b>Research Methods*</b>	<b>Project Team*</b>	<b>Project Relevance to social work*</b>	<b>Budget Justification inc student hiring*</b>
<b>High</b>	1	Exceptional	Exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses					
	2	Outstanding	Extremely strong with negligible weaknesses					
	3	Excellent	Very strong with only some minor weaknesses					
<b>Medium</b>	4	Very good	Strong with numerous minor weaknesses					
	5	Good	Strong but with at least one moderate weakness					
	6	Satisfactory	Some strengths but also some moderate weaknesses					
<b>Low</b>	7	Fair	Some strengths with at least one major weakness					
	8	Marginal	A few strengths but with a few major weaknesses					
	9	Poor	Very few strengths and numerous weaknesses					

\*Scored sections correspond to page 1, paragraph 5, points 1-5 of the “Applications and Process of Selection” section above.