AMERICAN MONTESSORI SOCIETY
education that transforms lives

American Montessori Society Research Mini-Grants Program

Overview: The Research Mini-Grant Program seeks to encourage research that contributes to the field of Montessori education. Funding up to $2,000 per Mini-Grant is available for individuals whose research shows potential for bringing fresh insights to the practice, theory, history or effectiveness of Montessori education. The Research Mini-Grants Program is administered by the AMS Research Committee with the Mini-Grants Subcommittee authorized to review and recommend grant recepients.

The Mini-Grants include two categories:

- Funding research studies related to Montessori education
- Providing support for the presentation of Montessori research at conferences, with a priority given to presentations at non-Montessori conferences.

Dollars Available: Grants can range from $200 to 2,500, contingent on available AMS research funds and the scope of proposals received.

Deadline: Proposals will be accepted until November 30, 2012. Completed proposals must be emailed to Keith Whitescarver (keith.whitescarver@grantify.org) no later than 11:59 pm EDT on that day.

Eligibility: Any researcher with a postgraduate degree may apply for the award, as may individuals pursuing an advanced degree and currently enrolled in a masters or doctoral degree program. Awards will be given only to members in good standing of the American Montessori Society. If the proposal is from two or more researchers, at least one member of the research team must be an AMS member. AMS employees and Board Members are ineligible for the award.

Funding Priorities: Although research must focus on Montessori education and practice, the study can be grounded in any academic discipline and may use any valid research approach. Candidates should be interested in undertaking further research on Montessori education beyond that being supported currently. Funding will be granted only to expenses either directly associated with the research project or to the dissemination of the research project at a conference or in a publication.

General Instructions: Please provide all information requested in the proposal. All proposals must be in English. No additions or revisions will be accepted after the proposal deadline. Prior to the proposal submission, applicants are welcomed to consult with the AMS Research Coordinator, or the Chair of the Mini-Grant Subcommittee, with questions about their proposal or the appropriateness of their research study.

Awards and Conditions: All proposals will be blind reviewed by a selection committee created by the AMS Research Committee. Basic criteria for selection include: the importance of the research question to understanding Montessori education, the quality of the research approach, and the feasibility of the work plan. Applicants will be notified of a decision within 30 days of the submission deadline. The award will then be announced to the larger AMS community.

Examples of Potential Grant Awards:

- **Research Studies:** The mini-grant may be used to fund an entire research project or a discrete part of the study. An illustrative but not exhaustive list of possible studies includes: the collection and analysis of quantitative data; carrying out a classroom ethnography or other qualitative study; historical research on Montessori; conducting a survey of Montessori educators and analyzing findings; and developing a pilot study of Montessori practice.
- **Conference Presentations:** The grant can be used by the primary investigator(s) for registration and/or travel expenses for a conference presentation at a professional organization such as the American Educational Research Association, the Society for Research in Child Development, or the History of Education Society.
- **American Montessori Society Conferences:** The grant can be used for registration and/or travel expenses for a poster or research session presentation at the annual meeting of AMS.
- **Travel for Data Collection:** The grant also may be used for travel expenses if data collection is involved. Examining records of the American Montessori Society in the AMS Archives at the Dodd Center at the University of Connecticut, or interviewing administrators in public Montessori schools in Cincinnati, are examples of data collection needs involving travel.

Mini-Grant Proposal Guidelines

Researchers interested in applying for a mini-grant must complete all information requested. Incomplete proposals will not be considered. Proposals are to be submitted electronically to Keith Whitescarver at keith.whitescarver@grantify.org. Write AMS Mini-Grant Proposal in the subject field of the email.

Cover Sheet: Complete the American Montessori Society Mini-Grant Research Proposal Cover Sheet. If more than one person is involved in the project, complete a cover sheet for each individual.

Resume or Curriculum Vitae: Attach a resume or curriculum vitae. If more than one person is involved in the project, submit resume/curriculum vitae for each individual. This document should include the following information: name, current position and title, education and training, previous relevant work experience, scholarly honors or awards, and a list of representative scholarly publications and/or presentations in chronological order.

Research Project Abstract: In a single-spaced paragraph of no more than 200 words, summarize the substantive focus and research design of your proposed project and its contribution to Montessori education and practice. This description should provide a clear and concise overview of the proposed work. This description will be used in announcing the award to the greater AMS community.

Narrative Discussion of Research Project: In no more than five double-spaced pages describe your research project. Please address the following four points in writing the narrative. An additional one-page maximum single spaced bibliography of primary and secondary sources most important to your research should be appended.

1. **Principal Research Questions, Goals and Significance:** Describe the research questions that are the focus of your project. Is there a specific problem or need that is being addressed? Place the project in context and outline the primary relevant literature. What is the goal of the research? What is the significance of the research in furthering insights into Montessori education and practice?

2. **Methods:** Please explain your research design, the methods of gathering and analyzing data, and interpretation techniques. If human subjects are involved in the research, it is the responsibility of the researcher to fulfill all of the necessary requirements of their home institution (including, if needed, submission to an Institutional Review Board) in providing adequate protection and informed, uncoerced consent.

3. **Timeline:** Please attach a timeline identifying the research project's start date, key milestones, and completion date.

4. **Results:** Please explain how the results of the research project will be utilized including how the results will be published or otherwise made available to the public. A final one-page report of the research project is required at the end of the award period. Any research completed with the assistance of the Mini-Research Grant should acknowledge in subsequent publications that funding for the research was completed with the assistance of the American Montessori Society Mini-Grant Research Program.

Budget: Please submit a budget for the amount requested by completing the attached Budget Sheet. The mini-grant cannot be used to provide incentives to recruit or retain research subjects.

Complete Document to be Submitted: The Cover Sheet (one page) Research Project Abstract (one page), the Narrative Discussion of the Research Project (five pages), the Bibliography (one page), and the Budget (one page) should be sent as a single document (nine pages total). In addition, please submit a resume or curriculum vitae for each principal investigator.

American Montessori Society Mini-Grant Research Proposal Cover Sheet

Research Project Title:	
Date of Application:	
Category of Grant:	
Principal Investigator:	
Name:	
Title:	
Street Address:	
City/State/Zip Code:	
Telephone Number:	
Email Address:	
Member of AMS:	
Principal Investigator's Institution:	
Institution Name:	
Contact Name:	
Street Address:	
City/State/Zip Code:	
Telephone Number:	
E-mail Address:	

American Montessori Society Mini-Grant Research/Travel Proposal Budget

Principal Investigator(s):	
Project Title	

Project Expenses	**Total**
Fees/Stipends	
Supplies	
Communication	
Transcription	
Equipment	
Travel	
Miscellaneous	
Total Project Costs	