

An Introduction to the ASA DDRIG

ASA Annual Meeting 2025

Dr. Carolyn Vasques Scalera, ASA DDRIG Program Officer

asanet.org/ASADDRIG



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Workshop Goals

To Provide:

- Overview of the application process.
- Closer look at Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts.
- Strategies for successful proposal writing.
- Advice from reviewers and ASA DDRIG recipients.
- Q&A



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ASA Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants (ASA DDRIG)



Apply Now (Applications Open August 1)

<https://www.asanet.org/ASADDRIG>

About the ASA DDRIG Program

Application deadline: November 3, 2025 at 5pm Eastern.

Award notifications: April 2026



Application Q&A Session: September 4, 2025 at 1pm Eastern ([Register to attend](#)).

▸ Eligibility

▸ Proposal Preparation and Submission

▸ Proposal Components

▸ Proposal Review Process and Funding Criteria

▸ Award Decisions and Structure



▸ Frequently Asked Questions and Resources



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ASA DDRIG Awards

- Supports theoretically grounded empirical investigations to advance understanding of fundamental social processes.
- Up to 25 grants, max \$16,000 each.
- ASA membership for 1 year.
- ASA Annual Meeting registration.



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Eligibility

At Time of Application:

- Doctoral student enrolled in PhD-granting institution accredited in and campus physically located in U.S.
- Must have completed all pre-dissertation requirements.
- Must have a faculty Research Sponsor at same institution.
- Have not received prior NSF-funded DDRIG.



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Eligibility (Continued)

- All sociological substantive areas and methods.
- Do not need to be member of ASA.
- Do not need to be in Sociology PhD program but project must be sociological and contribute to sociology.
- Unsuccessful applicants may reapply.



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Timeline

DATE	ACTIVITY
August 1	Application live on asanet.org/DDRIG
November 3, 2025 at 5pm Eastern	APPLICATION DEADLINE
November - February	Review period
April	Decisions emailed
May 1 – Dec 1, 2026	Possible grant start dates
12-24 months later	End dates, reports due

Required Documents

- Project Summary (500 words and 1 page max)
- Project Description (10 pages max)
- References Cited (ASA Format)
- Bio Sketch for Scholar (2pp max, ASA Template)
- Bio Sketch for Sponsor (2pp max, ASA Template)
- Budget Spreadsheet (ASA Template)
- Budget Justification (3 pages max)
- Current and Pending Support Spreadsheet (ASA Template)
- Data Management Plan (2 pages max)
- Statement on Scholar-Sponsor Collaboration (1 page max)
- Research Sponsor Certification (Template)



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Optional Documents

- Letters from any outside collaborators (Template)
 - Interview or Survey Guide (5 pages max)
 - IRB Certification (will be required before awards disbursed)
- No other documents or information is allowed.



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Formatting Requirements

See sample document

All proposal documents:

- **Single-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman normal font** (smaller font may be used for formulas, figure labels, and tables). Consider ease of readability.
- Margins: 1 inch all sides, only header with title may appear outside.
- Paper size: 8.5 by 11 inches.
- Paginate documents longer than 1 page.
- Include proposal component (e.g., Project Summary) at top.
- **No hyperlinks, footnotes, endnotes, or appendices.**
- Upload documents as PDFs saved with Initials__Component (eg: CVS_Project Summary)



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Allowable Budget Expenses

YES

- Research expenses:
 - travel to research site
 - data collection or acquisition
 - transcription or translation
 - equipment
 - payment to research participants or assistants
 - training
- Travel to professional meetings.
- Living expenses, including dependent care

NO

- ✗ Overhead (IDC) costs.
- ✗ Sponsor-related costs.
- 1 Year ASA Membership and Annual Meeting Registration (included in award).



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Grant Year	1	2	Total Budget
A. RESEARCH SCHOLAR EXPENSES			
Research Scholar Living Expenses (calculated below)	0	0	0
Graduate Tuition and Fees			0
B. EQUIPMENT			
Computer Hardware			0
Computer Software			0
Other			0
C. TRAVEL			
Domestic Travel			0
International Travel			0
D. PARTICIPANT SUPPORT			
Participant Incentives			0
Other			0
E. OTHER DIRECT COSTS			
Materials and Supplies			0
Publication costs/Documentation/Dissemination			0
Contract-based Services			0
Training			0
Other			0
	0	0	0

Total Requested \$16,000 max

Living Expenses

The IRS has established national and local standards with respect to living expenses. Please refer to these

[IRS National Standards: Food Clothing and Other Items](#)

[IRS Local Standards: Housing and Utilities](#)

[Federal Guidelines for Dependent Care Expenses](#)

Grant Year	1	2	Total Budget
A. Housing			0
B. Food			0
C. Housekeeping supplies			0
D. Apparel & services			0
E. Personal care products & services			0
F. Miscellaneous			0
H. Medical			0
I. Insurance			0
G. Dependent care (specify number in budget justification)			0
	0	0	0

Will auto populate above

Budget Justification

- Explain each line item and provide specific details on costs.
- Justify why needed.
- Clarify any concurrent funding.

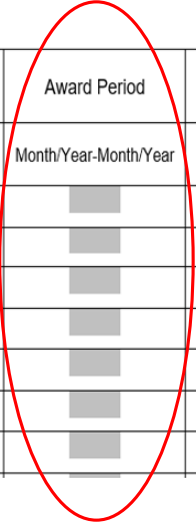


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Current and Pending Support (ASA Template)

Please be sure to refer to the ASA DDRIG rules concerning concurrent sources of support.

Source of Support (Eg, ASA DDRIG)	Status of Support ("X" one)			Type of Support ("X" all that apply)			Award Period	Amount Awarded or Requested
	Current	Pending	Plan to Submit	Research Expenses	Living Expenses	Other Expenses	Month/Year-Month/Year	\$



Budget Summary

- Cannot exceed \$16,000 regardless of project duration.
- Clearly justified.
- Should be appropriate and reasonable.
- Necessary to improve the dissertation.
- Identify other sources of support.
- No “double-dipping.”



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Can you answer these questions about your project?

- What question/s are you seeking to answer?
- What is the current state of knowledge on this?
- What knowledge gap will your research fill?
- What are the overall objectives of your project?
- How will you answer the research question?
- How is your project original and important?
- What will be the impact of your project?
- What qualifications and support do you have to do it?
- How will funding improve the project?



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Project Description

10 pages max with proper format

- Research Q/s and how it fits into the literature.
- Methods used to answer.
- Research activities that will be supported.
- Pilot data or initial analyses if relevant.
- Relevant experience/expertise.
- Research timeline.
- How funds will improve the dissertation.
- **Intellectual Merit (Labeled).**
- **Broader Impacts (Labeled, separate from IM).**



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Intellectual Merit (Scientific Impact)

- Project has the potential to **advance knowledge production in sociology** by expanding on existing theories, filling gaps in knowledge, and or making methodological contributions.

→ **How are you advancing sociology?**



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Intellectual Merit

- Identify a clear, original, and important question.
- Situate the project within the relevant literature and identify the intellectual gap to be filled.
- Are theoretically grounded and empirically rigorous.
- Have mechanisms for sharing the research data/tools/ products with other researchers.



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Literature

Discuss the areas of scholarship you are drawing from and how your project will add value.

- Focused (not a lit review) → framing your research
- What do we already know about this?
- What is missing?
- What are your theoretically driven expectations?
- How will your project contribute?



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Research Plan

What
Where
How
Why

Clearly explain and justify your methodology and plan of work.

- What type of data?
- Where will it come from?
- How and when will you collect it?
- How will you analyze it?
- Methods speak to the questions
- Multiple methods work together
- Limitations and contingencies
- Timeline



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Timeline Example

	Proposed ASA DDRIG								
	Summer 2021	Fall 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Summer 2023	Fall 2023	Spring 2024
Archival Research	X		X						
In-depth Interviews	X	X	X	X					
Ethnographic Observations		X		X					
Data Analysis (transcriptions, coding, and memos)					X	X	X		
Dissemination of Results (conference presentations, article development, and book manuscript)						X	X	X	X

Examples of Broader Impacts Questions

How well does the proposed activity promote:

- Teaching, training, and learning?
- Broadening participation of underrepresented groups?
- Public scientific literacy or engagement with science?
- Use of science and technology to impact public policy?
- Partnerships between academia and industry or organizations?
- Improving people's lives?



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Examples of Broader Impacts Activities

- Mentoring undergraduate research assistants.
- Designing workshops for community groups.
- Creating a website for K-12 teachers.
- Involving participants in collecting data (citizen-science).
- Creating open-sourced archives for community-based organizations.
- Writing Op-Eds or other non-academic publications.
- Writing policy briefs for relevant organizations.
- Creating visual display of participant stories.



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Broader Impacts (Societal Impact)

- Project illustrates potential to **benefit society** and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes.

→ **How are you contributing to society?**



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Broader Impacts

- Identify the public value of the project including the relevant audience/population who will benefit.
- Include actions to make these broader impacts more likely.
- Have mechanisms for communicating with a broader public audience.



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What makes a good proposal?

- Is it clear?
 - Can a non-specialist understand?
 - Avoid jargon; always define key terms
 - Easily identifiable research question(s) and objectives
- Is it original and important?
 - Intellectual merit.
 - Broader impacts.
- Is it doable?
 - Don't overpromise
 - Provide specific activities
 - Sell yourself and your project
 - Consider these dimensions of feasibility:
 - Money, time, qualifications, access



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Advice from Reviewers

- Focus your literature review (what is new?).
- Connect methods back to research question/s.
- Reflect on limitations of the design.
- Make it clear how the funds will advance the dissertation.
- Include a clear timeline.
- Be concise.
- Speak to qualifications and resources.
- Take Broader Impacts seriously.
- Get feedback at every step.



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Advice from Grantees

- Work on project description early so you can incorporate feedback.
- Ask for targeted feedback from different people.
- Ask other students for sample proposals.
- Make a specific timeline with sponsor.
- Think about your career plans and impact on DDRIG timeline.
- Present your best-laid plans and be confident.
- Check in with grants office early.
- Apply for lots of funding.



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Advice from Program Officer

- Follow the proposal guidelines!
- Don't make additional work for reviewers!
→ **Provide a roadmap**
- Use the Resources!



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Next Steps

- Consult with your office of sponsored research and your sponsor.
- Check out the FAQs and Resources on our website (Proposal Checklist).
- Virtual Q&A: Sept 4th, 1-2pm EST (Register)
- Contact the Program Officer: ddrig@asanet.org



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Other Dissertation Funding



- American Association of University Women American Fellowships
- American Political Science Association Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant
- ASU Law and Science Dissertation Grant
- Center for Equitable Growth Dissertation Scholars Program
- Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy
- Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program Dissertation Grants
- National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowship Program
- NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants
- Russell Sage Foundation Dissertation Research Grants



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