

DDRG

OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant



SEPTEMBER 2010

The Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant (DDRG) program supports research and writing of doctoral dissertations on U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) policy-relevant topics. Through its Office of University Partnerships, HUD competitively awards one-time 2-year grants of up to \$25,000 to successful doctoral candidates who are currently enrolled in accredited programs.

EMPOWERING A NEW GENERATION OF URBAN SCHOLARS

Winning a DDRG Program grant is an exciting opportunity for doctoral students in every subject and department. Pursuing a doctoral degree is time-consuming and expensive. Anything a student can do to offset these outlays helps not only the student; the entire professional community benefits. By freeing the student from concentrating on things that can get in the way of study, the sooner the student can fulfill his or her academic responsibilities and participate in the professional "conversation" among peers and colleagues.

Earning a doctorate is time and money well spent. It is an investment in a field and a career. With a DDRG Program grant, financial resources and career opportunities open up. It's a great asset—laying a strong foundation for a professional future—and a great opportunity to network and connect with other experts in the field doing similar research.

HUD welcomes applications from students in any academic discipline. Past grantees have pursued doctorates in architecture, history, planning, economics, anthropology, political science, sociology, public policy, and social work. As long as your doctoral research relates to HUD's goals and objectives, you are eligible for the DDRG.

Cultivating research on policy-relevant housing and urban development issues

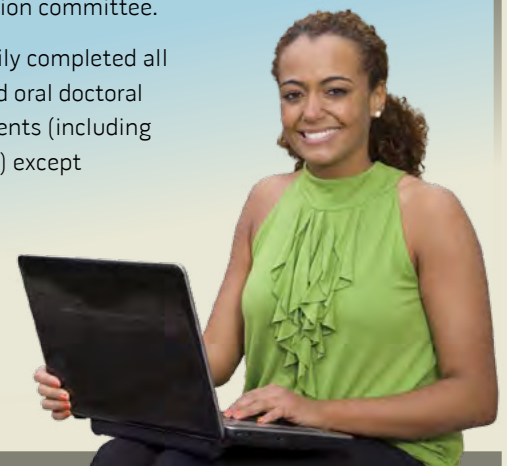
1994 DDRG Program initiated

242 Number of grant recipients 1994–2009

The dissertation by 2005 DDRG recipient Patrick McNamara, Ph.D., led to successful legislation incorporating an urban design element into the master plan of the city of Omaha, Nebraska. "[P]rojects which have grown out of and been informed by lessons learned through my research ... will guide urban development for decades to come and provide structures that positively change what can be built in Omaha," says McNamara. "My research and practice helped guide the strategy for community engagement advocating for an ongoing avenue for citizen participation. ... This is a broad-based community collaboration that is a model for adoption of municipal policy change."

Each DDRG applicant is required to:

- Be a U.S. citizen or a lawful permanent resident enrolled in an accredited doctoral program.
- Have their dissertation proposal or prospectus accepted by the full dissertation committee.
- Have satisfactorily completed all other written and oral doctoral degree requirements (including all examinations) except the dissertation.



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While HUD is committed to helping students achieve their educational goals, the DDRG Program also offers advantages to HUD. Offering doctoral students financial support is an effective way to increase the number of housing and community development specialists.

The DDRG Program is an intrinsic part of HUD's program offerings. HUD saw that universities and cities symbiotically support each other, and supporting doctoral students in pursuing research in housing and urban development policy is a way to extend information about this field and disseminate it.

For more information about the DDRG Program, visit www.oup.org or contact:

University Partnerships Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 7485
Silver Spring, MD 20907
Phone: 800-245-2691 Fax : 301-565-3710
E-mail: oup@oup.org
TDD : Contact the Federal Relay at 800-877-8339

“Research produced through the DDRG program has had a tremendous impact on communities both in the United States and around the globe. The DDRG program provides a variety of new promising research, and many communities have benefited, from inner-city Chicago and Appalachia to post-Katrina New Orleans and the Rust Belt. Although the amount of funding is small, the results have been enormous. The conducted research has provided cutting-edge ideas and laid the groundwork for new policies, transforming theory into action at local levels and in broader situations, from here in Washington at the seat of government to corporate America to institutions as far away as the Netherlands and South Korea.”

Sherone Ivey
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of University Partnerships

“My homelessness research was really about evaluating public policy, which led to my current job in program evaluation. You can always find a way to criticize policy, but my research challenged me to make useful policy recommendations.”

Martha Trena Valado, Ph.D.
2003 grant recipient

In a recent survey of DDRG recipients:

57% of respondents were women.

72% are currently employed at a college, university, or other institution of higher learning.

Departments include: City and Metropolitan Planning, Criminology and Criminal Justice, Economics, Geography and Planning, Landscape Architecture, Social Work, Sociology, Public Affairs, Public Policy, Urban Studies and Planning.

61% have had their dissertation published or will have it published (either partially or in its entirety) in a peer-reviewed publication.

* Representative journals: *Economic Development Quarterly*, *Housing Policy Debate*, *Housing Studies*, *Housing Policy Debate*, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, *Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *Journal of Poverty*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Journal of Urban Affairs*, *Social Forces*, *Social Service Review*.

“[HUD’s Doctoral Dissertation] grants were a motivational boost and increased my excitement about my future work. ... Being recognized by HUD demonstrated that my research is important.”

Michal Grinstein-Weiss, Ph.D.
2003 grant recipient

Homelessness affects many people in the United States, and addressing it is one of HUD's primary focus areas. Many DDRG dissertations have homelessness as their topic, including that by Tatjana Meschede, who investigated the bridges and barriers to housing for chronically homeless street dwellers in urban Boston. Meschede's research led the Boston Department of Public Health to find better strategies to combat homelessness and better access to treatment for those living on the street. Her work also paved the way for groundbreaking relationships between multiple agencies in Boston's public health community (including Boston Health Care for the Homeless and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health), resulting in more collaboration and sharing of data to help the city's homeless population. Personal outreach, is a central component to the effort.

