

ORDE "KNOW YOUR AGENCY" SERIES: HARRY FRANK GUGGENHEIM FOUNDATION

HARRY FRANK GUGGENHEIM FOUNDATION (HFG)

<http://www.hfg.org/>

AGENCY OVERVIEW

Harry Frank Guggenheim, a World War II veteran and successful entrepreneur, was personally intrigued by the study of human aggression, violence and dominance. He founded the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation (HFG) to encourage further study through a variety of mechanisms including a standing Research Grants Program. The Founder stipulated that projects funded by the Foundation would "be fundamentally diagnostic rather than prescriptive" (2010 Guggenheim Foundation Report, page 9); thus, the emphasis is on gaining a better understanding rather than directly influencing public policy on these subjects. Mr. Guggenheim's thought was that as HFG-funded research results were made available through peer reviewed publications over the years, it would naturally begin to influence public policy.

Specific Interests

Mr. Guggenheim felt that input from a variety of disciplines would be required to gain a better understanding about violence, aggression and dominance. HFG has funded research in the sciences (natural, social and behavioral sciences, medical) and the humanities. Topics of interest include aggression, animal behavior, biology, brain/neuroscience, crime, drugs/ alcohol, ethnicity/ race, family violence, gender, genetics, genocide, human rights, law, media, military history, nationalism, political violence, psychology, religion, sexual violence, terrorism, totalitarianism, violence against women, war and youth.

Previously supported projects have involved research on torture, endocrine disruptors and aggression, war crimes trials, domestic violence, military history, civil rights struggles and government response, cellular/molecular mechanisms of violence, organized crime and suicide.

HFG ORGANIZATION

The 2010 Foundation Report, the latest available, provides insight on how HFG is organized. The President, Chairman of the Board and a 22-member Board are responsible for

Foundation operation. The Board is subdivided into a number of Committees including the Program Committee which plays an important role in reviewing grant proposals as outlined in the Proposal Process section of this document. Foundation staff members include a Secretary/Treasurer, a program director and two program officers.

HFG PROCESS

Research Grants Program:

HFG offers a standing Research Grants Program with an annual deadline of August 1 (if this deadline falls on the weekend, applications are due the following Monday.) Only hard copy applications are accepted. Project funding range is \$15,000 - \$40,000 per year for one or two years. An itemized budget is required. Direct project costs are funded; no facilities and administrative costs are allowed.

While most applicants possess a terminal degree, there is no degree requirement. There are no citizenship requirements as the Foundation funds internationally. Research Grant funding decisions are made in December and projects may begin as early as January 1. Projects involving multiple principal investigators are allowed, but HFG requires that one PI serve as the primary contact.

HFG had total net assets of over \$75 million as of December, 2009. Between 2006 and 2010, the Foundation funded 62 research grants in a wide variety of disciplines. Other funding mechanisms and programs are described in the next section.

Additional Funding Mechanisms:

HFG also offers a PhD Fellowship Program with applications due February 1. The Fellowship provides \$20,000 for a one-year period of research. Funding decisions are made in June and projects may commence as early as July 1 of that year.

In addition to the Research Grant and PhD Fellowship Programs, HFG staff members promote projects of personal interest including an annual Symposium on crime, occasional conferences bringing experts in many fields together for discussion, and a program targeting local African communities in failed states with the goal of

bringing order through working closely with local rather than central governments to achieve stability.

Contact with HFG Program Staff:

Foundation staff members are very open to working directly with potential applicants prior to application submission to help insure their funding success. Principal investigators are encouraged to telephone, write or e-mail program officers to ask about grant applications, the review process or the viability of potential projects.

Staff members are also available to discuss applications that have been turned down for funding and are able to provide descriptions of reviewer concerns to help formulate successful resubmission applications. This service is available upon request by the applicant.

Typical HFG Proposal Process:

- 1) PI determines suitability of proposed project to Foundation mission and specific topic area(s)
- 2) PI contacts program officer for assistance and questions about application
- 3) PI submits application (hard copy) by August 1st
- 4) PI simultaneously provides application copies to their two chosen referees, requesting letters from each detailing their opinions concerning project merit and ability of applicant to complete the project successfully (due by August 15th)
- 5) Standing scientific review panel evaluates proposals and makes funding recommendations to the Foundation's Program Committee
- 6) Program Committee members decide which recommended applications best meet the Foundation mission and then forward to full Board for consideration
- 7) Full Board makes final funding decisions
- 8) Successful PI receives award notice from HFG (decisions are made in December)

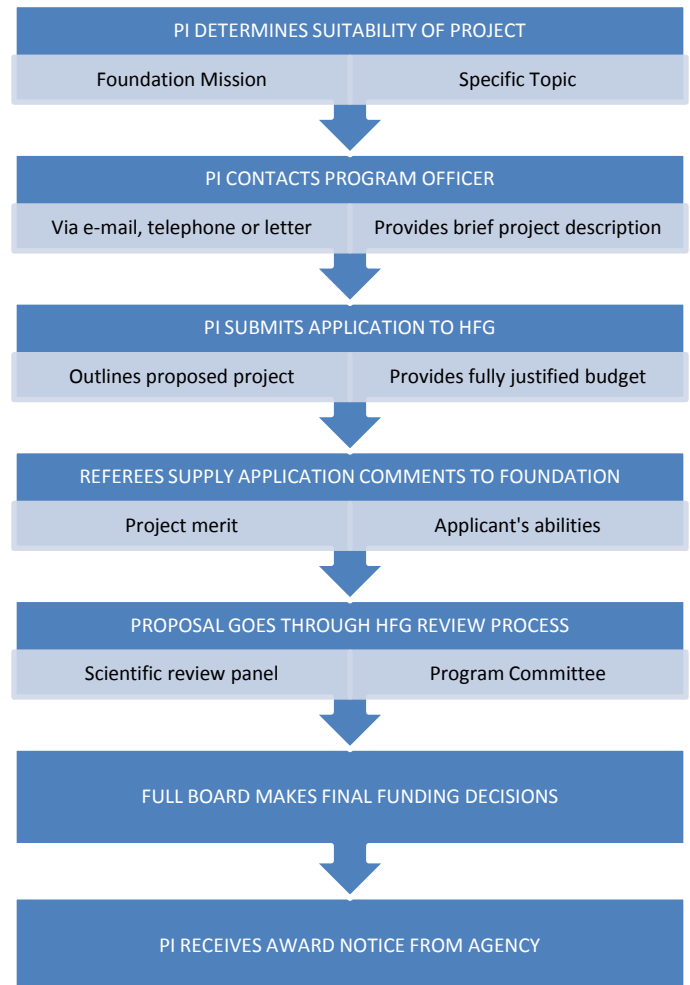
HFG Proposal Review Process:

HFG uses a seven-member scientific peer review panel. Panel members make recommendations to the Program Committee (a subsector of the Full Board) concerning which applications merit funding. The Program Committee subsequently reviews the recommendations, determines which best meet the HFG mission and then forwards to Full Board for consideration. The Full Board

makes all final funding decisions. There are three primary review criteria for the Research Grants Program:

- 1) Scholarly quality
- 2) Methodological aptness
- 3) Adherence to the Foundation's stated mission/interests

HARRY FRANK GUGGENHEIM FOUNDATION PROPOSAL & REVIEW PROCESS



What Happens Next?

Successful PIs conduct their research, provide written reports on research results to HFG and publish these results in peer-reviewed journals. Applications previously turned down by HFG can be resubmitted. Resubmissions are treated like new applications. Before resubmission, applicants should consult with Foundation program officers to ascertain reviewer concerns and discuss how best to address them. While the Foundation has no set resubmission limit, they do indicate that if an application is turned down twice it is not likely to succeed in subsequent review rounds.