Project Funding Available from CURA

The Center for Urban and Regional Affairs supports research and technical assistance through a number of individual programs, each with their own deadlines and application procedures. If you represent a community organization and are unsure which program listed below is most suitable for your project proposal, simply complete a general Community-Based Research Program Application Form at www.cura.umn.edu/Programs/curappform.html and we will route your request to the appropriate program.

■ The Community Assistantship Program (CAP) matches community-based nonprofit organizations, citizen groups, and government agencies in Greater Minnesota with students who can provide research assistance. Eligible organizations define a research project, submit an application, and if accepted, are matched with a qualified student to carry out the research. The application deadline for summer semester 2011 assistantships (early June to August) is March 15, 2011. For more information, contact CAP coordinator Will Craig at 612-625-3321 or wcraig@umn.edu, or visit www.cura.umn.edu/cap.php.

■ Neighborhood Partnerships for Community Research (NPCR) provides student research assistance to community organizations in Minneapolis, St. Paul, and metro area suburbs that are involved in community-based revitalization. Projects may include any issue relevant to a neighborhood’s or community’s needs and interests, including planning, program development, or program evaluation. Priority is given to projects that support and involve residents of color. Applications from organizations collaborating on a project are encouraged. The application deadline for summer semester 2011 assistantships (early June to August) is March 15, 2011. For more information, visit www.cura.umn.edu/npcr.php or contact NPCR program director Kris Nelson at 612-625-1020 or ksn@umn.edu.

■ The Community Geographic Information Systems (CGIS) program provides technical assistance in mapping, data analysis, and GIS to community-based organizations and nonprofits in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. CGIS staff specialize in parcel-level mapping, demographic analysis, and Internet-based GIS technologies. There is no formal application process or deadline to apply. Project requests are taken by phone or e-mail, and generally can be turned around within two weeks. For more information, to discuss potential projects, or for assistance with data needs, contact CGIS program coordinator Jeff Matson at 612-625-0081 or jmatson@umn.edu, or contact CURA director Ed Goetz at 612-624-8737 or egoetz@umn.edu.

■ The Minnesota Center for Neighborhood Organizing trains people to work effectively in organizing and staffing neighborhood organizations. It trains new organizers and increases the skills of existing neighborhood staff through internships, workshops, and other programs. For more information about the program and the training opportunities available, contact Jay Clark at 612-625-2513 or clark037@umn.edu, or Margaret Kaplan at 612-624-2300 or mkaplan@umn.edu.

■ The Faculty Interactive Research Program is designed to encourage University of Minnesota faculty to carry out research projects that involve a significant issue of public policy for the state or its communities, and that include interaction with groups, agencies, or organizations in Minnesota involved with the issue. Ideal projects will have an applied orientation, as well as serve the research interests of the faculty member. Awards cover the faculty member’s salary for one month during the summer, and support a half-year graduate research assistant for one year. Application materials for the 2011–2012 academic year competition will be sent to eligible faculty in early spring semester. For more information, visit www.cura.umn.edu/FIRP.php or contact CURA director Ed Goetz at 612-624-8737 or egoetz@umn.edu.

■ The CURA Dissertation Research Grant provides one year of support to a Ph.D. candidate in good academic standing at the University of Minnesota for the purpose of completing dissertation research on a significant issue or topic related to urban areas in the upper Midwest region of the United States. Recipients must have passed the preliminary exam stage and have approved dissertation proposals by March 1 of the year in which they apply for the award. Deadline for the 2011–2012 award competition is February 10, 2011. For application guidelines or more information, visit www.cura.umn.edu/Dissertation.php or contact CURA director Ed Goetz at 612-624-8737 or egoetz@umn.edu.