Project Assistance 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/curaappform.html and we will route your request to the appropriate program.

The Community Assistance 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 fall semester 2011 assistantships (early September to mid-January) is June 30, 2011. For more information, to discuss potential projects, or for assistance with applications, 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 fall semester 2011 assistantships (early September to mid-January) is June 30, 2011. For more information, contact NPCR program director Kris Nelson at 612-625-1020 or ksn@umn.edu, or visit www.cura.umn.edu/npcr.php.

The CommuniUniversity Program funds quarter-time graduate student assistantships for one semester to help community-based nonprofit organizations or government agencies with a specific project. The application deadline for fall semester 2011 assistantships (early September to mid-January) is June 30, 2011. For more information, contact CURA community program assistant Jeff Corn at 612-625-0744 or curacr@umn.edu, or visit www.cura.umn.edu/communiversity.php.

Northside Seed Grants support community organizations that operate programs serving residents of Minneapolis’ Northside community by providing student research assistants and faculty researchers to carry out neighborhood-initiated and neighborhood-guided projects. The application deadline for fall semester 2011 assistantships (early September to mid-January) is June 30, 2011. For more information, contact program director Kris Nelson at 612-625-1020 or ksn@umn.edu, or visit www.cura.umn.edu/NSG.php.

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 can be made 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 visit www.cura.umn.edu/CGIS.php.

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, or visit www.mcno.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-time graduate research assistant for one year. Deadline for applications for the 2011–2012 academic year competition is April 1, 2011. For more information, contact CURA director Ed Goetz at 612-624-8737 or egoetz@umn.edu, or visit www.cura.umn.edu/Programs/FIRP/announce.php.