

2021 Rural Sociological Society MS, PhD, and Early Career Research Award Competition

This year the RSS Council has authorized the use of Endowment funds to support Master's theses, Ph.D. dissertations, and Early Career Research awards to support research activities conducted during the 2020-2021 fiscal/academic year. Proposals are invited to conduct research on all topics encompassed by the field of rural sociology. The awards are designed to stimulate research that will help develop the careers of future rural sociologists and support the broader mission of the Rural Sociological Society. Award winners are strongly encouraged to submit papers based on their research at future RSS Annual Meetings. The RSS Endowment Committee will oversee the awards process. **NOTE: Application dates for these awards have changed.**

The RSS Master's Thesis and Dissertation Research Award Competition

Graduate student members¹ of the Rural Sociological Society are eligible to apply for master's thesis and Ph.D. dissertation research awards. Dissertation awards can be made for up to \$5,000. Master's thesis awards can be made for up to \$2,500. Proposals approved for funding may receive budget allocations below the requested amounts, based on availability of funds and recommendations of the Endowment Committee.

The RSS Early Careers Research Awards Competition

Members of the Rural Sociological Society who received their Ph.D. on or after January 1, 2016 are eligible to apply for RSS Early Career Research awards. Because the size of these awards is modest, proposals will generally involve small-scale projects that will enhance opportunities for scholars to pursue expanded research efforts in the future. The Early Career Research awards have previously been made for up to \$5,000.

Submission Guidelines for Awards Competitions

The deadline for submission of proposals and required supporting materials is **September 21, 2020**. Proposals received after that date will not be reviewed or considered for funding. All proposals must be compiled into a single Adobe Acrobat .pdf format and submitted to Gretchen Thompson <ghthomps2@gmail.com> chair of the Awards and Endowment Committee.

Nominees who are unable to meet these submission requirements and/or who cannot save their files in .pdf format should contact Gretchen at (918) 812-1291 or at the email listed above at least two weeks in advance of the due date so that alternative arrangements for submission can be made.

When nominating someone for any award, nominators should consider whether the candidate meets the standards outlined by the RSS Code of Ethics. RSS award winners are expected to meet these standards: <https://www.ruralsociology.org/rss-ethics>.

Submission Deadline: September 21, 2020

Notification Date: December 14, 2020

Award Date: As early as January 18, 2021 or special arrangement

¹ Students must be RSS members when they apply for the award in 2020 and to receive the award in 2021.

Proposal packets should include all of the following:

1. A short cover letter. The cover letter should include a paragraph explaining how the thesis/dissertation/research will influence the applicant's future work related to rural sociology.

2. The proposal. The proposal, which includes the budget and budget justification, is limited to a maximum of 10 double-spaced pages, using a 12-point font and 1 inch margins. Note: references are not included in the 10-page limit. The proposal should include:

- A well-defined problem statement
- An abbreviated literature review
- A section detailing research methods
- A work-plan schedule
- Plans for dissemination of findings
- An itemized budget for the work planned
- A brief budget justification narrative

3. Budget notes

- Proposal must include a narrative budget justification.
- Equipment purchases are not permitted with Endowment funds.
- Because of limited funds and the relatively small dollar total of awards, RSS will not pay overhead charges to the host institution of the recipient.
- The RSS Endowment Committee understands that individuals submitting proposals may seek additional funding from other sources. The committee requests that the budget narrative describe exactly which parts of the project would be supported by additional funds and which parts would be supported by RSS Endowment Funds.

4. A copy of the applicant's vita.

5. Proposal packets submitted for the Master's Thesis and Dissertation Research Awards must also include a letter from the student's major professor or thesis/dissertation chair that addresses the project's intellectual significance and the likelihood that work on the thesis/dissertation will be actively pursued during the current academic year. When nominating someone for any award, nominators should consider whether the candidate meets the standards outlined by the RSS Code of Ethics. RSS award winners are expected to meet these standards:

<https://www.ruralsociology.org/rss-ethics>.

Complete applicant packets should be sent via email as a single .pdf file to Gretchen Thompson, Chair of the RSS Awards and Endowment Committee, <ghthomps2@gmail.com>.

Upon completion of their project, each RSS award recipient must provide a 500-word summary, which will be published on the Rural Sociological Society website. Award winners are encouraged to attend the annual Awards Luncheon and be formally recognized for receiving an award.