The Vanderbilt LGBT Policy Lab announces a call for Small Grants Program for LGBT Policy Research. These small grants ($500 - $1,500) are designed to fund expenses related to carrying out research on LGBT policies and populations, broadly defined. Any Vanderbilt University student or faculty, postdoctoral scholar, graduate/professional student, or undergraduate student is eligible to apply. Preference will be given to students, postdocs, and individuals without access to other sources of support.

Proposals must address a question of relevance to LGBT-related public policies such as marriage equality, the transgender military ban, bathroom bills, employment non-discrimination, religious freedom laws, adoption policies, hate crimes laws, HIV-related policies, and others. Proposals are also suitable if they address issues of potential policy relevance to LGBT populations even if they do not directly evaluate an existing policy. Research can be qualitative or quantitative and can come from any discipline. Proposals from students must include a faculty contact who can verify the legitimacy of the proposed research project.

Funds can be used for a range of expenses, including: travel (e.g., to interview an LGBT policy leader); transcription services (e.g., to transcribe an interview); performing a short survey; or hiring research assistants (e.g., to code state-level statutes or newspaper headlines). Funds cannot be used for PI salary.

Proposals must include the following sections:
1. The rationale for the project and its contribution to the literature
2. The research question and specific hypotheses to be tested
3. A description of the analytical strategy
4. Itemized budget (Note that all funds must be expended by 6/30/2018)
5. Plan and timeline for the project
6. For student/postdoc applicants: the name of a faculty sponsor who agrees to supervise the project

Proposals are limited to two pages of text (single spaced and 12 point font), including references.

Within six months of receiving the award, the recipient must submit a one page report on the results of the award and agree to give a very short talk about the research to the LGBT Policy Lab.

Proposals should be emailed to Kitt Carpenter at christopher.s.carpenter@vanderbilt.edu and will be reviewed by LGBT Policy Lab Faculty. Questions about the program can also be directed to Carpenter.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, beginning immediately, until funds are expended. Expenses incurred by VUMC students/faculty/staff will be reimbursed via ESA or NSBA. Information can be found on the TIPS website. Expenses incurred by VU students/faculty/staff will be directly charged against the TIPS center.