The University’s internal deadline for the limited submission competition for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), National Conservation Assessment Program is 7/24/15. If you are interested, please read on for details.


- **Purpose:** The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is releasing a special Notice of Funding Opportunity under the National Leadership Grants for Museums (NLG for Museums) program to fund a cooperative agreement to develop, test, and implement an affordable and accessible conservation assessment program for small and midsize museums to help them care for their collections. Through this program, IMLS wishes to increase the capacity of museums to:
  
  o Understand the conservation needs of their collections  
  o Strengthen the knowledge of museum personnel as regards the care and conservation of collections  
  o Assist museums in planning strategically for the long-term care and conservation of their collections

- **Eligibility:** To be eligible for an award under the National Conservation Assessment Program, **you must be an organization that meets all three of the following criteria:**

  1. You must be either a unit of State or local government or be a private nonprofit organization that has tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code;  
  2. You must be located in one of the 50 States of the United States of America, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau; and  
  3. You must qualify as one of the following:
     a. A museum that, using a professional staff, is organized on a permanent basis for essentially educational or aesthetic purposes; owns or uses tangible objects, either animate or inanimate; cares for these objects; and exhibits these objects to the general public on a regular basis through facilities that it owns or operates.

     - **What types of institutions are included in the term “museum”?**
       If they otherwise meet these requirements, including the criteria in (3) (a) above, museums include, but are not limited to, aquariums, arboretums, art museums, botanical gardens, children’s/youth museums, general museums (those having two or more significant disciplines), historic houses/sites, history museums, natural history/anthropology museums, nature centers, planetariums,
science/technology centers, specialized museums (limited to a single distinct subject), and zoological parks.

- **What does it mean to be using a professional staff?**
  An institution uses a professional staff if it employs at least one staff member, or the full-time equivalent, whether paid or unpaid, primarily engaged in the acquisition, care, or exhibition to the public of objects owned or used by the institution.

- **What does it mean to exhibit the objects to the general public?**
  An institution exhibits objects to the general public if such exhibition is a primary purpose of the institution. An institution that exhibits objects to the general public for at least 120 days a year is deemed to exhibit objects to the general public on a regular basis.
  An institution which does not have the exhibition of objects as a primary purpose and/or does not exhibit objects to the public for at least 120 days a year may be determined to be eligible as a museum under certain circumstances. For more information, please see 45 CFR §1180.2(d).
  b. An organization or association that engages in activities designed to advance the well-being of museums and the museum profession;
  c. An institution of higher education, including public and nonprofit universities; or
  d. A public or private nonprofit agency which is responsible for the operation of a museum that meets the eligibility criteria in (a) above may apply on behalf of the museum.

- **Funds Available & Anticipated Number of Awards:** MLS anticipates awarding a three-year cooperative agreement, although funding will be obligated annually with additional amounts subject to the availability of funds, IMLS discretion, and notification to the cooperators. The cooperators will be expected to provide or perform a field-wide needs assessment to inform this work, followed by a pilot of programming to test and evaluate the program before full-scale implementation.

- **Budget & Project Period:** You must submit a three-year budget for both IMLS funds and cost share. Your first-year budget may not exceed $500,000. Your budget for years 2 and 3 may not exceed $800,000 per year. IMLS will negotiate with potential cooperators to arrive at a final approved budget.

- **Application Details:** Since the University of Miami may only submit one (1) proposal, this opportunity is a limited submission competition. An expert panel will internally review our candidates to determine which application will be submitted for competition by the IMLS deadline on September 1, 2015.

To apply, please send the following materials to Karen Lamper at klamper@miami.edu by 7/24/15:
- Title of Proposal
- Your biosketch or curriculum vitae; including current and pending grant support.
- A brief summary of your project (no more than two pages).

Please be cognizant that requested information above is required for the reviewers to make an informed decision/ranking regarding your research proposal for consideration as an internal award applicant. Failure to address each numbered sub-heading above can impact the ranking of your proposal.

**Note:** Biostatistical considerations in the design and analysis of proposed investigations are critical to the procurement of funding and quality of research. The Biostatistics Collaboration and Consulting Core (BCCC), as part of the Research Design and Biostatistics Component of the Miami CTSI, is available to provide support
for grant proposal development. This support may be funded by service credits awarded by the Research Design and Biostatistics Component of the Miami CTSI. For more information, please contact Maria Jimenez-Rodriguez at mjrodriguez@biostat.med.miami.edu.

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