

University of California
Miguel Contreras Labor Studies Development Fund (Contreras Fund)
Call for Proposals

The Miguel Contreras Labor Institute (MCLI) is a multi-campus University of California research initiative designed to carry out research, education and service involving the world of work, and the public and private policies that govern it, in California, the nation, and the world. As part of the MCLI, the Miguel Contreras Labor Studies Development Fund (Contreras Fund) supports labor studies initiatives, including curricular innovations, conferences, colloquia and other public programs on labor and employment topics. The fund is designated for initiatives on all the UC campuses, excluding Berkeley and UCLA, which already have funding for such purposes through their Institutes of Industrial Relations. The UCOP Office of Research will administer the Contreras Fund.

Principal investigators on eligible campuses are invited to submit proposals for projects that build institutional capacity, promote academic instruction and research, and generate interdisciplinary engagement on topics related to the MCLI mission. These are “seed money” grants designed to help inaugurate a campus program, with the expectation that local campus funds will sustain it on a permanent basis. Proposals are invited for:

- labor studies curriculum innovations and development
- graduate student researchers (GSR) and graduate student instructors (GSI) to assist in coordinating and staffing campus activities related to the MCLI mission
- post-doctoral fellowships for labor and employment scholars
- multidisciplinary initiatives related to the MCLI mission
- conferences, convenings, and colloquia on labor and employment topics that generate a community of interest across the campus
- projects for research dissemination that involve community, governmental, labor, and business organizations

Funding will take place on a year-to-year basis, but applicants may submit multi-year budgets for projects designed to institutionalize the capacity of their campus to engage in labor and employment research and education. Budgets for one-time projects for conferences and colloquia are also invited. Anticipated award levels are between \$15k and \$100k.

Funds for graduate student fellowships and faculty grants for academic research on labor and employment topics are not available through the Contreras Fund. Applications for such funding should be made to the Labor and Employment Research Fund, also administered by the UC Office of the President. Programs that are primarily community outreach projects on labor and employment topics also are not eligible for Contreras Fund awards, but inquiries can be sent to the UCB and UCLA Centers for Labor Research and Education.

Proposal Submission

1. Apply by email to the MCLI by December 1, 2006. Submit application materials to Program Coordinator Sandra Wulff at sandra.wulff@ucop.edu with

"Contreras Fund Proposal" in the subject line. If funding levels permit, there may be a second application round later in 2006-07.

2. Applicants should submit a narrative assessment briefly outlining the faculty and administrative resources relevant and available on their UC campus, the uniqueness and thrust of their proposed program, and the extent to which they expect it to generate interest and participation at the undergraduate, graduate, faculty, and/or administrative level. Describe the degree of interest and support on the campus for the proposal, especially if it is for development of an ongoing program. Include a list of relevant and proposed course offerings, faculty participants, actual or potential invitees to campus, and cooperating community groups and collaborators.

3. Personnel: Brief c.v. of the applicant and other key faculty and staff.

4. Budget: A realistic budget, including salaries and benefits for all personnel. Other expenses such as speaker fees, travel expenses and other colloquia and conference support, and printing expenses should be itemized as well.

Selection Criteria

Successful proposals will be selected by the MCLI Executive Board. Projects will be evaluated on conceptual framework, feasibility, and prospects for success, as well as the capacity of the applicant(s) to undertake and complete the project.