COVID-19 Addendum to Program Guidelines for the Tinker Field Research Collaborative
December 2020

Given the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on international travel, the Tinker Foundation is providing this guidance for Centers participating in the Tinker Field Research Collaborative. We expect that this document will evolve upon receiving feedback from Collaborative members.

Use of Funds

- We understand that Centers may not be able to use all Tinker and matching funds allocated for field research this year and leave the decision to the discretion of Centers whether to deploy some unused funds to support remote/virtual research.
- Centers may roll over unused funds from the 2020-2021 academic year and, more generally, from any future academic year into the remainder of the five-year grant. We expect Centers to make reasonable efforts to fully expend the total award amount including matching funds by the grant end on December 31, 2025. Centers are still expected to report funds expended on an annual basis. Per the general Program Guidelines, awards may be used at any time during the year and are not limited to the summer months.

Guidance for Remote/Virtual Research (applicable for 2020-21 and 2021-22 academic years)

Given the unique challenges presented by the pandemic, Tinker and matching grant funds may be awarded to students for remote/virtual research activities when in-person travel is not safe or feasible. For these specific cases, individual awards for remote/virtual research may fall below the general minimum of $1,000 per student.

Students and Centers should follow all university and IRB policies in determining the viability and appropriateness of travel and field-based research, as well as in designing and implementing any remote research activities. The remote/virtual research costs listed below may be funded under the TFRC without prior approval from Tinker:

- Access to digital resources such as archives, subscriptions, etc.
- Access to primary documents such as books, subscriptions, etc.
- Software required for research
- Hardware equipment, not to exceed $200
- Transcription, translation, and interpretation services
- Compensation for local collaborators at the field research site (Note: such arrangements must follow university and other applicant guidelines, and reflect relevant ethical and health / safety measures)
- Connectivity (internet access, phone cards, etc.) for local researcher collaborators, research partner organizations, or field sites

In general, awards should not be used for stipends or living expenses. However, Tinker will consider requests in the cases of extenuating student circumstances.

Centers should reach out to Avi Richman (arichman@tinker.org) with any questions on these guidelines.