



2008 Call for proposals
Thought leadership, Evidence-based thinking, Policy
advice

Information note on

Research Fellowship
in Combat Poverty for Six Months

December 2007

Part 1: Poverty Research Initiative

Combat Poverty is the lead public body for promoting research on poverty. It has developed the **Poverty Research Initiative** to support independent, policy-relevant research, with the twin aims of promoting public understanding of poverty and informing the development of policy frameworks to tackle poverty, especially the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016. It aims to provide thought leadership, inform evidence-based thinking and offer policy advice for relevant stakeholders.

In 2008 the Poverty Research Initiative will continue to fund a range of research awards, fellowships and postgraduate internships, as well as provide funding for promotional events to disseminate research findings and facilitate exchanges of learning. Those preparing proposals for Poverty Research Initiative funding should be aware of new deadlines for applications.

The outputs of the research are published online as research working papers (see www.combatpovertypublications.ie). Authors may also be asked to contribute to supporting publications and to present at Combat Poverty research seminars.

2008 Call for proposals

Proposals are now invited from qualified individuals and organisations under the following funding strands:

- **Research Awards** (for researchers in third-level institutions and not-for-profit organisations)
- **Research Promotion Events** (to facilitate the public dissemination of research findings from PRI-funded projects through regional or national level events)

The separate Research Promotion Events fund, for small or large-scale events, is also available to promote research findings of PRI-funded work.

The call for proposals for other Poverty Research Initiative funding strands will be made in January 2008. This information note relates to the **research fellowship in Combat Poverty for six months**. Separate notes on the other strands are available on the website www.combatpoverty.ie/research .

Part 2: Research Fellowship in Combat Poverty for Six Months

The Research Fellowship in Combat Poverty will replace the Senior Research Internship strand of the Poverty Research Initiative, and will seek qualified individuals with post-graduate qualifications, at any level.

The Research Fellowship supports qualified social researchers who have some employment experience, post-graduate qualification or are completing / have completed a doctorate. The focus of the Fellowship is to undertake a 6-month study on an aspect of poverty using the EU Survey of Income and Living Conditions or other national data sources.

Research priorities

A number of research priorities have been identified for the 2008 work programme. The priorities reflect Combat Poverty's strategic objectives and national policy priorities for tackling poverty and social exclusion.

- Using EU SILC data to analyse and measure specific aspects of poverty, or the prevalence of poverty among social groups
- Exploring the links between atypical/low-paid work and poverty
- Exploring the links between educational disadvantage and poverty, particularly the role of investment in quality services and its impact, or the costs of education at primary and secondary level
- Identifying and clarifying the role of new forms of rights-based 'activation' (e.g. active citizenship) to address poverty and related concerns
- Exploring public perceptions of and attitudes to poverty in the current Irish economic and social context
- Exploring the links between poverty and the social determinants of health, particularly in terms of poor health outcomes
- Exploring the rural dimensions of poverty, especially to identify gaps in understanding and inform policy developments.

Proposals would also be welcome if they contribute to the evidence base and/or inform policy developments in relation to:

- new and emerging forms of poverty, especially those relating to consumption
- policy and/or service delivery aspects of the developmental welfare state and life cycle approaches
- and/or effectiveness of anti-poverty and social inclusion policies.

Further information on Combat Poverty and its work is available from its website (www.combatpoverty.ie). Information on national policy priorities is also available from the Office of Social Inclusion (see www.socialinclusion.ie).

Eligibility

Research fellows should have a post-graduate qualification in social research or social/economic policy. In addition, applicants should

- have social research experience and/or
- are completing or have completed a PhD

Funding

The research fellowship is tenable for a six month period. The value of the fellowship is €16,500 gross. The start and end dates of the fellowship are subject to agreement with Combat Poverty. The place of work is the Combat Poverty Agency office in Dublin. Holders will be employed on the basis of a fixed term contract with Combat Poverty, subject to its general terms and conditions of employment.

Reporting

Research Fellows are expected to complete a research study, for publication as a Combat Poverty research working paper. An article on the research (900 words) will be written for Combat Poverty's *Action on Poverty Today* magazine. All work undertaken while on the fellowship and any subsequent publication should acknowledge the support of Combat Poverty. It is also requisite for holders to present their findings at a Combat Poverty research seminar. They may also carry out duties or contribute to the research outputs as part of their assistance with Combat Poverty's research programme.

Applications

Applications must be completed on the official application form, available from our website www.combatpoverty.ie/research. Applicants must also provide an official **College Transcript** (not a photocopy) of their results. This is not returnable. Applications (including the relevant application form and information on two referees) should be emailed to research@combatpoverty.ie or posted (unbound) to the Combat Poverty Agency, Bridgewater Centre, Conyngham Road, Dublin 8. The closing date for receipt of applications is **5pm on Friday, 29 February, 2008**. All applications will be acknowledged, however, late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Assessment

Applications for the research fellowship will be assessed on a competitive basis. Applications will initially be assessed by staff within Combat Poverty's research section and selected candidates will then be short-listed for interview. The criteria for assessing applications and interviews include candidates:

- academic qualifications;
- training and experience in social research skills;
- interest in poverty issues and policy as it relates to poverty;
- familiarity with computer software packages e.g. word, excel, N-Vivo, SPSS;
- ability to benefit from internship and contribute to added value of the research programme.

Research ethics

Applicants for research internship should reflect a commitment to high ethical standards in the research. Applications should display an appreciation of the difficulties arising in conducting research on poverty. In particular, the vulnerability of people experiencing poverty should be respected when collecting sensitive information and the risk of stigmatising people in poverty when reporting on research should be minimised.

Further information

For further information and informal discussion about potential proposals, contact Joanne Mulholland at telephone: 01-6026633, email: research@combatpoverty.ie. See also www.combatpoverty.ie/research.