

GRANT PROPOSAL RECORD

Ruth Institute

ADDRESS:

663 S. Rancho Santa Fe Road, Suite 222
San Marcos, CA 92078

CONTACT:

Dr. Jennifer Roback Morse

AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$50,000

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: \$20,000

PROJECT TITLE: To support general operations

**BOARD MEMBERS AFFILIATED
WITH REQUEST:**

STAFF: Mike Hartmann

MEETING DATE: 2/23/2016

PROPOSAL ID#: 20151058

BACKGROUND: The Ruth Institute in San Marcos, Calif., requests a \$50,000 grant award in renewed support of its general operations.

The Ruth Institute was founded in 2008 by prominent pro-family economist, speaker, and author Jennifer Roback Morse. Its mission has been to promote the ideal of lifelong married love among college and university students and other young adults, but it has now broadened its focus to defending and promoting marriage and the family in the general public discourse.

Morse taught economics at Yale University and George Mason University for 15 years. She was a research fellow at Stanford University's Bradley-supported Hoover Institution from 1997 to 2005.

The Ruth Institute's core program used to be its annual It Takes a Family to Raise a Village (ITAF) conference -- an interfaith, interdisciplinary conference to educate students about the importance of marriage to society and in their own lives and help them become advocates for marriage on their campuses and inspire them to persevere in chastity.

Now, while Morse and the Ruth Institute still do work on campuses, she is using the organization as a place from which to speak and write about the deep, underlying causes of the current sexual and family chaos that so many people are experiencing in America. Her main thesis is that the Sexual Revolution has created millions of victims in its wake.

In many various ways, she is forcefully trying to rebut the idea that sex, marriage, and childbearing should, in the name of freedom, be separated from each other. That idea, she thinks, has been harmful -- and maybe most harmful to young women.

Morse went to the Vatican, for instance, during the weeks preceding last year's Synod on the Family to make that case, and she spoke at the Bradley-supported World Congress of Families. Ruth Institute associate director Jennifer Johnson spoke at the annual conference of the International Civil Rights Institute in France, as well.

Last year, Ruth created a series of short publications for 12 distinct groups of people harmed by the Sexual Revolution, including children of divorce and children of same-sex parents. Its other output includes YouTube videos, podcasts, and minute-long "Marriage Minutes" available to hear on its website.

Budget information: The Ruth Institute's expenses last year were approximately \$300,000.

The Ruth Institute's sources of philanthropic support have included the Burleigh Family, GFC, and Edgar and Elsa Prince Foundations -- again, Bradley allies all. They have also included the Apgar, Caritas, Casillas, Cummins Family, G. L. Connolly, Jacobs Family, Moran, and Gil and Dody Weaver Foundations, as well as the Eagle Forum Education and Legal Defense Fund.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Again, dating back to the September 2008 Bradley Working Group to Preserve and Strengthen Marriage and the Family, the Implementation & impact sector's Family & society component has constantly been concerned with the implications of severe legal and cultural challenges to the institutions of marriage and the family for the well-being, including the economic well-being, of all of those *in* families.

Morse and her Ruth Institute continue to try to help preserve and strengthen the very concepts of marriage and the family among those most hurt by attacks on the concepts.

While keeping a keen eye on whether she is able to better secure appearances in places where her desired audiences might be more likely to hear her message, staff thus recommends a \$20,000 general-operations grant to the Ruth Institute. If awarded, this would be the same as last year's level of support.

Ruth Institute

Grant History

Project Title	Grant Amount	Approved	Fund
To support general operations	\$20,000	11/11/2014	Regular
Grand Totals (1 item)	\$20,000		