



**POVERTY SOLUTIONS**  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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**2016 JUNIOR FACULTY SMALL GRANTS COMPETITION**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**RESEARCH ON STRATEGIES TO PREVENT AND ALLEVIATE POVERTY**

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**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSAL: Friday, December 2, 2016 - 5 PM EST**

**Purpose**

Poverty Solutions at the University of Michigan announces a grant funding opportunity for junior faculty at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor Campus, to pursue research projects focused on informing strategies that seek to prevent and alleviate poverty. Up to 5 awards of up to \$20,000 each will be given for self-contained research projects or as seed funding that may be leveraged to pursue larger external awards.

**Background**

Poverty Solutions is a new inter-disciplinary initiative at the University of Michigan that seeks to foster research that informs, identifies and tests strategies for preventing and alleviating poverty. This request for proposals seeks to support junior faculty research that can inform existing policies, practices, or interventions meant to reduce poverty, or research that lays out proposals for future policy directions. Projects using either qualitative or quantitative data sources are eligible for funding. We do not anticipate supporting projects with new large-scale data collection unless conducted in combination with other sources of funding.

Examples of possible projects for funding include (but are not limited to):

- Secondary quantitative data analysis that informs or examines poverty policy
- Simulations of the effects of proposed policy alternatives
- A small-scale evaluation of a pilot or existing intervention that seeks to prevent or alleviate poverty
- A project that explores how recipients experience anti-poverty programs at the local, state or federal level
- Projects that examine how contextual factors can shape the utilization of existing or proposed interventions, programs, or policies that seek to prevent and alleviate poverty

**Terms of Funding**

The following terms apply:

1. Applicants for this Poverty Solutions grant must hold a junior faculty appointment (assistant professor or assistant research scientist) at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor Campus. Preference will be given to applicants with full-time academic appointments and those using new approaches and innovative research methods.
2. Grants must begin no later than February 1, 2017. Grants will end January 31, 2018. A final report will be due no later than February 15, 2018.
3. Funding may be used for faculty time, research assistance, and research related expenses.

### **Selection Criteria**

Applications will be evaluated by senior scholars affiliated with Poverty Solutions. Proposals will be evaluated based upon several factors, including:

- The quality of the research design, including the appropriate research methodology;
- The feasibility of the proposed study to be completed during the funding period;
- The degree to which the study builds knowledge that informs the understanding of interventions, programs, or policies that seek to prevent or alleviate poverty.
- Preference will be given for projects with inter-disciplinary collaborations. This might take the form of participation by a senior scholar mentor from another unit or discipline than the principal investigator.

### **Application Instructions**

Applicants should submit their proposal via email to [povertysolutions@umich.edu](mailto:povertysolutions@umich.edu). Proposals must be received by **5 PM Eastern Standard Time on Friday December 2, 2016**. The proposal should be submitted as a single PDF file that includes the following elements in the order listed below:

1. A cover sheet with:
  - The title of the proposed research
  - Investigator names, units, campus (or non-campus) address, email addresses, phone and fax numbers
  - If the proposed research involves more than one investigator, a principal investigator (PI) must be identified. All correspondence will be with the PI.
2. A one-page, double-spaced abstract describing the study's specific aims, data and methods, and relevance of the project to informing strategies to prevent and alleviate poverty.
3. A project narrative of 6 double-spaced pages (excluding figures and references). The narrative should (1) describe the specific aims of the study, (2) **very** briefly summarize the relevant literature, (3) present major hypotheses, (4) describe the research design, proposed methodology and data sources, and (5) indicate how the proposed project will build knowledge that will

inform interventions, programs and policies that seek to prevent and alleviate poverty. Long literature reviews should not be submitted. Please place emphasis on items (3), (4) and (5).

4. An itemized budget and a budget narrative that explains each line item.

Please detail each funding item requested. Appropriate research expenses include:

- Research assistance. Support of students is strongly encouraged
- Funds to support data collection and analysis (such as transcription or fees to access data)
- Investigator time (up to the equivalent of 1 summer month)
- Research-related travel

5. A project timeline listing specific milestones for study completion. The timeline must be within the period from February 1, 2017 through January 31, 2018.

6. *Curriculum vitae* for all investigators.

7. Human subjects review approval (often a waiver in the case of secondary data analysis) is required for all projects before funding can be dispersed.

**Timeline of Important Dates**

Deadline for Receipt of Proposals .....	December 2, 2016
Notification of Award .....	January 16, 2017
Project Start Date.....	February 1, 2017
Detailed Mid-Way Progress Report Due.....	July 30, 2017
Project End Date.....	January 31, 2018
Final Report Due.....	February 15, 2018

**Contact Information**

Direct questions to: [povertysolutions@umich.edu](mailto:povertysolutions@umich.edu)