
**2020 FACULTY GRANTS COMPETITION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CONFRONTING AND COMBATING RACISM**

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSAL: AUGUST 21, 2020

Purpose

The Center for Social Solutions, in partnership with Poverty Solutions at the University of Michigan (U-M), announces a grant funding opportunity for faculty at University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Dearborn and Flint campuses to pursue action-based research aimed at ending systemic and institutional racism in forms including systemic oppression, organizational exclusion, institutional discrimination, neglectful policy, and violence against the minds, bodies and cultures of people of color. We anticipate making five (5) to seven (7) awards ranging from \$10,000 up to \$50,000. A faculty member must serve as a Principal Investigator. Partnerships with faculty across multiple campuses are strongly encouraged, as are projects with community partners.

Funding for this RFP has been provided by Poverty Solutions, the Center for Social Solutions, the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, the School of Engineering, the Ford School of Public Policy, the Law School, the Provost's office, and the School of Social Work. This request for proposals is part of a larger, university-wide commitment to fund scholarship, teaching, and service initiatives related to racial equity. Announcements about other funding opportunities will be made at a later date.

Background

The Center for Social Solutions (CSS) promotes academic research and social policy that serves the common good in four areas: the interplay between diversity and democracy, the connection of the history of slavery to our present, fair access to water, and the future of work. By connecting rigorous scholarship from the University of Michigan and other universities to the world, CSS offers concrete, tangible solutions to real problems, promotes the common good, and strengthens our national community. Poverty Solutions is an interdisciplinary initiative at the University of Michigan that seeks to find new ways to prevent and alleviate poverty in Michigan, the nation and the world.

This request for proposals seeks to support research projects that would bring new knowledge on important topics related to confronting racism at the institutional level: at the university, in policing, criminal justice, and beyond. We are particularly interested in supporting projects whose results could be implemented at an institutional or systems level or would significantly inform policy change.

We seek to proactively and positively address present day patterns of discrimination and encourage a diverse pool of applicants from faculty at all stages of their career and individual partners from diverse racial, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. Community-academic partnerships are encouraged and may include local, county, or state governments, police departments, court systems, and/or high-impact nonprofits or community-based organizations.

Examples of potential projects include (but are not limited to):

- analysis of new or existing data that inform or examine the effects of anti-racist policy initiatives
- a historical analysis of the roots in racism of current policies or institutions with an eye toward addressing these roots in current policy and practice
- evaluations of anti-racist policies, programs or training initiatives

Terms of Funding and Eligibility Criteria

The following terms apply:

1. Applicants for this grant must hold an active U-M faculty appointment on an Ann Arbor, Dearborn or Flint campus. Preference will be given to junior faculty.
2. Grants will begin October 1, 2020. Grants will end September 20, 2021. A midway progress report and presentation is due no later than May 15, 2021. A final report is due no later than October 31, 2021.
3. Funding may be used for faculty time, research assistance, research related expenses, community engagement, and dissemination.
4. Project teams are strongly encouraged to publish and disseminate results. Published products may include policy briefs, fact sheets, media stories, videos, working papers, public presentations, grant proposals, syllabi or peer-reviewed articles.

Selection Criteria

Senior scholars affiliated with the Center for Social Solutions and Poverty Solutions will evaluate applications. Proposals are evaluated against several factors, including:

- the degree to which the project builds knowledge that informs the understanding of interventions, programs, or policies that seek to confront or combat racism;
- the quality of the research design, including appropriate research methodologies;
- the feasibility of the proposed study to be completed during the funding period; and
- preference will be given for projects with interdisciplinary or multi-campus collaborations, to projects that engage a community partner, such as a non-profit organization or a public agency, and to projects that include U-M students.

Application Instructions

Applicants should submit their proposal via email to povertysolutions@umich.edu. **Proposals must be received by 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time on August 21, 2020.** 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 project
 - Faculty names and departmental affiliations to include mailing addresses, email addresses, phone, and fax numbers
 - Contact information for your department's grant manager or financial administrator; and
 - A lead corresponding faculty member/principal investigator (PI) must be identified. This person will be treated as the primary point of contact
2. A one-page, double-spaced abstract describing the projects specific aims, data and methods (where applicable), and relevance of the project to confronting and combating racism. Explicitly connect the project to future intervention, program or policy implications.
3. A project narrative of five (5) double-spaced pages (excluding figures and references). The narrative should include sections that:
 - a. describe the specific aims of the project (1/2 page)
 - b. **very** briefly summarize the relevant literature (1 page)
 - c. present major project objectives (1/2 page)
 - d. describe research design, proposed methods and data sources (1.5 pages)
 - e. indicate how the proposed project will build knowledge that will inform interventions programs and policies that seek to confront and combat racism (1 page), and
 - f. describe how results will be disseminated (1/2 page)
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)
 - Data collection and analysis (such as transcription or fees to access data)
 - Investigator time (up to the equivalent of 1 summer month)
 - Research/training-related travel
 - Consultants or partners time
5. A project timeline listing specific milestones for project completion. The timeline must be within the grant period described below.
6. *Curriculum vitae* for all investigators.
7. A letter of support/commitment from a U-M department, specifically accepting administrative responsibility for managing the grant.
8. Letter of support from any partner organization that specifies their interest and commitment to engage in a collaborative project.
9. Human subjects review approval (often a waiver in the case of secondary data analysis) is required for all research projects before funding is dispersed.

Timeline of Important Dates

Deadline for Receipt of Proposals	August 21, 2020
Notification of Award	September 18, 2020
Project Start Date	October 1, 2020
Mid-Way Progress Report and Presentation Due	May 15, 2021
Project End Date	September 20, 2021
Final Report Due	October 31, 2021

Contact Information

Direct questions to:

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