



**2017 COMMUNITY-ACADEMIC RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RESEARCH ON STRATEGIES TO PREVENT AND ALLEVIATE POVERTY IN
MICHIGAN**

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSAL: Monday, November 13, 2017 – 11:59 PM EST

Purpose

Poverty Solutions at the University of Michigan and the Detroit Community-Academic Urban Research Center (Detroit URC) announce a grant funding opportunity for collaborations between academic researchers at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor Campus, and community-based partners throughout the State of Michigan. These grants will support research focused on evaluating and strengthening interventions, programs and policies in the State of Michigan that seek to prevent and alleviate poverty. Up to four (4) awards of up to \$30,000 each will be given to undertake research that is collaboratively developed by community and academic partners.

Background

Poverty Solutions is an inter-disciplinary initiative at the University of Michigan (U-M) that seeks to find new ways to prevent and alleviate poverty in Michigan, the nation and the world. The Detroit URC is a community-based participatory research (CBPR) partnership that equitably involves community-based and health services organizations in Detroit and academic researchers at the University of Michigan. The overall goal of the Detroit URC is to promote and support collaborative research aimed at understanding and addressing the social and physical environmental factors that contribute to health inequities.

Poverty Solutions and the Detroit URC are working in partnership to support collaborative research in the State of Michigan that:

- enhances knowledge of the efficacy of interventions, programs and policies for preventing and alleviating poverty;

- equitably involves community and academic partners in all aspects of the research process;
- recognizes the strengths that each brings to the partnership;
- promotes co-learning and capacity building of all partners; and
- benefits community and academic partners.

Projects can support activities such as:

- an evaluation of an existing intervention, program or policy designed to prevent or alleviate poverty;
- an analysis of new or existing data to better understand the effectiveness of, or to strengthen, poverty prevention and alleviation strategies (e.g., interventions, programs and policies);
- the development, implementation and preliminary evaluation of a new pilot program, or an adaptation of an existing program, aimed at preventing and alleviating poverty; and
- an assessment of community needs and strengths/resources that leads to the identification of new strategies for the prevention and alleviation of poverty.

Terms of Funding and Eligibility Criteria

The following terms apply:

1. Applications must be submitted by a team including at least one UM-Ann Arbor academic researcher and at least one community partner whose work addresses poverty in a Michigan community. Academic partners are defined as research professor, research scientist, and tenure track faculty. Community partners are defined as nonprofit community-based organizations, government agencies, federally qualified health centers, and health and human services agencies.
2. Grants will begin January 1, 2018. Grants will end December 31, 2018. A midway progress report will be due no later than July 13, 2018. A final report will be due no later than January 31, 2019.
3. During the first 1-2 months of the funding period (January/February 2018), academic and community partner teams will be required to attend a one-day session on community-academic collaborative research partnerships, facilitated by an academic-community team affiliated with the Detroit URC.
4. During the second quarter of the year-long grant period, academic and community partner teams will attend a second, one-day mentoring and peer-review workshop, facilitated by a community-academic team, addressing issues they identify related to their collaborative research projects.
5. In the month following the submission of the final report (February 2019), academic and community partner teams will attend a third, half-day session to share accomplishments

and lessons learned from the program, and obtain feedback from peers and a community-academic team.

6. Project teams are strongly encouraged to publish and disseminate results in the peer-reviewed literature and more broadly. Recognizing that different partnerships will be at different stages of development, teams are expected to share either a published product or a plan and timeline for publishing products at the February 2019 session. Published products may include: a paper submitted to the Poverty Solutions Working Paper Series; a presentation of results at a conference or academic forum; a grant proposal for continued funding related to the original project; or a peer-reviewed publication. Research teams are also strongly encouraged to disseminate results through policy briefs, community meetings, town hall meetings, fact sheets and local media outlets.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated by academic and community partners affiliated with the Detroit URC, Poverty Solutions, and other faculty and community partners with expertise in collaborative research and poverty prevention and alleviation. Proposals will be evaluated based upon several factors, including:

- the degree to which the study has the potential to build knowledge about the effectiveness of interventions, programs and policies seeking to reduce or alleviate poverty;
- the quality of the research/intervention design, including the appropriate research methodology;
- the feasibility of completion of the proposed project during the funding period;
- relevance of proposed effort to communities involved;
- extent and feasibility of community and academic partner involvement; and

Additional Criteria:

- While not a requirement, preference will be given to applications that meet the above criteria and incorporate U-M students into the project.

Application Instructions

Applicants should submit their proposal via email to detroiturc@umich.edu. **Proposals must be received by 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time on Monday, November 13, 2017.** 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
 - The academic researcher and community partner representative names and organizational affiliations with mailing addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers

- A lead corresponding principal investigator (PI) must be identified. This person will be treated as the primary point of contact.
 - Contact information for the PI's department grant manager or financial administrator who accepts administrative responsibility for managing the grant.
2. A one-page single-spaced abstract describing the project's specific aims, proposed methodology and data sources, and research, intervention, programmatic and/or policy significance toward reducing or alleviating poverty.
 3. A project narrative of no more than 7 double-spaced pages (excluding figures and references). The narrative should include sections that:
 - a. clearly describe specific aims and their research, intervention, programmatic and/or policy significance toward reducing or alleviating poverty (1 page),
 - b. briefly summarize the relevant literature (1 page),
 - c. present major hypotheses or research questions (1/2 page),
 - d. describe the research/intervention design, proposed methodology and data sources (2 pages),
 - e. describe extent of community involvement in identifying the focus and approach (1/2 page),
 - f. explain the proposed role of community partner(s) throughout the research process (1/2 page),
 - g. indicate how the proposed project will build knowledge about the efficacy of interventions, programs and/or policies that seek to address poverty (1 page), and
 - h. describe how results will be disseminated in the peer-review literature and more broadly (1/2 page).
 4. A one-page single-spaced description of: the experience and expertise that both community and academic partners bring to the project; the history, if any, that partners have collaborating in prior research; and the evidence of the feasibility to accomplish the proposed aims.
 5. An itemized budget and a budget narrative that explains each line item. At least 25% of funds need to be designated for community partner organization(s). The U-M school or unit of the academic research partner will serve as the fiduciary. Please detail each funding item requested. Appropriate expenses include:
 - Personnel (e.g., community and academic investigators, staff, student research assistants)
 - Consultants (e.g., stipends for community partner organization(s))
 - Project-related travel
 - Hosting (e.g., for community meetings/steering committee meetings)
 - Supplies, copying, printing

6. A project timeline listing specific milestones for study completion. The timeline must be within the period from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.
7. Curriculum vitae for all academic researchers. Biographies or resumes for all community partners.
8. A letter of support/commitment from each community partner organization involved which addresses the interest and commitment to engage in the proposed collaborative research effort.
9. 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	November 13, 2017
Notification of Award	December 18, 2017
Project Start Date	January 1, 2018
First Grantees Meeting	January/February 2018
Second Grantees Meeting	May/June 2018
Mid-Way Progress Report Due	July 13, 2018
Project End Date.....	December 31, 2018
Final Report Due	January 31, 2019
Third Grantees Meeting	February 2019

Contact Information

Direct questions to:

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