CALL FOR PROPOSALS

MSU RESEARCH TO ADVANCE INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND ACCESS

The Mississippi State University Office of Research and Economic Development and the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion are jointly issuing a special call for proposals for research that advances inclusion, diversity, equity, and access.

This funding opportunity is designed to support new research and creative activities in any discipline that contribute to understanding of racial equity. Projects proposed for this call must be innovative, new, or reflect a new application of existing research, and should contribute to the identification, study and/or remediation of identified factors that contribute to racism, bias, and inequities here at MSU and beyond our campus, including local communities, the state of Mississippi, and the nation. Scholarship from all disciplines and a wide variety of methodological traditions is appropriate for this program.

Scholarship funded by this program might address or be relevant to:
- Identification, study and remediation of identified factors that contribute to racism, bias and/or inequities.
- The complex relationship of issues of race as they intersect with identity, including gender, class, sexual orientation, and ability.
- Research that documents challenges and/or research that investigates action-based solutions.
- The student experience at MSU - to represent a step toward combatting racism and fostering a university culture based on equity and inclusion.
- Other topics consistent with the overall goal of understanding barriers to and advancing inclusion, diversity, equity, and access.

Eligibility:

Proposals may be submitted by any full time MSU faculty member. Each eligible faculty member (serving as PI) can only submit one proposal but can serve in other roles in up to two additional proposals. Visiting faculty and graduate students are not eligible to serve as PI but can serve in other roles.

Budget:

Projects may be funded for any amount up to $15,000.

Award period:

Proposals for this program are due by 5:00 PM on October 5, 2020. Projects must take place during the award period from November 1, 2020-October 31, 2021.

PROPOSAL REVIEW

All proposals received will be reviewed by an ad hoc committee of diverse faculty from different disciplines and representing multiple units at MSU. The Vice President for Research at MSU, in conjunction with the AVP for Multicultural Affairs, will have final approval for all projects funded by the call. All information submitted in a proposal will be treated as confidential.

Review Criteria

The panel members will score the proposals in the following categories (**25 points each**):

- **Focus/Need for the Research:** Does the theme/research area address a significant challenge in racial equity, inclusion, and/or access? Is the need for the research clearly and convincingly established?
- **Research Design:** Are the research goals and objectives well described? Are the goals and objectives the most appropriate to address the challenge? Are the milestones of the project appropriate and achievable in the time proposed? Is the research design appropriate for the research questions/goals and likely to generate new knowledge and insight? Is the budget aligned with the project goals and research design?
- **Potential for Significant Impact:** Are the benefits likely to lead to significant positive impact? How will the impact on the target audience be measured? Does the proposed research have the potential to inform or spark new programmatic efforts, strategies, or policies? What is the potential to produce and sustain long-term collaboration among the research team?
- **Personnel Expertise and Project Management:** Does the project team have the necessary expertise in the required fields? Does the project team have a sufficient level of commitment and expertise to execute the goals of the project? Does the team have sufficient support and resources to undertake the research? Does the PI have sufficient leadership experience? Does the project team possess the leadership required to carry the project to a competitive multi-investigator proposal at the national level? Is the team diverse, with all members making an intellectual contribution to the project? Do the budget and budget justification match the stated goals of the research?

What we will not fund:

This program is intended to support new research to address inclusion, diversity, equity, and access. This program will not fund add-ons to already funded work. Superficial, generic, or exploratory research will not be considered. Travel to conferences and workshops outside MSU is not eligible for support.

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GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION

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Proposals must be submitted by 5:00 PM on October 5, 2020 using the online form available at
https://www.research.msstate.edu/initiatives/internal-funding

Project Narrative:

Focus of Research and Problem Statement (500 words)
- What is the goal or objective of this research?
- What is the need for research in this area?
- What previous scholarship serves as the foundation for this study?
- Who or what is affected by the problem/challenge you have identified?

- How does the research connect to the program goals to advance inclusion, diversity, equity, and access?

Design of Research/Description of Plan (750 words)
- Provide a detailed explanation of the process/method you feel is best suited to address the challenge you have identified.
- What makes this the most valid approach at this time?

Milestones and Timelines (200 words)
- What are the key milestones that indicate you are making progress toward your goals?
- Provide a timeline on the accomplishment of the goals that will help reach your objective within the stated timeline (Nov 1, 2020-Oct 31, 2021). Describe how this award will allow you to reach your milestones.

Potential barriers to success (150 words)
- What are the potential risks of the approach you have chosen? Describe any barriers to the short- and long-term success of the project. How will you address them? Are there any deal breakers?

Outcomes of this project (200 words)
- Describe the outcomes and impact of your project for the team, MSU and/or society at large.
- What products will you create and what is the potential for significant impact?
- What is your plan for sharing your research both within and beyond the award period (e.g., publications, public scholarship such *as The Conversation,* potential future grant opportunities, potential new or improved programs, etc.)
- All teams must plan to present their research at a forum to be planned by ORED in the 2021-2022 school year, details TBD.

Qualifications of the PI or PIs (up to200 words)
- Explain the contributions of the PI and any other members of the research team, and why they are the best qualified to lead/accomplish the project. Explain the contribution of each of the participating faculty on the team; and why this problem needs a team approach.

Additional Documents

Abbreviated CV(s)
- Attach a 2-page (maximum) resume/CV/biosketch for each faculty member involved in the project.
- Please include all current and pending support for research and scholarship in your field of expertise.

References
- Upload as a separate document

Budget
- Upload a one-page detailed budget (e.g., an Excel file or a table)
- The total budget must not exceed $15,000.
- The budget may include all normally allowable direct costs of research, excluding travel to conferences.
- Salary, including summer salary, is an allowable expense within the budget limit.
- There are no Indirect Costs associated with these awards.
- No extensions will be given. Unused funds will remain in ORED.

- Funds will be cost-reimbursable. Funds will be returned to the unit when the final report has been submitted and approved.

Budget Justification
- Provide a budget justification briefly explaining the reason for the expense and how the expense will help you achieve the goals of the project.

Administrator Assurance
- Upload a PDF of a letter or email from a department head, center director, or other appropriate administrator confirming unit support for the project and budget and that the project can be implemented if an award is made.

POST-AWARD REPORTING AND FALL FORUM

- PIs who receive project awards from this call will be required to submit a comprehensive final report at the end of the project period with milestones achieved. A report template will be sent to the PIs prior to the reporting due dates.
- Additionally, if there is a change in the PI, proposed project plan, or execution of the project, a formal request is needed. A one-page justification that explains the rationale for the change will be sufficient.
- All teams must plan to present their research at a forum to be planned by ORED in Fall of 2021

QUESTIONS

Questions about this call for proposals may be addressed to Devon Brenner at
devon@research.msstate.edu