POVERTY SOLUTIONS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

FACULTY GRANTS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RESEARCH ON STRATEGIES TO PREVENT AND ALLEVIATE POVERTY

Purpose

Poverty Solutions at the University of Michigan (U-M) announces an **open** grant funding opportunity for faculty at U-M Ann Arbor, Dearborn and Flint campuses to pursue research projects focused on strategies to address poverty with effective, real-world solutions. Annually, five (5) awards of $20,000 each are available for research projects or as seed funding to leverage larger external awards. A faculty member must serve as a Principal Investigator and partnerships with faculty across multiple campuses are strongly encouraged.

Background

Poverty Solutions is a university-wide, interdisciplinary initiative at U-M that seeks to find new ways to prevent and alleviate poverty in Michigan, the nation, and the world. We view poverty as the result of interlinked systems —housing, education, criminal justice, labor markets — that fail to function equitably for all. These systems failures are often the manifestation of deeply embedded structural discrimination, particularly structural racism. To promote systems change, we must identify and confront the disparities that result from this legacy and seek just solutions that ensure equitable access to opportunity and resources. Such a systems approach puts the emphasis on structural, rather than individual, causes of poverty, seeking evidence-based strategies to intervene in systems in ways that empower people to live healthy and productive lives.

This request for proposals seeks to support 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. Examples of potential projects 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;
- explorations of how recipients experience anti-poverty programs at the local, state orfederal level; and
- examinations of how contextual factors can shape the use of existing or proposed interventions, programs, or policies that seek to prevent and alleviate poverty.

Terms of Funding and Eligibility Criteria

The following terms apply:

- Applicants must hold a U-M faculty or a research active lecturer appointment on an Ann Arbor, Dearborn or Flint campus. Faculty appointments are defined as research professor, research scientist, and tenure track appointments. Preference will be given to junior faculty and to applicants using new approaches and innovative research methods.
- Grants are generally for a 12-month period. Midway and final reports are due at six and thirteen months.
- Funding may cover faculty time, research assistance, and research related expenses.
- Project teams are strongly encouraged to include plans in this proposal to publish and disseminate results in peer-reviewed literature and more broadly. Published products may include: 1) a paper submitted to the Poverty Solutions Working Paper Series, 2) a presentation of results at a conference or academic forum, 3) a grant proposal for continued funding related to the original project, or 4) a peer-reviewed publication. Research teams are also encouraged to plan dissemination of results through policy briefs, community meetings, town hall meetings, fact sheets and local media outlets.

Selection Criteria

Senior scholars affiliated with Poverty Solutions evaluate applications against several factors, including:

- the degree to which the study builds knowledge that informs the understanding of interventions, programs, or policies that seek to prevent or alleviate poverty;
- the quality of the research design and suitability of research methodologies;
- the degree to which the study acknowledges the connections between poverty and racial equity, and/or explicitly aims to advance racial equity;
- the feasibility of the proposed study to be completed during the funding period;
- the incorporation of interdisciplinary collaborations featuring a combination of primary investigators, scholars and mentors from different disciplines or academic units;
- the extent to which projects are informed by engagement with non-academic stakeholders (e.g. conversations with policymakers and community members with lived experiences of poverty or the review of qualitative research studies authored by service providers); and
- plans to disseminate results to peer and public audiences.

Additional Criteria

While not a requirement, preference goes to applications that meet the above criteria with one or two additional criteria:

- incorporate U-M students into the project; and
- include multi-campus (i.e. Ann Arbor, Flint, Dearborn) research teams.

Application Instructions

Submit proposal as a single PDF, including sections in the order listed, to **PSGrantSubmissions@umich.edu**.

1. A cover sheet with:
   a. The title of the proposed research project;
   b. A principal investigator (PI) who will serve as the primary point of contact;
   c. Researcher names, department affiliations, mailing addresses, email addresses and phone numbers; and
   d. Name and contact information for your department grant manager or financial administrator.
2. A one-page, double-spaced abstract describing the project specific aims, data and methods, and relevance for informing strategies of poverty alleviation and prevention. Explicitly connect research to future intervention, program, policy and racial equity implications.
3. A project narrative of up to seven (7) double-spaced pages (excluding figures and references). The narrative should include sections that:
   a. describe the specific aims of the study and what motivated the research question(s)(1 page);
   b. very briefly summarize the relevant literature (1 page);
   c. briefly speak to how the legacy of racism or other forms of structural discrimination are addressed by this study (1 page);
   d. present major hypotheses or research questions (1/2 page);
   e. describe research or intervention design, proposed methodology and data sources (2 pages);
   f. indicate how the project builds knowledge that informs interventions, programs and policies, including, if applicable, a discussion of the extent to which the project advances racial equity and elucidates a systems approach (1 page); and
   g. describe how results will be disseminated to primary audiences (1/2 page).

   NOTE: Do not submit long literature reviews; place emphasis on items (3.c), (3.d) and (3.e).

4. An itemized budget and narrative explaining and detailing each line item. Appropriate expenses include:
   a. Research assistance;
   b. Data collection and analysis such as transcription or data purchase;
   c. Investigator time (up to the equivalent of 1 summer month);
   d. Research-related travel; and
   e. Communications expenses.
5. A timeline listing specific project milestones.
6. *Curriculum vitae* for all investigators. Please include any contributions you have made to fostering a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive space for work or learning.
7. A letter of support and commitment from a U-M department accepting administrative responsibility for managing the grant.
8. An approved human subjects review or waiver.

Contact Information:

Direct questions to **PSGrantSubmissions@umich.edu**