POVERTY SOLUTIONS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

2022 DOCTORAL GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH ASSISTANT (GSRA) AWARDS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RESEARCH ON STRATEGIES TO PREVENT AND ALLEVIATE POVERTY

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF AWARDS: Friday, March 11, 2022 - 11:59 PM EST

Purpose

Poverty Solutions at the University of Michigan (U-M) announces a Graduate Student Research Assistant funding opportunity for doctoral students at the U-M Ann Arbor campus to pursue research projects in collaboration with a faculty mentor that seek to contribute to efforts aimed at preventing and alleviating poverty in Michigan, the nation and the world. Research that can inform existing policies, practices and interventions or inform future policy directions are strongly encouraged. We seek to fund several GSRA positions for exceptionally creative, action-based and impactful projects and encourage a range of applicants from students from diverse racial, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. Members of groups historically under-represented in academia are strongly encouraged to apply.

Examples include (but are not limited to):
- Quantitative and qualitative data analysis that better informs our understanding of 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 local, state or federal anti-poverty programs
- projects that examine how contextual factors can shape the utilization of existing or proposed anti-poverty interventions, programs, or policies

Background

Poverty Solutions is an interdisciplinary initiative at the University of Michigan that aims to become a leader in informing, identifying and testing new strategies for the prevention and alleviation of poverty in Michigan, the nation and the world. While rooted in an understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty, the focus of Poverty Solutions is an action-based research agenda. Poverty Solutions partners with community and policy makers to carry out its work and seeks to confront and eliminate racism and all kinds of barriers to wealth through its research priorities and practical engagement.

Terms of Funding

1. Projects should be designed in collaboration or close sponsorship with a faculty member who will supervise the GSRA's work.
2. Applicants may apply for a GSRA position to begin spring/summer 2022, fall 2022 or winter term

2023. Proposals are funded for one funding term based on the timeline request in the proposal. Changes to the funding term once award decisions are made are typically not permitted.

3. Awards include a stipend of $11,598 and candidacy tuition for fall/winter GSRAs. Post-Ph.D. candidate GSRAs and spring/summer GSRAs (unless defending dissertation in the fall) usually do not require classes and therefore should not need tuition coverage.
4. GradCare health and dental insurance will be provided during the award period for those who qualify.
5. A final report will be due on the last day of the semester
6. A research stipend of up to $1,000 may be requested for overall research related expenses.
7. Candidates are expected to disclose any potential or expected other sources of GSRA support for the project during the funding cycle (Spring 2022-Winter 2023). Other sources of support will not impact your chances of selection for this award.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Students must have advanced to candidacy by the Rackham Office of Academic Records by the start of the award term and be actively working on dissertation research and writing
2. A faculty mentor must serve as supervisor to the doctoral student and oversee all project activities
3. Preference will be given to applicants using new approaches and innovative research methods

Selection Criteria

1. The degree to which the proposed project builds knowledge that informs the understanding of interventions, programs, or policies that seek to prevent or alleviate poverty
2. The quality of the research design, including appropriate methodologies and dissemination strategy
3. The feasibility of the proposed study to be completed during the award period
4. Perspectives of the supporting faculty as gained from the letter of commitment
5. Results of early research or scholarship in graduate studies, as represented through publication, presentation, or other scholarly products such as websites, performances, exhibitions, etc.
6. Preference will be given to projects that aim to engage with other units, disciplines, community leaders or policy decision-makers
7. The selection committee strives to fund a diverse set of recipients representing the breadth of disciplinary backgrounds of U-M doctoral programs. Members of groups historically under-represented in academia are strongly encouraged to apply.

Application Instructions

Submit proposals to PSGrantSubmissions@umich.edu **by 11:59 PM EST on Friday, March 11, 2022** as a single PDF file that includes the below elements in the order listed. Applicants will be notified of a decision in early April 2022. Direct questions to Armeka Richey at PSGrantSubmissions@umich.edu.

1. A cover sheet with:
   ● The title of the proposed research project and brief abstract (150 words)
   ● Faculty member's name, title, email and department
   ● Doctoral student's name, email, program and departmental affiliations, expected graduation date and degree type
   ● Contact information for home department's financial administrator
2. A project narrative that describes the specific aims of the project, data methods and relevance of the project to informing strategies to prevent and alleviate poverty. Indicate how the proposed project will build knowledge to inform real-world program or policy impact on the prevention and alleviation of poverty and a plan for how results will be disseminated (3 pages).

3. A work plan and timeline listing milestones for project completion within the appropriate one-semester period from May 3, 2022, through April 18, 2023 (1 page). Please list the name and funding period for any potential or expected other sources of GSRA funding for the project during the funding cycle (Spring 2022-Winter 2023).
4. If requesting a research budget, an itemized budget and brief narrative for each line item (1 page)
5. A letter of commitment from a U-M faculty member who agrees to oversee the project and provide supervision to the doctoral GSRA. The letter should comment on the student's overall performance, expected time to degree, and feasibility of accomplishing the proposed project.
6. Doctoral student's current curriculum vitae