



**FACULTY GRANTS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RESEARCH ON STRATEGIES TO PREVENT AND ALLEVIATE POVERTY
Announcement: February 2026**

Purpose

Poverty Solutions at the University of Michigan (U-M) announces an open grant funding opportunity for faculty at University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Dearborn, and Flint campuses to pursue research projects focused on strategies to address poverty with effective, real-world solutions. This year we anticipate awarding up to a total of \$200,000. The number and size of awards will vary depending on the value of the proposed work. Most grants will range from \$20,000 to \$30,000, but we will consider grants up to \$50,000 if there is a strong justification for this higher amount. Grant awards 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.

Poverty Solutions is an inter-disciplinary 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 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. We do not anticipate supporting projects with new, large-scale data collection unless conducted in combination with other sources of 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;
- a project that explores how recipients experience anti-poverty programs at the local, state or federal level; and
- projects that examine how contextual factors can shape the utilization 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:

1. Applicants for this Poverty Solutions grant must hold a U-M faculty appointment on an Ann Arbor, Dearborn or Flint campus. Faculty are research professors, research scientists, and

tenure track faculty. Preference will be given to junior faculty and to applicants using new approaches and innovative research methods. Preference will also go to those faculty who haven't been granted an award from Poverty Solutions in the last two years. Grants are generally for a 12-month period. Midway and final reports are due at six and thirteen months.

2. Funding covers faculty time, research assistance, and research-related expenses.
3. 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 required to plan dissemination of results through policy briefs, community meetings, town hall meetings, fact sheets and local media outlets. The Poverty Solutions communications and public engagement team can provide support with this.

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 feasibility of the proposed study to be completed during the funding period;
- inter-disciplinary collaborations. Collaborations feature a combination of primary investigators, scholars and mentors from several disciplines or different academic units;
- degree to which the budget is feasible for the stated goals and aligned with realistic assumptions for the funds available; and
- plans to disseminate results to peer and public audiences.

As Additional Criteria: While not a requirement, preference goes to applications meeting the above criteria with one or two additional criteria:

- incorporate U-M students into the project,
- include multi-campus research teams.

Timeline

Announcement Made	February 2, 2026
Applications Due	March 13, 2026
Decisions Announced	Mid April 2026

Application Instructions

Applicants submit proposals by email to PSGrantSubmissions@umich.edu. Submit the proposal as a single PDF, including sections in the order listed:

1. A cover sheet with:
 - The title of the proposed research project;

- A principal investigator (PI). The PI serves as the project primary point of contact,
 - Researcher names and department affiliations to include mailing addresses, email addresses, phone, and
 - Contact information for your department's grant manager or financial administrator.
2. A one-page, double-spaced abstract describing the study's specific aims, data and methods, and the project's relevance for informing strategies of poverty alleviation and prevention. Explicitly connect research to future intervention, program or policy implications.
 3. A project narrative of six (6) double-spaced pages (excluding figures and references). The narrative should include sections that:
 - a. describe the specific aims of the study (1 page),
 - b. very briefly summarize the relevant literature (1 page),
 - c. present major hypotheses or research questions (1/2 page),
 - d. describe research or intervention design, proposed methodology and data sources (2 pages),
 - e. indicate how the project builds knowledge that informs interventions, programs and policies (1 page), and
 - f. describe how results will be disseminated to primary audiences (1/2 page).

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

4. An itemized budget and narrative explaining and detailing each line item. Appropriate expenses include:
 - Research assistance
 - Data collection and analysis, such as transcription or data purchase
 - Investigator time (up to the equivalent of 1 summer month)
 - Research-related travel
 - Communications expenses
5. A timeline listing specific project milestones.
6. *Curriculum vitae* for all investigators.
7. A letter of support and commitment from a U-M department accepting administrative responsibility for managing the grant.
8. Note: No funds can be awarded until all human subjects issues are addressed and approved by the appropriate IRB (or waived)

Contact Information and other information

Direct questions to: PSGrantSubmissions@umich.edu

Here are some examples of previously funded work: <https://poverty.umich.edu/research-funding-opportunities/faculty-grant-awards/>