

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

Racial Justice and Equity Research Fund

Purpose:

The University of South Carolina is committed to ending racial injustice, racism and discrimination while promoting racial equity and racial justice throughout society. The Office of the Vice President for Research, working in collaboration with the Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, has created a new program to support research that centers on race, racial justice and racial equity, through ASPIRE Program funds. By empowering our world-class faculty, the University of South Carolina aims to promote real and lasting racial justice in our local community, our state and our nation.

Eligibility and Funding:

These funds will be available to all faculty across our UofSC system to address racial equity and justice issues in a variety of ways. Research needs to be conducted within any current constraints of the university's phased re-opening plan. Principal Investigators may only submit one proposal to this competition.

Research should represent promising directions for deepening or expanding understandings of the myriad ways race, racism and racial prejudice function in society and explicate substantive advancements for racial equity or racial justice. Projects should be focused domestically. Funds from this initiative may be used to organize conferences or meetings provided that the purpose of these is to generate information on effective practices and gather innovative ideas. Proposals from solo investigators will be considered though collaborative, multi-unit projects are strongly encouraged. Typical awards will be in the range of \$10,000 to \$15,000; larger infrastructure awards will be considered, contingent upon available funding.

Proposal Preparation: Please use 11-point font and .5-inch margins. The following needs to be assembled into a single PDF file:

1. **Title Page:** Lead investigator name and home unit/department; names and units of any other key personnel involved; a 100-word abstract that includes the research problem, significance, approach/methods, and broader social impact of the project. Please note, the abstracts for all funded projects may be published on the Office of the Vice President for Research website.
2. **Research Strategy:** Must be no longer than three pages, including background, significance and innovation, and overall research design (including the demonstration of the need for such data and human subjects' protocol, where appropriate). Please address theoretical, methodological and/or applied benefits that might be realized from the project. Clearly articulate how the project addresses racist beliefs, norms, discourses, practices, policies and/or structures, and promotes racial justice and/or equity. Suggested timelines for the project should range from 6 months to one year.
3. **Budget:** Grants will be funded through the ASPIRE program, in the range of \$10,000 to \$15,000. Please adhere to the following budgetary guidelines:
 - Faculty salary support should be minimal

- If students are involved, either graduate or undergraduate, address how they might participate in the work remotely
 - Limited travel is allowable, but current UofSC guidelines for travel must be followed: https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/research/docs/faculty_and_staff_memo-travel_advisory.pdf
 - Laptops and desktop computers are not allowable expenses
 - Food is not allowable
 - A budget justification must be included
4. **Appendices:** Current CV (**two pages maximum**) that details relevant qualifications and publications, including current and pending support. No other appendices are allowable.

Proposal Due Date: This competition will have a rolling deadline. Proposals should be submitted through USCeRA (<http://sam.research.sc.edu/uscera>) at any time between July 15, 2020 and September 30, 2020. Please select “Internal Request: VP for Research” and choose the **Racial Justice and Equity Research Fund** category type from the dropdown box in USCeRA to ensure proper routing of proposals. The proposal must be a single PDF file.

Application Review: All applications will be reviewed by a committee consisting of faculty experienced in the study of race, racism, antiracism and racial justice. Their recommendations will be reviewed by the VPR, who will make final funding decisions.

Progress Report: A final report is due to the Office of the Vice President for Research one month after completion of your project. This will describe the research program, findings, and conclusions, as well as information on how this project might generate external funding opportunities.

Recipients of Racial Justice and Equity Research Fund awards will be invited to present their results at a virtual conference on racial equity and justice that will be organized by the Office of the Vice President for Research sometime in 2021.

Contact: For questions, please contact Beth Herron at 803-777-2885 or bherron@mailbox.sc.edu.
