OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

ASPIRE for Racial Equity and Justice

Announcement Release Date:	**August 23, 2021**
Application Receipt Date:	**October 27, 2021**
Award Announcement Date:	**January 18, 2022**

Purpose:

The University of South Carolina is committed to combatting racial injustice, racism, and discrimination while promoting racial equity and racial justice throughout society. The Office of the Vice President of Research, working in collaboration with the Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, is re-issuing its funding program to support research that centers on race, racial justice and racial equity. 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 the UofSC system to address racial equity and justice issues in a variety of ways. Principal Investigators may only submit one proposal to this competition. Priority will be given to investigators who did not receive a Racial Equity and Justice grant in the last round of funding.

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 single investigators will be considered, although collaborative, multi-unit projects are strongly encouraged. Awards will be in the range of $10,000 - $15,000; larger infrastructure awards will be considered, contingent upon available funding.

Awards should result in an impactful scholarly output, including submissions to external funding agencies; publications; performances; or exhibitions. Awardees will be encouraged to participate in research mentoring programs and grant workshops sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Research.

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's website.

2. **Research Strategy:** Must be no longer than 3 pages, including background, significance and innovation, and overall research design (including the demonstration of the need for such data; human subjects' protocol, where appropriate). Please address theoretical and/or applied benefits that might be realized from the project. 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 - $15,000. Please adhere to the following budgetary guidelines:
   - Faculty salary support should be minimal
   - Limited travel is allowable to support research activities; conference travel is not allowable
   - Laptops and desktop computers are not allowable expenses
   - Food is not allowable
   - A budget justification must be included

4. **Appendices:**
   - Current CV (**2 pages maximum**) that details relevant qualifications and publications, including current and pending support.
   - A reference list or bibliography
   - Letters of support, if relevant

5. **Resubmissions:** Investigators may resubmit proposals that were not funded in the first round of this competition. Resubmissions need to include a one-page response to the reviewers (attached after the cover page), and a copy of the reviews in the appendices.

Proposal Due Date: Proposals need to be submitted through USCERA (http://sam.research.sc.edu/uscera) by *October 27, 2021 at 5 pm*. Please select "Internal Request: VP for Research" and choose the **ASPIRE for Racial Equity and Justice** 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.

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