USF Internal Research Grants - Call for Proposals

Understanding and Addressing Blackness and Anti-Black Racism in our Local, National, and International Communities

Submission Deadline: August 17, 2020

Program Goals and Description

The University of South Florida community grieves the confluence of the COVID-19 pandemic, which disproportionately affects Black people in America, and the perpetuation of systemic racism that has resulted in inequities and violence in Black communities. In no uncertain terms, this is a time of fundamental and enduring change and we must unite in our commitment to end Anti-Black racism and focus on fostering an actively anti-racist culture across our nation and at USF. USF's Principles of Community, affirming our value of inclusivity, individual dignity, equity, and our common humanity clearly resonate with great urgency at this time. We have immense intellectual capital at USF with faculty/researchers who are dedicated to analyzing inequality and systems of oppression and are exceptionally well-positioned to provide a transdisciplinary, community-based approach to this vital work. We are dedicated to fostering increased opportunities to understand anti-Black racism and its implications and improve public and institutional engagement with Black communities, particularly nurturing and providing equitable opportunities and collegial support for Black faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students.

The Office of the Provost and USF Research & Innovation have jointly committed $500,000 for Round 1 of a research grant program that holds the promise of seeding future contributions from local and federal agencies, private and corporate donors, as well as foundations to understand and address the effects of systemic racism at the local, national, and international levels. This Call for Proposals, administered through USF Research & Innovation, offers tenured/tenure-track, full-time research faculty members, and instructors or administrators with research assignments, with established and demonstrated research and creative scholarly activity backgrounds impacting Africana Studies and/or demonstrated engagement with Black communities the opportunity to apply for internal research funds. The research should specifically focus on improving understanding and yielding meaningful and sustained solutions to systemic social, environmental, and economic issues affecting Black communities, such as discrimination, poverty, health disparities, violence, justice, policing, and racial politics.

Proposals should be broadly based and include transdisciplinary research programs that involve diverse faculty with complementary disciplinary expertise and also engage with community and/or

corporate partners. Proposals may include community-based projects, programs, and events with a research component or evaluative focus. Proposed work must be initiated and completed within 12 months and lead to the submission of further proposals for external funding, scholarly activity, and/or sustained community engagement. Preference will be given to proposals that address the following funding priorities:

- Include a research team with established and demonstrated research and creative scholarly activity in Africana Studies, and/or demonstrated engagement with Black communities
- Promote transdisciplinary collaboration by including research team members across at least two disciplines, departments, and/or colleges
- Demonstrate community engagement by including a community or corporate partner and/or concrete evidence of ongoing and significant community collaboration
- Demonstrate connections with the applicant's relevant prior work, including past research training, collaborations, and/or community work
- Serve as a pilot for further external grants, scholarly activity, and/or community engagement

The following will not be considered for funding under this Call for Proposals:

- Legacy funding
- Sole investigator research projects; PI must have at least one Co-PI or Co-I
- Maintenance contracts

Co-PI and Co-I Eligibility

Although postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, and staff members are not eligible to apply as a PI, they are encouraged to serve as Co-PI or Co-I on proposals, providing them with a unique opportunity for mentorship in securing grants and conducting research. Any staff members included as Co-PI or CO-I must have a research assignment in their job description commensurate with the commitment to the proposed project. A proposal may include a Co-PI or Co-I from another university or institution within the U.S. A Co-PI or Co-I from an international university or institution may be included if an ongoing research relationship has already been established, and no institutional transfer of funds is required. Because projects must be completed within 12 months, it would take valuable time to set up new agreements with international universities/communities. Researchers are expected to leverage results from the effect of this internal seed grant funding to seek larger federal and other domestic grants, as well as international grants on the same topic using the preliminary data generated.

Budget Details

The number and amount of funded awards will be based on the following tiers commensurate with the proposal scope and scalability, degree of impact, and potential to secure external funding. PIs should indicate in their submission the tier for which they are applying. Inclusion of matching funds (e.g., RIA funds, department funds, or in-kind contributions) is strongly encouraged for PIs applying for Tier I awards.

- Tier I   Awards = up to $30k
- Tier II   Awards = up to $15k

- Tier III Awards = up to $10k

<u>***Submission and Evaluation of Full Proposals***</u>

Proposals for **USF Research Grants for Understanding and Addressing Blackness and Anti-Black Racism in our Local, National, and International Communities** may be submitted by tenured/tenure-track, full-time research faculty members, and instructors or administrators with research assignments at USF. **Principal Investigators must submit their proposal (electronic form) by Monday, August 17, 2020 at 5:00pm (Eastern Daylight Time) through the dedicated website** (https://www.research.usf.edu/source-forms/module-x).

Notes:
- **Only one Proposal per PI will be accepted. Submit as PDF only.**
- **IRB approval is required for human subject research; questions related to IRB requirements should be addressed to USF IRB at (813) 974-5638 or email RSCH-IRB@usf.edu.**

Proposals must include the following:
- **Contact Information:** Provide contact information for PI(s), Co-I(s), and Co-PI(s), including Chair and Dean/Director.

- **Biosketch** for each PI, Co-PI, and Co-I using NIH or NSF format (no more than two pages in length for each). As a third page of the biosketch PDF document, add a one-page list of current and pending funding. Examples of biosketches are available here: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm or https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/biosketch.jsp.

- **Abstract and Proposal Description (please use Times New Roman and font size no smaller than 10-pt):** Present an abstract of approximately a half-page – one to two paragraphs maximum (limit to 250 words, single-spaced) – *followed by* a detailed description of your proposal no more than two (2) double-spaced pages in length, including how this proposal specifically aligns with this Call for Proposals, potential for this research to improve the lives of the Black community, how the proposal demonstrates transdisciplinary collaboration, and why this proposal is novel, innovative, and/or inventive. Please identify which external grant programs, community projects, and/or sustained scholarly activities are being targeted for this pilot research.

- **Budget:** One-page budget for the 12-month period of funding (e.g., equipment, salary, benefits, GA or Research Assistant tuition, etc.). There are no indirect costs on this grant. Use the budget template found at the link below and upload your budget (Summary page only) as a PDF: https://www.usf.edu/research-innovation/train/documents/budget-preparation-tool.xlsx

- **Budget Justification**: Explain the need for each line item in the budget, including the breakdown of calculations used to arrive at the amount in each line.

- **Support Letter from Community or Corporate Partner**: Describe how the partner will support and collaborate with the PIs on the project and use the research to benefit the Black community. Examples of community partners may include, but are not limited to, K-12 schools, civic organizations, and neighborhood associations.

If the specified application requirements, submission procedures, and all requested information are not provided, the proposal will not be considered for funding.

Upon review of these proposals, selected Principal Investigators will be notified if they are awarded. **It is anticipated that award announcements will be made by August 31, 2020.** Funds will be released shortly after the award is announced and investigators should be prepared to begin projects immediately upon receipt of funding.

Project Reporting Expectations for Awardees

Awardees will communicate any project successes such as evidence of positive changes for the community or in relevant public policy, publications, external grant applications, invention disclosures, patents or patent applications, conference presentations, creative work, press releases, licenses, etc., as soon as possible, and for up to three years beyond the initial funding period, so that they can be disseminated through USFRI and the USF Institute on Black Life. Any publications (or other "products") emanating from this RFP must acknowledge that it was "*Made possible through support from the USF Grant Program for Understanding and Addressing Blackness and Anti-Black Racism in our Local, National, and International Communities.*"

A final report detailing the work accomplished, highlighting significant achievements and outcomes, and a plan for future work will be submitted by each awardee at the conclusion of the project period. Follow-up reports also may be requested.

Proposal Support

Full support is offered 8am-5pm Monday through Friday, with limited support available after hours. Please use the following support channels:
- **For general application questions, and all proposal unlock requests**, contact the USFRI Rapid Response email box at RSCH-RapidResponse@usf.edu.
- **For technical support**, contact Mario Lopez at mariol@usf.edu.
- **Note:** If your application will not proceed past the first page, try switching to the *Google Chrome* browser. Microsoft Internet Explorer is not a supported browser.

Note: A scoring rubric for proposal evaluation, including criteria and weights, is provided at https://www.usf.edu/research-innovation/documents/scoring-rubric-understanding-addressing-blackness-anti-black-racism.pdf.