CALL FOR ACTION ON RACIAL JUSTICE

Seed Fund for Racial Justice

I. Description

It is imperative that Ohio State leverage its leadership, novel assets, and expertise to address the historic and contemporary effects of racism and racial disparities found in all aspects of American society (e.g., education, health, policy, religion, housing, employment, transportation, law, media, etc.) and beyond. Community-responsive, collaborative, creative, and sustained work across the full academic spectrum is required, and Ohio State has both the opportunity and the responsibility to lead reconciliation and drive transformational and sustainable change at this pivotal moment in our nation's history.

To help create transformative societal change, Ohio State is making funds available to seed innovative, untested, and/or exploratory research approaches and creative ideas that will contribute to the elimination of racism and solve its underlying causes and consequences on our campuses, in our community, and across the nation. Proposals should be interdisciplinary, innovative, and translational. They should also result in or create a clear path to, substantive change in policies, practices, programs, and processes in our systems, and in tangible human behaviors and societal outcomes.

Interdisciplinary proposals should address one of the following three topical areas:

• **Structural or Institutional Racism** – Projects that address policies, practices, programs, norms or behaviors within and across institutions or systems that produce outcomes that chronically disadvantage a racial group, whether intentional or not.

• **Implicit Bias and Privilege** – Projects that address unconscious attitudes, stereotypes, and behaviors that affect understanding, actions, and decisions and/or the understanding of the historic and contemporary advantages in access to education, jobs, home ownership, wealth, etc.

• **Racial and Cultural Disparities** – Projects that address differential access, participation, treatment, and/or outcomes in areas such as criminal justice, physical and mental health, education, employment, housing, transportation, accumulation of wealth, and/or civic participation.

II. Eligibility

Anyone with PI status is eligible to be the lead applicant. A Community Partner* as co-investigator AND at least one other Ohio State investigator (faculty, research staff or post docs) from an intellectually distinct discipline AND a different college are required. College representation eligibility will be determined based on the investigator’s primary tenure unit.

*A ‘community partner’ is broadly defined to include a wide range of collaborators or constituencies such as a single school or school district, a group of businesses, non-profit or governmental organizations, student organizations, neighborhood or professional associations, or faith-based organizations.

III. Budget and Duration

Budget requests must be fully justified to be cost-efficient and commensurate with potential for high impact or return. Faculty salary will not be supported; however, requests for staff and student stipend support (no tuition) are permitted. Cost sharing (cash or in-kind) from internal and external sources is encouraged.

Contact for additional information/questions:

**Laurie Neer**
neer.57@osu.edu

**Deborah Hernandez**
neer.57@osu.edu

Round 1 Concept Papers due, 5 p.m. EST Sept. 15, 2020
Concept Paper decisions announced Sept. 30, 2020

Submit concept papers through the [Office of Research Limited Competition portal](#)

Round 1 Invited Full Proposals due, 5 p.m. EST Oct. 31, 2020
Round 1 Awards announced Dec. 1, 2020

The project period for all awarded Round 1 projects will be January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021
Projects should be of 12 months or less duration, with the possibility of a brief no-cost extension due to COVID-19 or other extenuating circumstances. Proposals may be submitted in one of the following tiers:

- **Small grants**, $5,000 to $25,000, suitable for secondary data or policy/program analysis, small-scale survey work, curriculum or symposia development, creative works, or community conversations leading to evidenced-based, actionable recommendations for specific change, clear societal benefit, or small scale pilot implementation.

- **Large grants**, $25,000 - $50,000, suitable for works of creative expression, research, or program development with pilot implementation on the Ohio State campuses or in a community setting.

**VI. Timeline**

The Seed Fund Steering Committee expects to host two rounds of competition. The timeline and available funding for Round 2 will be announced following the conclusion of the Round 1 competition.

- September 15, 2020: Round 1 Concept Papers due, 5 p.m. EST
- September 30, 2020: Concept Paper decisions announced
- October 31, 2020: Round 1 Invited Full Proposals due, 5 p.m. EST
- December 1, 2020: Round 1 Awards announced

**The project period for all awarded Round 1 projects will be January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021**

The timeline for Round 2 will be announced following the conclusion of Round 1.

**V. Proposal Submission, Review, and Selection Process**

Both competition rounds will be managed through a two-step process: submission of concept papers, followed by invited full proposals, as described below.

**Concept Papers**

Interested teams are required to submit a **two-page** concept paper that presents a high-level overview of the proposed project with the following required content. Failure to provide the requested content in the required format will result in your concept proposal being returned without review.

**Required Content**

- **Concept papers must begin with a header with the following four lines:**
  1. Line 1 - descriptive project title;
  2. Line 2 - name of contact PI/Unit and name of community partner co-investigator/organization;
  3. Line 3 - names of other investigators/units; and
  4. Line 4 - proposal topical area (see Section I) and funding tier (small or large).

- **The body of the concept paper must provide the requested information under these five headings:**
  1. Focus: clearly convey and describe the challenge/research question to be addressed;
  2. Approach: Outline the interdisciplinary approaches to be pursued and the target audience(s)/community(ies) to be involved;
  3. Results: identify expected outcomes and how they will be measured;
  4. Broader Impacts: discuss plans to ensure the outcomes of your research inform and achieve the desired impact (often referred to as translational research); and
  5. Experience: present evidence of prior experience and/or relevant scholarship related to the proposed project (do not attach CVs).

**Review Process** – An internal review committee comprised of the Office of Research Diversity and Inclusion Committee and university leaders will review the concept papers to determine which ones to invite for full proposals.

**How to Submit** – Submit concept papers through the Office of Research Limited Competition portal by clicking on this link: [https://orapps.osu.edu/fundops/opportunity/4485](https://orapps.osu.edu/fundops/opportunity/4485). You will be prompted to log in with your name.# and will then see the opportunity requirements and limitations for this competition. Continue scrolling toward the bottom of the opportunity page until you see the ‘Apply for this Funding Opportunity’ section. Complete the following required fields:

1. Enter the descriptive project title;
2. Provide the name, email address, department, and college of the contact PI/PD (You);
3. Provide the names for up to 3 additional Ohio State co-investigators;
4. Provide the name and email address for your designated community partner co-investigator; (Please remember that you are required to have a community partner as a co-investigator);
5. Use the provided drop-down list to select the topical category under which you are applying for funding;
6. Identify 3 keywords that describe your project;
7. Use the provided drop-down list to select the proposal tier under which you are applying for funding; and
8. Select ‘yes’ or ‘no’ when asked if you will allow us to share information from the fields above in a dataset for use to help the campus community identify potential collaborators with similar or complementary research interests.

After completing the required fields, click “submit information” and then scroll to the bottom of the page to upload your **PDF document**. Once you upload your document, your proposal is automatically submitted, and you will receive an e-mail confirmation. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Laurie Neer at **neer.57@osu.edu**.
Invited Full Proposals

Full proposal submission is by invitation only. Full proposals consist of four sections: 1) a 5-page proposal narrative, 2) a summary budget with one-page budget justification, 3) letters of commitment, and 4) references. Required information and headings for each section are described below. Failure to provide the requested content in the required sections and using the required subheadings will result in your full proposal being returned without review.

Section 1 - PROPOSAL NARRATIVE – 5 pages

In the context of the review criteria, present a compelling case the proposed work will provide an innovative, lasting solution to a clearly articulated problem for a defined population or geographical area in one of the three solicited topical areas, structured under the headings provided below.

- **Header**
  - Line 1: Descriptive Proposal Title
  - Line 2: Contact PI name/Unit and community partner co-investigator/organization
  - Line 3: Other investigators/units
  - Line 4: Topical Area and Funding Tier

- **Project Description**
  1. Abstract – Provide a ½ page summary (approximately 250 words) of the proposal and its expected outcomes and impacts suitable for public distribution.
  2. Goals and Objectives – Define the challenge and research question to be addressed and the target community or communities (population, geographical area, etc.) involved. Clearly identify the interdisciplinary domains and community partner(s) involved in the project. Explain the relationship of the project to the selected topical area.
  3. Background and Significance – Provide context or background information that conveys the significance of the problem, the current state of the science, and how this project will BOTH advance scholarly understanding and inform strategies and/or actions to eliminate racism.
  4. Approach and Timeline – Provide details on the organizational structure of the team and the interdisciplinary approaches to be pursued. Articulate what is new or innovative about the proposed work. Be certain to scope your project and propose methods or contingencies that account for the current realities or unanticipated future interruptions tied to the COVID-19 pandemic. Include a timeline (table or other graphic) depicting major events, activities, and/or milestones.
  5. Outcomes and Impacts – Describe the expected knowledge outcomes or products AND lasting solution(s) or other measurable change(s) that will result. Discuss how you will assess the impact or success of your project, including specific metrics or data you will collect, and identify who will be responsible for this activity. Specifically discuss dissemination or other broader impact activities that will ensure the outcomes of your research will inform and achieve the desired long-term impact (often referred to as translational research).
  6. Team Roles and Responsibilities - Identify organizations and personnel to be involved in the project with their title and affiliation. Provide a clear definition of each individual’s roles and responsibilities in the project, and provide a brief description of relevant experience and/or prior scholarship related to the proposed project for each individual.

Section 2 - BUDGET TABLE AND BUDGET JUSTIFICATION NARRATIVE

- **Provide a Summary budget table with 4 line item rows and one column for each organization involved in the project:**
  - Line items should be ‘Personnel’ (includes salary plus benefits), ‘Consumable materials’, ‘User/facility fees or subject payments’, and ‘Other’. Please do not provide any additional line items. There should be no F&A or indirect costs.

- **Budget justification:** Provide a narrative description of the items requested in each category, the basis of cost estimate for each item (e.g. XX swabs @ $$ cost each), and a brief justification of need. Clearly explain support requested for community partner(s). This narrative should **not exceed 1 page**.

Section 3 - LETTERS OF COMMITMENT FROM COMMUNITY PARTNER(S)

- Letters documenting committed internal cost-share, if any, should be attached.
- Letter(s) of Commitment from Community Partner(s)

A letter on the organizational letterhead from your community partner(s), signed by an individual with authority to commit the organization(s) to collaboration, is required. This letter should identify the activities in which the partner agrees to be engaged, to lead, or to otherwise support and any resources (in-kind or other) the organization will devote to the proposed project.

Section 4 – REFERENCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY

Review – Invited full proposals will be reviewed by a panel consisting of internal and/or external individuals possessing relevant domain knowledge. Final decisions will be made by the steering committee (hot link).

How to Submit – Invited full proposals will also be submitted through the Office of Research Limited Competition portal. A link to the appropriate site and submission instructions will be provided in your full proposal invitation. Proposals should be submitted as a SINGLE PDF document. This means that the required proposal narrative, budget and justification, along with any letters of commitment from collaborators or for cost-share must be combined into a single PDF prior to uploading.
VI. Evaluation Criteria
Proposals will be reviewed based on the following criteria:
• Degree to which the project will enhance our understanding and ability to eliminate racism and racial disparities, thus advancing society. It is expected that projects will be informed by theoretical/conceptual and contemporary scientific literature.
• Degree to which the proposal represents an innovative, interdisciplinary collaboration and/or community partnership or a high-risk/high-reward endeavor that will result in disruptive change.
• Degree to which the project includes dissemination and sustainability plans that go beyond publishing research papers and presenting at conferences and instead drive change and ensure sustained impact.
• Degree to which the project includes strong justification or rationale for the proposed creative or scientific approaches and the targeted sample.
• Degree to which there is demonstrated knowledge and expertise among investigators and community partners, along with needed resources (e.g., physical space, technological, human, and financial) to effectively execute the project. It is expected that all partners are substantively involved in the design and implementation of the proposed work.
• Degree to which Ohio State’s unique strengths and expertise are leveraged to position the university for regional or national leadership in the project area.

Contact for additional information/questions: Laurie Neer at neer.57@osu.edu or Deborah Hernandez at Hernandez.730@osu.edu.

References:
1 Definitions for the topical areas are adapted from, “Glossary for Understanding the Dismantling Structural Racism/Promoting Racial Equity Analysis.” The Aspen Institute, Community Roundtable for Change. https://assets.aspeninstitute.org/content/uploads/files/content/docs/rcc/RCC-Structural-Racism-Glossary.pdf