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, interdisciplinary projects 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. Successful projects will result in or create a clear path to, substantive and measurable change in policies, practices, programs, processes, systems, and behaviors as they relate to racial diversity, equity, and inclusion.

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

1. **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.

2. **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.

3. **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 external to Ohio State, such as a single school or school district, a group of businesses, non-profit or governmental organizations, neighborhood or professional associations, or faith-based organizations. To encourage projects that impact our campuses, active or established student organizations are also eligible community partners.

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 support is limited to 40% of the

Contact for additional information/questions:

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

**Jacquelyn Meshelemiah**  
meshelemiah.1@osu.edu

Round 2 Concept Papers due, 5 p.m. EST  
February 26, 2021  
Concept Paper decisions announced March 31, 2021

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

Round 2 Invited Full Proposals due, 5 p.m. EST  
April 30, 2021  
Round 2 Awards announced May 28, 2021

The project period for all awarded Round 2 projects will be June 1, 2021 – May 31, 2022
total budget request and may cover course release and/or summer compensation. Requests for staff and student stipend support (no tuition) are permitted. Teams are encouraged to allocate resources to community partners commensurate with their role(s) in the project. Cost sharing (cash or in-kind) from internal and external sources is encouraged, but not required.

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 projects proposing 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**, $25,001- $50,000, suitable for projects proposing program development with pilot implementation on the Ohio State campus(es) or in a community setting.

VI. Timeline
The Round 2 competition will include submission of concept papers, followed by invited full-proposals.

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V. Concept Paper Submission, Review, and Invitation Process
A. Interested teams are required to submit a three-page concept paper that presents a high-level overview of the proposed project using the outline provided below. **Failure to provide the requested content in the required format will result in your concept proposal being returned without review.**

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

B.2 The remainder of the concept paper must be structured in the following five sections:
- Project Description – Clearly identify the racial justice challenge your project will address; the target audience(s) and/or community(ies) to be involved; the interdisciplinary approaches you will employ; and the expected results and impacts of your work.
- Role of the Community Partner – Identify the primary (Co-Investigator) community partner, and any additional community partners, and briefly describe their expected role(s) on the project.
- Broader Impacts – Discuss plans to ensure the outcomes of your project achieve tangible, desired results and societal impacts that extend beyond the academic sphere;
- Experience – Present evidence of prior experience and/or relevant scholarship of University team members related to the proposed project (do not attach CVs); and
- Anticipated Budget – Provide a brief narrative description of the anticipated allocation of requested seed funding to support the proposed project. For example, “Project X expects to utilize seed funding to support 50% stipends for 2 graduate students, provide summer compensation for faculty member AA, support participant incentives, and resource community partner ZZ to defray costs for their staff to develop and deploy print materials, consult on project implementation, and host focus group sessions.” Do not include a budget table or form.

C. Review Process – An internal committee will review the concept papers to determine which ones to invite for full proposals.

D. 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/4545](https://orapps.osu.edu/fundops/opportunity/4545). 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 and click the ‘Apply to this Opportunity’ button. 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 OSU co-investigators;
4. Provide the name and email address for your community partner co-investigator. For Concept Proposals identify ONE only. Additional partners may be identified in your project description;
5. Use the provided drop-down list to select the topical category for your project;
6. Identify 3 keywords that describe your project;
7. Use the provided drop-down list to select the funding tier for your project; 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 these required fields, click “select files” to upload your PDF document (or you can drag and drop your file into the box indicated). Next, click “submit information” to submit your application. You will receive an e-mail confirmation from ‘OR Help Desk’ once your application has been successfully submitted. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Laurie Neer at neer.57@osu.edu.

VI. Full Proposal Submission, Review, and Selection Process
A. Full proposal submission is by invitation only.

B. FORMAT
Full proposals consist of six sections described below. Information or materials provided beyond what is identified below will not be reviewed, and failure to provide the requested content using the provided subheadings will result in your full proposal being returned without review.

Proposals should be single-spaced with 1-inch margins, and use font size no smaller than Arial 10.

Section 1 – RESPONSE TO REVIEWER FEEDBACK – 1 page
Include the following 4 lines at the top of this page; it is not necessary to repeat this on other pages.
- 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

In the remaining space, please identify any changes made to the proposing team, proposal category or proposal tier. Please also discuss how you have elected to respond to reviewer feedback.

Section 2 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION – 5 pages
In the context of the review criteria, present a compelling case that 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 presented in the following sub-sections:

A. Summary – Provide a 1 page, stand-alone summary (approximately 250 words) of your project that identifies the racial justice challenge your project will address; the target audience(s) and/or community(ies) to be involved; the primary activities in which you will engage; and the expected results and impacts of your work. This should be written for a scientifically literate lay audience and suitable for public distribution.

B. Introduction and Background – Provide context or background information that conveys the significance of the challenge, the current state of knowledge or understanding about the challenge, and articulates how the project will BOTH advance our understanding AND result in, or create a clear path to, substantive and measurable change. Clearly identify the interdisciplinary domains involved in the project, and explain the relationship of the project to the selected topical area.

C. Activities and Timeline – Provide details regarding planned activities 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 of major events, activities, and/or milestones.

D. Outcomes and Impacts – Identify specific goals and objectives for your project and the measurable change(s) that will result. Discuss how you will assess the impact or success of your project, and provide 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 project achieve tangible, desired results and societal impacts that extend beyond the academic sphere.

E. Team Roles, Responsibilities, and Experience - 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 3 - BUDGET TABLE
Utilize the provided Excel budget template to present your summary budget. Use ONLY the rows and columns on this form to provide requested amounts for ‘Personnel Faculty’ (includes salary plus benefits or honoraria for faculty), ‘Personnel Other’ (includes salary plus benefits for staff, students, consultants or contractors), ‘Consumable materials’ (items that will be ‘used up/depleted’ during the conduct of your project, such as print materials), ‘User/facility fees or subject payments’ (costs for shared instrumentation or computing services, meeting rooms or performance spaces, or compensation to participants in the project), and ‘Other’. There should be no F&A or indirect costs, and tuition charges are not permitted.

Section 4 - BUDGET JUSTIFICATION NARRATIVE - 1 page
Provide a narrative description of the items requested in each category (e.g. which personnel are being supported and at what level of effort), 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). If you are committing cost share, please describe this under a separate heading labeled ‘cost-share’.
Section 5 - LETTERS FROM COMMUNITY PARTNER(S) AND FOR INTERNAL COST-SHARE

• 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. Letters may be addressed ‘To Whom It May Concern’.

• Letters documenting committed internal cost-share – Letters addressed “To Whom It May Concern’ and signed by an individual with authority to commit funds or resources identified in the proposal as internal cost share should be submitted.

Section 6 – REFERENCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY (Optional)

C. Review Process – 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 for the Seed Fund for Racial Justice.

D. 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. All narrative components of the proposal (sections 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6) must be integrated into a SINGLE PDF document for submission. The Budget Form will be uploaded separately.

VII. Evaluation Criteria

Full proposals will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

• Degree to which the proposal represents an innovative, interdisciplinary collaboration and/or community partnership that will enhance our understanding and ability to eliminate racism and racial disparities and result in disruptive change.

• Degree to which the project includes strong rationale for the proposed activities and interdisciplinary approaches and the targeted sample.

• Degree to which specific goals, objectives, and outcomes, along with assessment, dissemination or other broader impact activities are identified that ensure the project achieves tangible, desired results and societal impacts that extend beyond the academic sphere.

• Degree to which there is demonstrated knowledge and expertise team members, 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 Jacquelyn Meshelemiah at meshelemiah.1@osu.edu.

References: