

2020 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Advancing Racial Justice Through Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access at the University of Florida

UF Research, in conjunction with the UF Office of the Chief Diversity Officer, is issuing a special call for proposals to advance and catalyze sustainable efforts toward racial justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion at the University of Florida. This call will focus on research and scholarship on Advancing Racial Justice through inclusion, diversity, equity, and access. Research and scholarship in the areas of the Black experience, including anti-Black racism, inequity, culture, joy, and resilience are specially encouraged.

Deadline:

The deadline for submission of proposals through both the UFIRST and InfoReady Review Portals is **5 PM EST, September 28, 2020.**

What we will fund:

UF President Kent Fuchs has designated the Black experience, racism, and inequity as the foci for the 2020-2021 academic year. This funding opportunity is designed to support research and scholarship from UF faculty members in any discipline to develop initiatives that underscore and advance racial justice at UF. We specially encourage proposals that are relevant to the Black experience at UF - to represent a step toward combatting racism and fostering a university culture based on racial equity. Relevant projects that have not yet been extramurally supported are particularly appropriate for this call, especially if they help to build a more welcoming, equitable, and inclusive community.

Projects proposed for this call must be innovative, new, or reflect a new application of existing research, and contribute to the identification, study and remediation of identified factors that contribute to racism, bias or and inequities at UF. Proposals based on research in the various disciplines supported at all colleges, schools and museums at UF are appropriate. Projects should be research focused and reflect an in-depth understanding of United States race scholarship and its complex relationship with identity, including gender, class, sexual orientation, and ability. Research can be focused on action-based solutions and reflect an in-depth approach based on previous scholarship. Scholarship from all disciplines is appropriate for this program, provided the scholarship meets the criteria in this call.

Support for workshops and conferences that focus on organizing collaborations among faculty in multiple disciplines, with the goal of leading to new research projects on the topics of interest will be considered. The workshops and conferences must be convened at UF and must include the leadership and participation of Black faculty, staff, and/or students.

What we will not fund:

Incremental or add-ons to currently funded projects focused on racial justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion are not eligible for funding. Superficial, generic, or exploratory research will not be considered. Travel to conferences and workshops outside UF are not eligible for support.

Eligibility:

Proposals may be submitted by any UF faculty member (PI) eligible to submit a proposal to an external funding agency (see Policy on Eligibility to Submit a Proposal for External Funding: <https://research.ufl.edu/dsp/proposals/eligibility-to-submit-a-proposal-for-external-funding.html>). Each eligible faculty member (serving as PI or Co-PI) can only submit one proposal, but can serve in other roles in up to two additional proposals. Courtesy, Adjunct, Visiting, and OPS faculty; Assistant In, Associate In, Senior Associate In; Research Associates; and Postdoctoral Associates are not eligible to be PIs for this opportunity. They may, however, participate as co-PIs or co-investigators. Faculty from underrepresented, minority, and historically disadvantaged backgrounds are particularly encouraged to apply. The Higher Education Act defines the term “minority” as an American Indian, Alaskan Native, Black (not of Hispanic origin), Hispanic (including persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, and Central or South American origin), Pacific Islander, or other ethnic groups.

Budget:

UF Research has allocated a total of \$400,000 for this opportunity. Individual project budgets can range from \$15,000 - \$75,000 for the entire project period of **one year**.

PROPOSAL REVIEW

All proposals received will be reviewed by an ad hoc committee composed of diverse faculty from different disciplines and representing multiple academic units at UF. The Vice President for Research at UF, in conjunction with the Chief Diversity Officer, will have final approval for all projects funded by the call. All information submitted in a proposal will be treated as confidential.

REVIEW CRITERIA

The panel members will score the proposals in the following categories (**25 points each**):

- 1. Theme/Research Area:** Does the theme/research area chosen address a significant challenge in the Black experience at UF? Does the particular area of research represent an existing strength at UF, or an area in which there is potential for significant change and improvement at UF? Are the research goals and objectives well-described? Are the goals and objectives the most appropriate to address the challenge? How will failures and setbacks of the project be addressed? Are the milestones of the project appropriate and achievable in the time proposed?
- 2. Potential for significant impact at UF:** Are the benefits likely to lead to significant positive impact? How will the impact on the target audience be measured? Will the proposed collaborations launch new programmatic efforts/directions at UF? What is the potential to produce and sustain long-term collaboration among the participants at UF?
- 3. Relevance of faculty background experience and interest:** Does the project team have the necessary expertise in the required fields? Does the project team have a sufficient level of commitment and expertise to execute the goals of the project? Are the existing strengths of the departments/colleges/core resources leveraged sufficiently?
- 4. Leadership, team diversity and cohesiveness:** Does the PI have sufficient leadership experience? Is there cohesiveness among the participants? Does the project team possess the leadership required to carry the project to a competitive multi-investigator proposal at the national level? Is the team diverse, with all members making an intellectual contribution to the project? Does this team have a prior history/potential of garnering extramural support as a collaborative?

Each review criterion is 25 points. Please use the “COMMENTS” section below to enter weaknesses and strengths for each proposal (at least a paragraph).

Project Title	PI	Theme / Research Area	Potential for Significant Impact	Relevance: Faculty Background & Experience	Leadership and Team Cohesiveness	Total Points

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION

Proposals must be submitted through UFIRST and the title of the proposal MUST begin with OR-DRPD-ARJ2020:XXXXXXXX. Proposals must be uploaded in PDF format only, as ONE file (name file: 2020_ARJ/PI last name). PLEASE DO NOT UPLOAD MULTIPLE VERSIONS OF THE PROPOSAL OR SCANNED FILES.

Proposals submitted will go through the standard approval process: PI, Department Chair and Dean.

Proposals must also be submitted through the InfoReady Review portal as a single pdf document
<https://ufresearch.infoready4.com/#>

Formatting: Proposals should be at least in 11 point font or greater, with at least 0.5 inch margins throughout. Figure legends and tables can be in 10 point font.

Proposals should consist of the following materials in this sequence:

1. COVER PAGE containing the following:

Proposal Title: **OR-DRPD-ARJ2020:**

Principal Investigator/Institutional, College and Departmental Affiliation:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Co-Investigators (if applicable)- please fill out the Co-investigator table when uploading to InfoReady in addition to cover page:

2. OBJECTIVE

Problem Statement (300 words)

Describe the specific problem/challenge that you are addressing, using layperson’s language, so it can be understood by colleagues outside your discipline, alumni, and educated members of the general public.

- Why does the problem exist in the current environment?
- What is the best approach that will break the barrier to progress? Where are the pressure points where the smallest change can have the biggest impact?
- Why does this problem need a team approach?
- Focus on setting the goals your solution will achieve (versus describing how you intend to solve it). Outline 2-3 specific, measurable, achievable, and time-sensitive goals, relevant to the specific problem you have identified, that you plan to accomplish.

The Need to Address the Problem (100 words)

- Who or what is affected by the problem/challenge you have identified – faculty, staff, students, the UF community at large?

3. YOUR PROPOSED SOLUTION

Solution Overview (750 words)

In layperson's terms, please address the following:

- Why is your proposed approach best suited to address the challenge you have identified?
- What are the benefits of your approach? Describe who will benefit from your solution and the benefits or outcomes of your solution. How will it benefit the specific group you have identified?
- How will you know that you are making progress?

Description of Plan (500 words)

- Provide a detailed explanation of the process/method you feel is best suited to address the challenge you have identified.
- What makes this the most valid approach at this time?
- What other alternate strategies (if they exist) have you considered, or have been tried? Why will the alternate approaches not help solve the same challenge?

Potential barriers to success (150 words)

- What are the potential risks of the approach you have chosen? Describe any barriers to the short- and long-term success of the project. How will you address them? Are there any deal breakers?

Outcomes of this project (150 words)

- Describe the outcomes and impact of your project on the discipline(s), the team, UF and society at large. Will this approach/research lead to improvement in race and race relations at UF?

Milestones and Timelines (150 words)

- What are the key milestones that indicate you are making progress toward your goals?
- Provide a timeline on the accomplishment of the goals that will help reach your objective. Describe how this award will allow you to reach your milestones.

Sustainability plan (100 words)

- What are the plans to ensure sustainability of this area of research and/or scholarship beyond the initial seed funding?
- What are the key elements required for sustained implementation of the project you have proposed?

4. QUALIFICATIONS OF THE PIs (200 words)

- Explain the contributions of the PIs, and why they are the best qualified to lead/accomplish the project. Explain the contribution of each of the participating faculty on the team; and why this problem needs a team approach.
- In addition, please attach a 2- to 4-page (maximum) resume/CV/biosketch for each faculty member involved in the project. Please include all current and pending support for research and scholarship in your field of expertise.
- Please highlight the relevant experience in the focus areas of this RFA.

5. **REFERENCES** should be cited together at the end of the proposal. No page limit.

6. BUDGET, START DATE and BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

Start as a new page and describe the budget to support your project by providing **detailed budget table** (template below). The budget may include all normally allowable direct costs of research, with the **exception of faculty salaries**. There are **no Indirect Costs** associated with these awards.

Budget Item	Description	Cost
A. Personnel (faculty salary not allowed)		
B. Fringe		
Total Personnel	Salary plus fringe	
C. Materials and supplies		
D. Other items (List each item on a new row)		
	Total Project Cost	

A brief **budget justification** for this seed funding is required.

A specific start date should be given. **If no start date is specified, the Office of Research will assume a start date of November 20, 2020.**

POST-AWARD REPORTING

PIs who receive project awards from this call will be required to submit a comprehensive final report at the end of the project period with milestones achieved. A report template will be sent to the PIs prior to the reporting due dates.

PIs who receive conference/workshop support from this call will be required to submit a report at the end of the conference/workshop. A report template will be sent to the PIs.

Additionally, if there is a change in the proposed project plan, or execution of the project, a formal request is needed. A 1-page justification that explains the rationale for the change will be sufficient.

QUESTIONS

Questions about this call for proposals may be addressed to Antonio Farias (antoniofarias@ufl.edu); Dr. Sobha Jaishankar (sjaishan@ufl.edu); or Canan Balaban (cbalaban@ufl.edu)

Requests for institutional data should be directly addressed to Dr. Cathy Lebo (clebo@aa.ufl.edu).