

# Syracuse University

Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs  
Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion

## Lerner Center Faculty Fellows Grant Program 2018-2019 Call for Proposals

### Overview

The Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion in the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University is proud to announce its inaugural Lerner Center Faculty Fellows Grant Program. The Faculty Fellows Grant Program will fund at least two research/evaluation awards in the areas of population health and health promotion. Awards up to a maximum of \$25,000 will last up to 24 months. Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals with substantially lower budgets for smaller-scale projects, when appropriate. At least one of the awards will be granted to a project that incorporates the Lerner Center's *Healthy Monday* campaign principles, messaging, and/or programming.

### *The Healthy Monday Campaigns*

At least one of the grants will be awarded to a project that incorporates the Lerner Center's *Healthy Monday* campaign principles, messaging, and/or programming. Healthy Monday is a national public health initiative to help end chronic preventable diseases by offering weekly prompts and programs to support people and participating organizations in starting and sustaining healthy behaviors. Research suggests that people view Monday, more than any other day of the week, as a day to make healthier choices. Respondents chose Monday as the day they would begin eating healthier, start an exercise routine, quit smoking, or make an appointment with their health care provider. Monday has special significance in Western culture as the beginning of the week and an opportunity for a fresh start. The Lerner Center currently engages in several Healthy Monday campaigns, including Meatless Monday, the Monday Mile, and Quit & Stay Quit Monday. For more information, please visit the Healthy Monday webpage: <http://healthymonday.syr.edu/>. Investigators who are interested in targeting the *Healthy Monday* set-aside funds should contact Shannon Monnat, Lerner Chair for Public Health Promotion, at [smmonnat@maxwell.syr.edu](mailto:smmonnat@maxwell.syr.edu) prior to submitting the proposal in order to discuss the Healthy Monday campaigns and the proposed project.

### Project Timeline

Letter of intent due: Sept. 15, 2018 (5:00 pm EST)

Application due: Oct. 12, 2018 (5:00 pm EST)

Awardees announced: Nov. 9, 2018

Project period: Dec. 1, 2018 - Nov. 30, 2020

All materials and inquiries should be sent to the Shannon Monnat, Lerner Chair for Public Health Promotion, at [smmonnat@maxwell.syr.edu](mailto:smmonnat@maxwell.syr.edu).

## **Background and Program Goals**

The goal of the Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion at Syracuse University is to partner with researchers, students, and community organizations to provide the foundation for developing and implementing evidence-informed policies and practices that improve population health. The Lerner Center Faculty Fellows Grant Program sets out to meet the following goals:

- Enhance population health research at Syracuse University through grants that support innovative programs, activities, analysis, and dissemination of research findings that aim to prevent chronic diseases and promote public health.
- Contribute to knowledge about healthy behaviors, health promotion, and health policy to improve population health.
- Empower faculty researchers to translate and disseminate population health research findings beyond traditional academic outlets.
- Facilitate sustainable, mutually beneficial partnerships between Syracuse University faculty members, community partners, and the Lerner Center.

## **Project Description**

Population health or health promotion projects should focus on impacting health behaviors, institutions, systems, or policies to reduce risk for and/or consequences of chronic disease and/or premature mortality at the individual, community, or societal levels and should include one or more of the Lerner Center's key strategic priority areas: diet and nutrition, physical activity, tobacco use, substance misuse, stress reduction, and mental health.

Projects can involve a range of activities, including: a) primary data collection/analysis or secondary data analysis that contributes to new or existing population health research; b) creation of data-informed methods to inform new interventions or programs; c) development and/or pilot of a new public health intervention or program; or d) evaluation of the design, implementation, or impact of a pilot intervention, program, or policy.

Desirable projects will also incorporate one or more cross-cutting themes of health equity, policy change, multidisciplinary discovery, and community engagement.

## **Eligibility**

The principal investigator (PI) must be a tenured or tenure-track Syracuse University faculty member or Professor of Practice from any college or program. Multidisciplinary teams and the inclusion of a community-based partner organization are encouraged. Postdoctoral Fellows can be included as collaborators on proposals, but are not eligible to apply as PIs. Proposals with multiple PIs are acceptable as long as at least one of the PIs holds a primary tenured, tenure-track, or Professor of Practice appointment at Syracuse University.

## **Application and Review Process**

### **Letter of Intent**

A letter of intent (LOI) is requested by **5:00 pm EST on September 15, 2018** to help us identify appropriate proposal reviewers. Email the LOI to [smonnat@maxwell.syr.edu](mailto:smonnat@maxwell.syr.edu) with the subject line: "Lerner Faculty Fellows Letter of Intent." The LOI (not to exceed 2 pages) should include the following information:

1. Project title.
2. Names, titles, department affiliations, and email addresses of Principal Investigator(s) and any anticipated key personnel and/or community collaborators.
3. Brief project description, including an overview of the aims, research/evaluation questions, target population, data and methods, and anticipated deliverables. Indicate whether this project will incorporate *Healthy Monday* programming.
4. Brief description of budget needs.

LOIs are not required, but they are appreciated. LOIs are being collected primarily for administrative purposes. Receipt of LOIs will be acknowledged, but feedback on the substance or viability of projects will not be provided in response to LOIs.

### **Full Proposal**

The full application with all accompanying components must be emailed as a single file (PDF or Word) to Shannon Monnat at [smonnat@maxwell.syr.edu](mailto:smonnat@maxwell.syr.edu), subject line: "Lerner Faculty Fellows Grant Program Proposal" no later than 5:00 pm EST, on Friday, October 12, 2018.

Proposal receipt will be acknowledged. Required components of the application packet include:

1. Cover page - Please use the [Faculty Fellows Grant Program Cover Page Template \(http://lernercenter.syr.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Faculty-Fellows-Grant-Program-Cover-Page-Template.docx\)](http://lernercenter.syr.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Faculty-Fellows-Grant-Program-Cover-Page-Template.docx)
2. Abstract of  $\leq 250$  words describing the project objectives, data, and methods.
3. Proposal narrative - A detailed description of the proposed project. The proposal narrative may not exceed 6 single-spaced pages in 12-point font with one-inch margins all around, exclusive of references and appendices. Suggested page limits for each section are provided below. The narrative should include the following sections:
  - a. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Provide a detailed project description, including research or evaluation aims and hypotheses, relevant background literature justifying the importance of the study, and the conceptual framework or logic model that will be used to guide the study. (2 pages)
  - b. METHODS: Present a detailed, rigorous research or evaluation design that describes the proposed methods, data sources, and anticipated results or outcomes (clearly stated, measurable, and achievable within the allotted time), including their potential implications for policy and/or practice. (2 ½ pages)
    - i. If the project includes a community partner, this section must also describe the organization and the population it serves, describe how the researcher-community organization partnership will be structured, how the partnership will benefit each, and evidence of any prior partnership between the research team and community organization.

- ii. If applying under the *Healthy Monday* set aside, the proposal must identify how the project incorporates the Lerner Center's *Healthy Monday* campaign principles, messaging, and/or programming. All applicants who are considering submitting under the *Healthy Monday* set-aside should contact Shannon Monnat to discuss the campaigns and project ideas prior to developing a proposal in order to facilitate a competitive submission.
- c. RELATIONSHIP TO LERNER CENTER PRIORITIES: Describe how the proposed study addresses one or more of the Lerner Center's key strategic priority areas and cross-cutting themes. (< ½ page)
- d. DISSEMINATION: Describe how you will disseminate, communicate, and translate the research findings to relevant stakeholders outside of academia, including the public, community organizations, media, and policymakers. (< ½ page)
- e. RESEARCH TEAM EXPERTISE AND ROLES: Briefly describe the expertise of the PI(s) and key personnel, and their roles on the proposed project. (< ½ page)

#### Appendices

- 4. Budget and justification – An itemized budget showing all proposed costs. Note that awards will be issued in one-year increments. As such, the itemized budget should be presented in one-year periods. Indirect costs are not allowed, but fringe benefit costs for personnel should be included.
- 5. CVs or biosketches for PI(s) and all key personnel.
- 6. A reference list.
- 7. Letter of support from community partner (if applicable).
- 8. Letter of support from Department Chair (if requesting course release).

#### **Selection Criteria**

The Lerner Center will convene a panel to evaluate proposals according to the following criteria:

- 1. The proposed usefulness of the project for advancing scientific knowledge on improving population health.
- 2. The relevance of the topic, policy, or program to one or more of the Lerner Center's key strategic priority areas of diet and nutrition, physical activity, tobacco use, substance misuse, stress reduction, and mental health.
- 3. The relevance of the project to one or more cross-cutting themes of health equity, policy change, multidisciplinary discovery, and community engagement.
- 4. The relevance of the project to the *Healthy Monday* campaigns (if applying under the *Healthy Monday* set-aside)
- 5. Clarity of stated objectives, methods, and anticipated results.
- 6. The appropriateness and rigor of the research or evaluation design, data, methods, and other procedures.
- 7. The reasonableness of estimated cost and time commitments in relation to anticipated results.

8. The qualifications and experience of personnel, including demonstrated familiarity with the relevant literatures, data, and methods to be used.
9. The extent to which the dissemination plan describes how project findings will reach audiences outside of academia (including community members, the media, and policymakers).

### **Reporting**

Projects will begin on December 1, 2018. For 24-month projects, awardees will be required to submit interim and final reports by November 30, 2019 and November 30, 2020, respectively. For shorter projects, we will assign applicable interim and final report dates. The Lerner Center will send PIs the reporting template after awards are granted. The PI(s) will also be expected to present their findings at a Lerner Center research event that will be scheduled for spring 2021 and contribute one or more research briefs or fact sheets to the forthcoming *Lerner Center Population Health Research Brief Series*.

### **Funding**

Funding can be requested to support all activities justified in the budget. Requests can include, but are not limited to: faculty course release; summer salary; graduate student support; costs associated with data collection and analysis; support to community partners for project-related expenses (but not for the provision of direct services); and costs associated with disseminating findings. Budgets may not include overhead/indirect costs. Faculty who include funding for a course release must submit a letter of support from their Department Chair. Awards are for up to 24-months. A 6-month no-cost extension may be granted. No-cost extensions requests must be submitted in writing before the end of the project period, and must include a justification and be accompanied by a brief progress report.

Award notices will be sent by the Lerner Center, which will provide administrative oversight for the grants. Awards will be administered through the PI's home department/Center/Institute. Lerner Center staff will work cooperatively with the department/Center/Institute to simplify the process and provide account access.

### **Lerner Center Faculty Affiliate Program**

During the Faculty Fellowship term, the PI(s) on funded projects will be automatically granted Lerner Center Faculty Affiliate status. It is expected that funded PIs will maintain their affiliate status upon completion of the project, present their findings at the Lerner Center research event to be held in spring of 2021, and assist the Lerner Center with reviewing future grant proposals. Other key personnel on funded projects may also apply for Faculty Affiliate status.

### **Questions**

Questions about any aspect of this RFP can be directed to Shannon Monnat, Lerner Chair for Public Health Promotion, at [smonnat@maxwell.syr.edu](mailto:smonnat@maxwell.syr.edu), subject line "Lerner Center Faculty Fellows Inquiry." The RFP and other materials can be found online at <http://lernercenter.syr.edu/faculty-research-fellows-program/>.