

Lerner Center Faculty Fellows Grant Program 2020 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 2020 Lerner Center Faculty Fellows Grant Program. The Faculty Fellows Grant Program intends to fund at least two research/evaluation awards in the areas of population health and/or health promotion. Awards will be funded up to a maximum of \$25,000 for 24 months.

Timeline

Letter of intent due: March 13, 2020 (5:00 EST)

Invitations for Full Proposals sent: March 20

Full application due: April 15 (5:00 pm EST)

Awardees announced: May 15

Project period: July 1, 2020-June 30, 2022

Background and Program Goals

The mission of the Lerner Center is to improve population health through applied research and evaluation, education, engaged service, and advocating for evidence-based policy and practice change. The goals for the Faculty Fellows Program are to:

- Enhance population health research at Syracuse University through grants that support innovative programs, activities, analysis, and dissemination of research findings that aim to prevent disease and early death and promote population health.
- Contribute to knowledge about healthy behaviors, health promotion, and/or 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.

Faculty Fellows 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 poor health, disease, disability, and/or premature mortality at the individual, community, or societal levels. We are particularly interested in projects that emphasize the “upstream” or social/structural determinants of health. We also encourage applications that incorporate and evaluate the effectiveness of the Lerner Center’s *Healthy Monday* campaign principles, messaging, and/or programming.

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 knowledge; 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.

The Healthy Monday Campaigns

We encourage applications that incorporate and evaluate the effectiveness of 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. The Lerner Center is engaged in several Healthy Monday campaigns, including Meatless Monday, the Monday Mile, and DeStress Monday. For more information, please visit the Healthy Monday webpage: <http://healthymonday.syr.edu/>. Investigators who are interested in incorporating *Healthy Monday* into their projects should indicate such in their letter of intent. If invited to submit a full proposal, we will encourage you to discuss your idea with our Healthy Monday Program Coordinator, Mary Kate Lee, prior to submission.

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 and graduate students 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 2-page letter of intent (LOI) is required by **March 13, 2020 (5:00 EST)**. After review, a subset of applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal, which will be due by **April 15, 2020 (5:00 EST)**. Email the LOI to lerner@syr.edu with the subject line: "Lerner Faculty Fellows Letter of Intent." The LOI (not to exceed 2 pages, 12 point font) 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. Project description, overview of the aims, research/evaluation questions, proposed data and methods, and anticipated deliverables (including dissemination strategies). Indicate whether this project will incorporate *Healthy Monday* programming and/or evaluation.

Full Proposal

Investigators with a) projects appearing to fit the goals of the funding opportunity and b) a strong research/evaluation design will be notified by March 20 and invited to submit a full application. The full application with all accompanying components must be emailed as a single file (PDF or Word) to lerner@syr.edu, subject line: "Lerner Faculty Fellows Grant Full Proposal" no later than **April 15, 2020** (5:00 EST). An invitation to submit a full proposal is not a guarantee of funding. Full proposals will undergo a competitive review process:

Required components of the full application packet include:

1. Cover page - Please use the [Faculty Fellows Grant Program Cover Page Template](https://lernercenter.syr.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/LernerFacultyFellowsFullProposalCoverPage.docx) (<https://lernercenter.syr.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/LernerFacultyFellowsFullProposalCoverPage.docx>)
2. Abstract of ≤ 250 words summarizing the project's objectives, significance, data, and methods.
3. Proposal narrative - The proposal narrative may not exceed 4 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 brief project description, including research or evaluation aims, significance (including any relevant background literature justifying the importance of the study and implications for research, policy, or practice), and innovation. (1.5 pages)
 - b. METHODS: Present a detailed, rigorous research or evaluation design that describes the proposed methods, data sources, hypotheses (clearly stated, measurable), timeline, and brief plan for obtaining IRB approval/exemption (1.5 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 incorporating a *Healthy Monday* component, the proposal must identify how the project incorporates the *Healthy Monday* campaign principles, messaging, and/or programming. All applicants who are considering submitting under the *Healthy Monday* set-aside should contact Mary Kate Lee (mlee77@syr.edu) to discuss the HM campaigns and project ideas prior to developing the proposal.

- c. **DISSEMINATION:** Describe how you will disseminate, communicate, and translate the research findings to relevant stakeholders both inside and outside of academia, including the public, community organizations, media, and policymakers. (½ page)
- d. **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 your proposal incorporates a community partner).
8. Letter of acknowledgement from Department Chair (only if requesting a course release).

Selection Criteria

The Lerner Center will convene faculty experts to evaluate proposals according to the following criteria:

- The proposed significance of the project for advancing scientific knowledge, policy, and or practice for improving population health.
- Project innovation.
- The appropriateness and rigor of the research or evaluation design, data, methods, and other procedures.
- Feasibility that the project can be completed within the 24-month project period. If original data collection is proposed, a timely plan for IRB submission is required.
- The likelihood that the research will result in important publications with insights into population health.
- The extent to which the dissemination plan describes how project findings will reach audiences outside of academia (including community members, the media, and policymakers).
- The qualifications and experience of personnel, including demonstrated familiarity with the relevant literatures, data, and methods to be used.
- The reasonableness of estimated cost and time commitments in relation to anticipated results.

Funding

Up to \$25,000 can be requested to support all activities justified in the budget. Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals with substantially lower budgets for smaller-scale projects,

when appropriate. 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 acknowledgement from their Department Chair. Awards are for up to 24-months. A 6-month no-cost extension may be granted. No-cost extension 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 PI's department/Center/Institute to simplify the process and provide account access.

Reporting

Project periods will run July 1, 2020-June 30, 2022. Awardees will be required to submit an annual and a final report by August 1, 2021 and August 1, 2022, respectively. 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 Lerner Center Research events and contribute one or more research briefs to the *Lerner Center Population Health Research Brief Series* (<https://lernercenter.syr.edu/category/pop-health-research-briefs/>).

Lerner Center Faculty Affiliate Program

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 Lerner Center research events, 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 should be directed to Shannon Monnat, Lerner Chair for Public Health Promotion, at smmonnat@maxwell.syr.edu, subject line "Lerner Center Faculty Fellows Inquiry." More information and this RFP can be found at: <https://lernercenter.syr.edu/research/faculty-research-fellows-program/>.