The College of Social Science Small Grants
Spring 2025 Open Call for Proposals

The College of Social Science invites applications for competitive awards under its Spring 2025 Small Grants Program. This call is limited to tenure system faculty members holding primary appointments (51% or higher) in the College of Social Science and who have not received research funding (e.g., DFI, FIF, SPG, special small grant RFPs, or bridge funding) from the College during the past three years.

The CFP promotes the production and dissemination of knowledge by supporting faculty development of new or revised research/scholarly initiatives that otherwise would find limited support from other funding sources. Applications reflecting activities that will lead to publications or proposals for external funding are particularly encouraged. ***A minimum match of $500 from the applicant's unit is required***. The maximum award request is $10,000. Up to ten proposals are expected to be funded.

Applications for the FY25 awards are due in the Dean's Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 2, 2025 (no time extension requests will be allowed). Proposals are limited to three pages (single-spaced, 11-point Arial or Times Roman font, one-inch margins. References, curriculum vitae, detailed budget and budget justification should be included as appendixes), and must clearly articulate methods, offer a concise statement of expected outcomes, and justify the use of this particular funding mechanism. A brief letter from the unit chair/director with a commitment for the required matching funds must accompany each application. ***Proposals must be submitted electronically as a single PDF file by 5:00 p.m. Friday, May 2, 2025 to the Office of Research and Strategic Initiatives at*** SSC.Researchdean@msu.edu. All proposals will be evaluated in terms of (1) quality and technical merit; (2) impact of the project; (3) capability, productivity, experience of applicants; and (4) budget considerations.

Proposals will be reviewed by members of the College Research Committee and award recipients will be notified by Friday, May 23, 2025. ***Projects should begin effective June 1, 2025. All award decisions are final.***

Instructions for accessing funds will be provided at the time of notification. Funds may be used for expenses related to the project as submitted, consistent with University Policy and Procedures, but ***may not be*** used for faculty and support staff salaries or conference travel and expenses. Support for student assistant support is allowed. Any equipment valued at $500 or more purchased from these funds becomes the property of the University. A brief narrative and financial report are required within 12 months of the award date describing outcomes and plans for follow-up.

Faculty Initiative Fund Review Criteria

I. QUALITY AND TECHNICAL MERIT
    a. Does the proposal demonstrate an awareness of the state of current research?
    b. Does the proposal describe a sound methodology, analytic or technical approach?
    c. How feasible is the proposed project?
    d. Does the proposal suggest an innovation and creative approach to address a problem?

II. IMPACT OF THE PROJECT
    a. Does the proposed work hold potential for the advancement of science?
    b. Is the proposed work relevant to policy and practice?
    c. Is this project likely to attract additional sponsored activities?

III. CAPABILITIES, DEMONSTRATED PRODUCTIVITY, AND EXPERIENCE OF APPLICANTS
    a. Does the PI demonstrate the ability to complete the proposed effort?
    b. Does the applicant demonstrate a record of successful past performance?

IV. BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS
    a. Is the FIF an appropriate mechanism to advance this work?
    b. Are the budgeted project costs appropriate for the level of effort?

Scoring Table for College of Social Science Research Grants (adopted from NIH guidelines)

Impact	Impact/Priority Score	Descriptor	Additional Guidance on Strengths/Weaknesses
High	1	Exceptional	Exceptionally strong with no weaknesses
	2	Outstanding	Extremely strong with negligible weaknesses
	3	Excellent	Very strong with only some minor weaknesses
Moderate	4	Very Good	Strong but with numerous minor weaknesses
	5	Good	Strong but with at least one moderate weakness
	6	Satisfactory	Some strengths but also some moderate weaknesses
Low	7	Fair	Some strengths but with at least one major weakness
	8	Marginal	A few strengths and a few major weaknesses
	9	Poor	Very few strengths and numerous major weaknesses
Definitions			
Minor: easily addressable weakness that does not substantially lessen the impact of the project
Moderate: weakness that lessens the impact of the project
Major: weakness that severely limits the impact of the project			

3/31/2025