

*Call for Proposals  
Research Projects on Diversity, Equity and Media  
Manship School of Mass Communication*

**Deadlines**  
**Monday, August 3, 2020**  
**Thursday, September 17, 2020**

**Overview**

The Manship School of Mass Communication is seeking proposals for small grant projects that aim to address diversity, equity and inclusion issues. Sparked by the murder of George Floyd by police, the country has seen unprecedented protests against police brutality and systemic racism targeting Black Americans. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted racial and ethnic minorities, drawing further attention to the dangerous racial disparities in health care. The unfolding of these events reinforces our mission to advance important conversations in the fields of journalism and mass communication. The Manship School would like to address the important issues of racial equity, diversity and social justice through supporting research efforts.

The selected proposals will be funded by the **Ralph S. Izard Race and Media Studies** fund and the **Scripps Howard Race and Media Fund**. These grants reflect our long-standing commitment to supporting research, dialogue and action that combat racism, institutional discrimination and systematic oppression.

We will consider proposal quality, the availability of funds and the needs of proposed projects in setting the number of awards and amounts of awards funded.

A committee will review the proposals and make recommendations on funding decisions to Manship School Dean Martin Johnson. Members of the review committee include:

- Dr. Jinx Coleman Broussard, Bart R. Swanson Endowed Memorial Professor, chair
- Dr. Hyojung Park, Associate Dean for Research & Strategic Initiatives
- Dr. Joshua Grimm, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies & Administration
- Dr. Yongick Jeong, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies & Research
- Dr. Jenee Slocum, Director of the Reilly Center for Media and Public Affairs
- Dr. Jas Sullivan, Professor of Political Science, Psychology, and African and African American Studies, external evaluator

**This call for proposals has two deadlines: Monday, August 3 and Thursday, September 17.** This structure will allow the review committee and the dean to expedite funding for projects.

**Proposal Response Types**

Responses to this call for proposal may take one of two forms: a faculty research project or a student-initiated research project.

**Faculty Research Project:** We will accept proposals from tenured and tenure-track faculty of the Manship School. Collaborative projects and proposals from early-career faculty are especially encouraged. The principal investigator for each response to this call must be an individual, but the PI may designate one or more co-principal investigators. These co-principal investigators may be undergraduate or graduate students at LSU. While it is advantageous to cooperate with faculty members and students at other universities, Manship funds may not be allocated outside LSU. Faculty may use research awards for direct research expenses such as travel and equipment, graduate assistants, and other authorized expenses. Faculty may not request summer salary in their response to this call. Your request for a faculty research project award should not exceed **\$3,500** for the 2020-2021 academic year.

**Student-Initiated Research Project:** We are particularly interested in collaborative work among students or between faculty and students in this call. Any Manship School of Mass Communication full-time undergraduate or graduate student is eligible to apply. The principal investigator for each proposal in this category must be an individual student, but the PI may designate one or more students as co-principal investigators. Each proposal in this category must have an endorsement from a faculty advisor with whom the student proposes to work. Proposals may request funding for individual-level student research (i.e., independent study projects, honors theses, master's theses or professional projects, dissertations, etc.). Travel may be requested, if it is necessary, for the successful completion of the research (e.g., travel to archives, for interviews, etc.). Graduate students and principal investigators may request up to **\$1,500** for the 2020-2021 academic year. An undergraduate student request should not exceed **\$1,000**.

### Proposal Preparation

Proposals must be submitted to Associate Dean for Research and Strategic Initiatives [REDACTED] no later than **4:30 p.m. on the deadline date (August 3, September 17)**. The review committee will evaluate the proposals and make recommendations to the dean. Dean Martin Johnson will make final decisions regarding which proposals are funded and at what amounts within two weeks of the deadline.

Proposals should be written without academic jargon. Please number and single-space all pages. Use a 12-point font and 1-inch margins on all sides. Properly cite any material from sources using APA or an alternative standard format.

The proposal(s) should include the following:

1. **Coversheet:** Include the project title, name(s) and contact information of investigator(s). In the case of a student research proposal, provide the name and contact information of the faculty advisor.
2. **Project narrative** (up to 3 pages, excluding references) that explains what is to be achieved and includes the following components: (a) research overview that identifies the research project and overarching research questions or objectives; (b) methods that describe how you plan to collect and analyze data; (c) broader impacts that explain why the project is important, and discuss impacts or intangible benefits that the project can bring to the discipline and society; and (d) proposed outcomes such as a book, conference paper, article, broadcast project, grant proposal, etc.

3. **Timeline:** This timeline should present the various tasks necessary for the successful completion of the project. Please include expected date of completion for each component.
4. **Budget:** Provide a budget summary using the template at the end of this call. Be sure that budget totals are accurately summed and budget guidelines are followed.
5. **Budget narrative:** Please provide a detailed explanation for each budget item.
6. **Curriculum vitae:** Attach a curriculum vitae or resume for each investigator.
7. **Faculty advisor form** (in the case of a student-initiated research proposal): Include a completed form indicating that a faculty member mentoring the student project has reviewed and supports the proposal.

***Proposals not following the above organization or missing any of the above sections will be returned for revision, possibly delaying disbursement of funds. Please carefully proofread the proposal to minimize technical errors.***

### **Budgeting Guidelines**

- Proposal budgets may not exceed \$3,500 for faculty research projects, \$1,500 for graduate student-initiated projects or \$1,000 for undergraduate student-initiated projects.
- Research Assistants: Faculty may request funds to support hiring graduate student or undergraduate student research assistants. Calculation of pay is \$8/hour for undergraduate students, \$12/hour for master's students and \$15/hour for doctoral students. Please include a justification.

Please note that for graduate students who are already supported by graduate assistantships, this may entail approval for additional compensation from the Graduate School. According to LSU's policy, no students will be allowed to work more than 25 hours per week on campus, and employment of more than 20 hours per week is not encouraged. International students cannot exceed 20 hours per week and are not eligible for additional compensation.

- Travel: Investigators may use these funds for research-related travel (i.e., travel to conduct interviews, visit archives/institutes, etc.). Please do not include conference travel in the proposal.
- Participant Compensation: These funds may be used to support participant compensation. Compensation can be in the form of gift cards, payment through Lucid or Qualtrics Panels, Amazon Mechanical Turk, raffles, etc. LSU requires researchers who wish to disperse compensation items in-person to complete the AS549 Acknowledgement of Cash Incentive Payment form. The School will cover compensation costs in the form of reimbursement to the researcher.

Items that will NOT be funded include (a) salaries, student fees or tuition; (b) conference travel; (c) equipment purchases, including computers, computer parts and accessories; and (d) reimbursement for research-related activities that began before receiving the award.

