Call for Proposals

Bridging Community-Engaged Research Capacity
ERI Faculty and Graduate Student Community-Engaged Research Small Grant Program

Deadline: October 6, 2023

The USC Equity Research Institute (ERI) announces the opportunity to apply for a faculty or graduate student small grant in community-engaged research to power social change. This funding is currently only available to USC faculty and graduate students. Applications are due October 6, 2023 and funding can be used through June 30, 2024.

Founded in 2007, USC Equity Research Institute (ERI) provides forward-looking, actionable research to support community-based organizations, funders, and other stakeholders working towards social, racial, economic, and environmental justice. ERI produces data-driven analysis and rigorous research to inform movements and policy; leads convenings and communications that deepen and broaden our reach into key audiences; engages in strategic collaborations that leverage our strengths for broader impact; and models an effective, sustainable, and racially-just research center. For more, see https://dornsife.usc.edu/eri/.

In 2023, ERI was awarded a three-year grant from The California Endowment to strengthen California’s ecosystem of community-engaged researchers who are equipped with the skills and capacities to provide data and narrative that bolsters community power and power building. In particular, we seek to focus on building a bench of researchers, particularly among Black-, Indigenous-, Latinx, immigrant, and other researchers of color, who can provide rigorous data and analysis that are relevant to the goals and concerns of community power-building coalitions aimed at addressing inequities and structural determinants of health in California.

The ERI Faculty and Graduate Student Community-Engaged Research Grants may range from $2500 to $15,000 to support research projects related to community power and health equity being conducted by individual faculty members and/or graduate students. Faculty can apply for up to $15,000, and graduate students can apply for up to $5000.

Applicants must demonstrate a strong relationship with a community partner and outline a specific research project aligned with the community power building field and strategic needs and inquiries as defined by the field. The research work should be situated in a social justice and social movement frame and employ collaborative research methods. The proposal should
be no longer than 5-8 pages, and can be significantly less, per the amount requesting, and include:

- A short, 200 word project summary, followed by a description of the project, research methods, and significance
- An explanation of how the research is aligned with the community power building field
- An explanation of how the research will connect with the ongoing goals of the community partner
- Project timeline with the expected outcome(s) by the end of the academic year, such as a popular article derived from the research, a presentation that might include other collaborators, etc.
- One faculty reference (graduate students only, please include with the proposal)
- One reference from a current or past community partner
- A paragraph detailing the budget that justifies how the funds will be used. Salaries for the Principal Investigator (PI) are not a justifiable expense, but faculty can budget for graduate student salaries.
- 2-page curriculum vitae

The awardees will affiliate with ERI through the end of the 2023-24 academic year and will be expected to participate in a late Spring seminar where grantees will present their research progress and/or findings. A 1-2 page final narrative report must be submitted by June 30, 2023.

Applications must be submitted to eri@dornsife.usc.edu no later than October 6, 2023. Please include “ERI Community-Engaged Research Grant” in the subject line. Applications will be reviewed by the selection committee and awardees will be informed of their acceptance by mid-October 2023.

Please forward any questions to Jody Vallejo, ERI Associate Director (vallejoj@usc.edu) or Kim Tabari, ERI Organizational Development Director (tabari@usc.edu)