

**Lerner Center Faculty Fellows Grant Program**  
2024 Request for Proposals  
Due: October 31, 2024

**Overview**

The Lerner Center Faculty Fellows Grant Program intends to fund at least two research grants that advance science, policy, or practice in the areas of public health communications and/or population health and have the potential to lead to the submission of external grant proposals. Awards will be funded up to a maximum of \$25,000 for 12 months.

**Timeline**

Applications due: October 31, 2024, 5:00 PM EST  
Awardees announced by: December 15, 2024  
Project period: January 1 - December 31, 2025

**Faculty Fellows Project Description**

Faculty Fellows will conduct research that advances science, policy, or practice in one of more of the following areas:

1. The impacts of health communication (form, content, messenger, dissemination strategy) on health behaviors, health outcomes, and/or changes to health policy in the United States.
2. The impacts of policies and/or politics, citizenship and democratic institutions, emerging technologies, and/or environmental challenges on population health and health disparities in the United States.
3. How population health trends influence citizenship and democracy (e.g., voting, extremism, polarization), technological innovations, and/or the environment in the United States.

Projects can involve a range of activities, including: a) primary data collection and analysis or secondary data analysis; 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.

**Eligibility**

The principal investigator (PI) must be a Syracuse University faculty member from any college or program. Multidisciplinary teams are encouraged, but not required. 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 faculty appointment at Syracuse University. Teams that are led by or that include a [Lerner Center Faculty Affiliate](#) will be prioritized.

## **Application and Review Process**

The full application with all accompanying components must be emailed as a single file (PDF or Word) to [lerner@syrr.edu](mailto:lerner@syrr.edu), subject line: "Lerner Faculty Fellows Grant Proposal" no later than **October 31, 2024** (5:00 EST). All documents should be prepared using 12-point font and one-inch margins.

Required components of the full application packet include:

1. Cover page with the names, titles, and departmental affiliations of the key personnel (identify the PI).
2. Abstract of  $\leq 250$  words summarizing the project's objectives, significance, data, and methods.
3. Proposal narrative - The proposal narrative may not exceed 4 single-spaced pages. 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 aims, significance (including any relevant background literature justifying the importance of the study and implications for research, policy, or practice) and innovation. (1.25 pages)
  - b. RESEARCH DESIGN: Present a detailed description of the research design that describes the proposed data sources, analysis methods, timeline, and brief plan for obtaining IRB approval/exemption. (1.25 pages)
  - c. DISSEMINATION: Describe how you will disseminate, communicate, and translate the research findings both inside and outside of academia. (0.5 page)
  - d. EXTERNAL FUNDING PROPOSAL PLAN: Describe how the findings from this seed grant will be used to inform one or more proposals for external funding, including the name of the funder, the specific RFP or mechanism (if known), and your timeline for preparing and submitting an external proposal. (0.5 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. (0.5 page)
4. References
5. Budget and justification - An itemized budget showing all proposed costs and a justification for each cost. Indirect costs are not allowed, but fringe benefit costs for personnel should be included.
6. CVs or biosketches for PI(s) and all key personnel.
7. Letter of acknowledgement from Department Chair if requesting a course release.

## **Selection Criteria**

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

- The proposed significance of the project for advancing scientific knowledge, policy, and or practice in one of the three target areas lists on page 1 of the RFP.
- The appropriateness and rigor of the research design, including the proposed data, methods, and other procedures.
- Feasibility that the project can be completed within one year. If original data collection is proposed, the team should already have IRB approval.
- The likelihood that the project will lead to a proposal that will generate external grant funding.
- The likelihood that the research will result in high-impact academic publications.
- The likelihood that 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. The Lerner Center may award a smaller amount than requested. Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals with substantially lower budgets for smaller-scale projects, when appropriate. Requests can include but are not limited to: Syracuse University faculty course release, summer salary, or graduate student salary (but not tuition); costs associated with data collection and analysis; and costs associated with disseminating findings (e.g., open-access journal fees, conference travel expenses). Budgets may not include overhead/indirect costs or tuition or salary costs for faculty or students outside of SU. SU faculty who include funding for a course release must submit a letter of acknowledgement from their Department Chair. Awards are for up to 12-months. A one-time 6-month no-cost extension may be granted upon request. 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. The Center for Policy Research (which houses the Lerner Center) will provide administrative oversight of the grants. CPR staff will work cooperatively with the PI's department/Center/Institute to provide account chartstrings as needed.

### **Reporting and Other Requirements**

The project period will run January 1 - December 31, 2025. Faculty Fellows will be required to submit a final report by January 31, 2026. 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 as requested and contribute one or more research briefs to the *Lerner Center Population Health Research Brief Series* (<https://surface.syr.edu/lerner/>).

### **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 continue contributing to the Lerner Center Population Health Research Brief Series. 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 in Public Health Promotion and Population Health, at [smonnat@syr.edu](mailto:smonnat@syr.edu) subject line "Lerner Center Faculty Fellows Inquiry."