WOMEN + GIRLS RESEARCH ALLIANCE

2023-2024 Seed Grant Funding Request for Proposals

Community-Engaged Focused Projects on Mental Health, Economic Security, and Equity

The Women + Girls Research Alliance (W+GRA) is excited to announce a call for proposals for projects that emphasize community partnerships and community-engaged research activities, that addresses the critical areas of mental health and wellness, economic security/mobility, and equity in the Charlotte metropolitan area. The W+GRA invites UNC Charlotte faculty to submit proposals from **September 11, 2023 - October 23, 2023**, that contribute to a deeper understanding of these vital issues and promote positive change within communities.

<u>**Scope of Research**</u>

Proposals should center on one or more of the following areas:

1. **Mental Health and Wellness**: Research projects in this category should aim to enhance mental health and well-being within communities. Topics may include but are not limited to:

- Identifying barriers to mental health services in underserved communities.
- Assessing the impact of community-based mental health interventions.
- Exploring culturally sensitive approaches to mental health support.

2. **Economic Security/Mobility**: Research projects in this category should focus on economic empowerment, financial stability, and pathways to economic mobility within communities. Topics may include but are not limited to:

- Evaluating the effectiveness of workforce development programs.
- Analyzing the impact of financial literacy initiatives.
- Investigating the role of entrepreneurship in economic mobility.

3. **Equity**: All proposals should have a strong equity lens, ensuring that the research addresses disparities and promotes inclusivity. This may include studying the intersectionality of factors such as race, gender, socio-economic status, and more.

Proposal Requirements

The proposal should be prepared in Microsoft Word and submitted via email as a single file attachment in PDF format. Each proposal should include the following components in the order listed below and be no longer than four pages in total. The final document should have 1" margins and use 12‑point type with double-spaced lines.

These items constitute a complete application:

1. Project Title

2. Applicant name(s) and email(s)

3. Department and/or College

4. Project Description with the following sections:

An Introduction that is clearly written and understandable to a person outside the applicant's discipline. The ad hoc review committee will be constituted along broad disciplinary lines, and you cannot assume that someone from your exact discipline or sub‑discipline will be on the committee.

The Significance of the Project:

Because the committee members come from many disciplines, they must be able to understand the context in which your research is situated. You should explain how your project relates to current developments in your field and/or how the project builds on previous work you have done.

Objectives:

The Methods or Steps to achieve the objectives (including design, sample, measures, procedures).

1. *Community Engagement:* Proposals should clearly demonstrate active engagement with the community, including collaboration with community organizations, leaders, or residents. Describe how the project will involve and benefit the community.

2. *Research Methodology*: Provide a detailed outline of your research methods, including data collection, analysis, and evaluation techniques.

3. *IRB Process*: The Institutional Review Board (IRB) process must be complete or near completion at the time of proposal submission, with approval anticipated before the research begins.

4. *Impact and Dissemination*: Explain how the research findings will be disseminated to the community, relevant stakeholders, and how they will contribute to positive change.

5. *Timeline, Project Budget, and Fund notes*: Include a project timeline with key milestones and a detailed budget breakdown, including any anticipated funding needs.

W+GRA will accept funding requests in the amount of $1,000.00 – $5,000.00. Proposals must include a brief budget with a budget narrative of and rationale for the expenditures for the project. Expenditures must be made no later than June 14, 2024. Please only request the amount you plan to spend within this period. Full funding is not guaranteed, but please be as specific as possible on your spending plans.

Each proposal must include the Departmental Operating/State Fund to which the award shall be transferred. W+GRA may offer discretionary funds towards project-related expenses, on a case-by-case basis. Please confirm details of allowability with your departmental business liaison before submission.

6. *Expertise*: Highlight the qualifications and expertise emphasizing experience in community-engaged research and the chosen focus areas.

Mandatory Workshop

Workshop Details: All selected project teams are required to attend a mandatory workshop in February 2024 to share progress, exchange insights, and enhance collaboration.

Funding Details

Funding Range: Projects will be eligible for funding between $1,000 - $5,000 dollars, distributed in two installments to cover expenses permissible by budgetary mechanisms. The first disbursement will occur once the Seed Grant recipients are notified and announced. The second disbursement will occur after the February 2024 workshop.

Eligible Project Types:

Tangible projects that will be supported include but are not limited to:

- Conferences
- Presentations
- Workshops
- Research Papers
- Trainings
- Photographic Exhibits
- Art Installations

We look forward to receiving your proposals and working together to advance our understanding of mental health, economic security, and equity within the Charlotte metropolitan area. Together, through creative and innovative research, we can drive positive change and create more equitable, resilient communities.

For inquiries and further information, please contact Dr. Michelle Meggs, Executive Director, Women + Girls Research Alliance at mmeggs@charlotte.edu.

SUBMISSION

Please submit proposals to Ally Bitgood at **abitgood@charlotte.edu** by **5pm** on **Monday, October 23, 2023**. Subject line should read **"W+GRA Seed Grant RFP."**

REPORTING

PI/primary contact is expected to provide status updates and a final report to W+GRA at the end of the funding period, **June 14, 2024**. **All unused funds must be returned to the W+GRA at that time.** Reporting extensions will not be granted.

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