

Request for Applications (RFA)

Contributing to the Understanding of COVID-19

The COVID-19 global pandemic is compelling the scientific community to address challenges in the areas of disease dynamics, health diagnostics, security, preparation for testing and clinical care, and data visualization related to COVID-19. At the same time, societies and communities, are rapidly adapting to new social norms including remote communication/ work places, physical distancing, and suspension of schools, effectively altering social normalcy with limited solutions to address the resulting gaps.

DePaul seeks proposals to conduct preliminary research that contributes to our knowledge, technical expertise and understanding of the science of COVID-19, or approaches to mitigate the health equity/social justice dimensions of COVID-19. Interested faculty are encouraged to submit an application in response to this RFA.

Who is eligible: Full-time faculty from the academic units across the University

Grant Award Amount: Maximum of 5 grant awards of up to \$25,000 per award

Start Date: June 1, 2020

Grant Period: Up to 12 months from start date

Application Deadline: April 20, 2020, 11:59PM

Notification Deadline: May 15, 2020

How to Apply

Email your proposal to academicinnovation@depaul.edu with the subject line: "COVID-19 RFA", no later than 11:59 p.m. CST on **April 20th, 2020**. Proposals should be submitted as a **single PDF file**, containing the following contents in the order specified:

1. **Cover Page:** the Cover page should contain the Project Title, Proposed Term (Start Date/ End Date), Requested Total Amount, Names/Departmental affiliations for participating DePaul Faculty, and Project Summary (up to 200 words).
2. **Project Narrative:** The narrative should be no more than three (3) single-spaced pages, Time New Roman size 12 point, or equivalent, with one-inch margins on all sides of each page and include the following subheadings/content:
 - **Problem Statement, Key Objectives, and Proposed Approach:** The problem statement should succinctly describe the scientific, technical, health equity or social justice issue/challenge to be addressed, the key objectives, and the proposed approach to intervening or otherwise addressing the issue/challenge, while demonstrating current knowledge about the issue.
 - **Measurable Outcomes, Success Criteria, and Proposed Timeline:** Describe your project's measurable outcomes and success criteria. Include a timeline of the proposed activities and explain how the project's key objectives can be successfully completed within 12 months of its start date. Provide a remote conduct plan that addresses the ability of the project team to

conduct the proposed work, including the work of budgeted students, as well as any activities involving human subjects, from remote locations (as necessary).

- **Potential for Innovation and Impact:** Describe the project's potential for innovation and impact, including how the project might lead to other potential external funding. Additionally, provide a brief description of the potential research that could be enabled by this initial effort and any external funding sources you identified that can sustain the proposed research beyond the 12 month funded by this internal grant program.
- **Team Qualifications:** Describe the qualifications of the team members to perform the proposed work. Why is the individual submitting the project suitable to lead the team?

3. Budget: The budget should not exceed \$25,000 and should use the template form that can be downloaded from [here](#).

Eligible expenses: Expenses that can be covered may include, but are not limited to: DePaul faculty, DePaul research staff, DePaul students, participation in conferences/symposium/workshops related to the project, supplies and equipment, and support for activities related to data collection (e.g. survey development, participant incentives, and focus groups). Student assistants should be paid per campus student employment guidelines & pay categories. Faculty summer salary can be paid up to 0.5-month summer salary and up to 1 course release per academic year can be budgeted from the grant. The budget should include any fringe benefits associated with personnel salaries and should add to the budget as a line item.

Course release: Faculty who intend to propose reduced or redirected time should consult with their department chairs and deans prior to submitting a proposal. Letters of support from the project lead's department chair and dean should address what plans have been made by the unit in case a course release was approved to be included in proposal budget.

Funding Restrictions: Expenses not eligible include consultants, subcontracts, and food/refreshments. All awarded funds must be used within the project award period. Special extensions from the duration of the approved project proposal and/or carry-over funds that are not expended during the period of the award must be approved by the Provost.

4. Budget Narrative: A budget narrative explaining each line in the budget should be submitted as an additional document of the proposal application. The template form can be downloaded from [here](#).

5. Faculty Bios: Provide up to 2-page bio of each participating faculty member that specifically highlights their expertise in the proposed field of study and qualifications to perform the proposed work.