



To: Distribution List

From: Faculty Research Development Office (FRDO)
Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competitions: Alfred P. Sloan Foundation: Creating Equitable Pathways to STEM Graduate Education

Date: April 1, 2022

The Higher Education Program at the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation is seeking to invest in Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs)[1] and in the establishment of partnerships between MSIs and graduate programs at other colleges and universities. The Foundation's Creating Equitable Pathways to STEM Graduate Education grants will support institutional pathways from MSIs to master's and doctoral degree programs in astronomy, biology, chemistry, computer science, data science, Earth sciences, economics, engineering, marine science, mathematics, physics, and statistics. Their intent is to facilitate the creation and strengthening of diverse, inclusive, and equitable pathways to and through STEM graduate education with the recognition that student pathways are too often disrupted by systemic racism, discrimination, and bias through prevailing institutional and departmental policy and practice.

They invite Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) for projects that seek to dismantle systemic barriers and create sustainable pathways to graduate education in the stated disciplines for domestic Black, Indigenous, and Latina/o students. Compelling LOIs will result in the invitation of a full proposal. Submissions of LOIs are due no later than May 1, 2022 by 5:00pm EDT. More information can be found [here](#)

Three types of grants will be funded:

1. **Planning grants** to support two or more institutions to conduct internal reviews of existing barriers to student success and for analysis and planning for future systemic change partnerships/collaborations (Up to \$75,000 for 1 year);
2. **Seed grants** to support work at two or more institutions that seek to formalize existing systemic change partnerships/collaborations and launch one or more pilot initiatives (Up to \$250,000 over 1-2 years); and
3. **Implementation grants** to support work at two or more institutions that allow for the augmentation or scaling of existing systemic change partnerships/collaborations (Up to \$500,000 over 2-3 years).

This is a limited competition; organizations can submit only **one** letter of inquiry (as the lead institutional partner) per institution, and only one submission per individual PI.

If you plan to submit a preproposal to this internal competition, you are required to submit a **statement of interest** including the title of your proposal, your name, department, and the names and department of additional personnel via UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#) no later than noon on **April 8, 2022**.

PIs who have submitted their SOI by the April 8th deadline are welcome to then submit a three-page preproposal by **NOON** on **April 14, 2022** via the [InfoReady Review portal](#). No late submissions will be considered. The preproposal should include the following:

- **Project Goal:** Briefly describe what the project would accomplish with Foundation support.
- **Objectives:** Briefly describe the specific strategies, approaches, or research questions that have been chosen to achieve this goal.
- **Proposed Activities:**
 - i. What is the nature and scope of the planned activities for the project?
 - ii. How do you know these activities are the right activities for addressing the stated problem? How have your proposed activities been employed as solutions before (i.e., cite literature or other programs that demonstrate their use), and how will your approach differ from what has been previously employed?
 - iii. How are these activities new or innovative for your institution? How are they innovative in your geopolitical/geographic context?
 - iv. How are your activities not only seeking to create opportunities for individual students, but also seeking to transform the environment and culture to better serve such students over the long term—beyond the life of this project?
- **Partnerships:**
 - i. What is the history of collaboration with participating institutions, and/or with MSIs at-large?
 - ii. How will the project ensure mutual benefits across the participating institutions?
- **Expected Outcomes:**
 - Briefly describe results and impacts if the project is successful (e.g. new knowledge, new or strengthened institutions, improved policymaking, enhanced public understanding, etc.)

The narrative should be accompanied by a **draft budget overview** and a 1-page **CV**.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us at limited@unm.edu.

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact Corey Ford (CFord@salud.unm.edu) or Cassandra Misenaar (CMisenaar@salud.unm.edu) for more information.