



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 25, 2024

The Higher Education Program at the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation is seeking to invest in Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) 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.

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 a future partnership(s) (up to \$75,000 for up to 1 year)
2. **Seed grants** to two or more institutions that seek to formalize an existing partnership(s) and launch one or more pilot initiatives (up to \$250,000 over 1-2 years)
3. **Implementation grants** to two or more institutions that allow for the augmentation or scaling of existing partnerships/collaborations (up to \$500,000 over 2-3 years)

The Foundation invites letters of inquiry (LOIs) for both new and the continuation of previously Sloan-funded projects that seek to dismantle systemic barriers and create sustainable MSI pathways to graduate education in the stated disciplines. Compelling LOIs will result in the invitation of a full proposal. F&A is capped at 20%. Submissions of LOIs are due no later than **July 1, 2024, by 5:00pm EDT**. More information can be found on the foundation website: <https://sloan.org/programs/higher-education/equitable-pathways/2024-Call-for-LOIs>.

This is a limited competition. **Each institution is limited to 1 (one) LOI as lead.** We will be conducting a two-step internal competition to ensure we have a review committee in place by the pre-proposal deadline. **You must complete both steps if you are interested in participating.**

STEP ONE: Please enter your ~100-word **statement of interest** by **NOON on May 2, 2024** in UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#). This is a required step, and no late submissions will be considered.

STEP TWO: Submit an abbreviated budget (with F&A capped at 20%), 2-page CVs for key personnel, and a 3-page pre-proposal that clearly describes:

1. **Significance**

- a. What is the specific problem or problems the project is aiming to solve on your campuses or through your organizations—and how do you know these are problems?
- b. How are the problems rooted in systemic practices, policies, standards, and cultural norms (e.g., within institutions, disciplines), and how does that inform your approach?

2. **Project Activities**

- a. What is the nature and scope of the planned activities for the proposed project? Please indicate which activities are new and which are continuing. Also include which individuals/institutions will be primarily responsible for each set of activities.
- b. How do you know these activities are the right activities for addressing the stated problem?
- c. How are these activities new or innovative for your institution or institutional context?
- d. How are your activities not only seeking to eliminate barriers to opportunities for individual students, but also to transform the environment and culture to better serve such students over the long term—beyond the life of this project?
- e. How will you know if the project is successful?

3. **Project Team**

- a. How is the project team well-suited for this project and for the level of collaboration being proposed? Why is this team the right one?

4. **Partnerships**

- a. What is the history of collaboration with participating institutions, or with MSIs at large?
- b. How will the project ensure mutual benefits across the participating institutions?

5. **Additional Sources of Support**

- a. What other sources or networks of support can the project leverage to ensure its success?
- b. What other financial resources might the project leverage to ensure its sustainability?

Please submit your pre-proposal by **NOON on May 7, 2024** via UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#). You will receive an email when the InfoReady competition has been converted from the SOI application to the pre-proposal application, but you can begin work on your documents outside the system before that. No late submissions will be considered.

Pre-proposals will be reviewed using the Sloan Foundation's own review criteria:

1. Evidence of true partnership,
2. activities being rooted in prior research/practice,
3. team qualifications and makeup,
4. likelihood of being sustained beyond Sloan funding,
5. evidence of systemic change approach, and
6. likelihood of success.

Plus:

7. Quality of the budget.
8. Overall score.

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

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact HSC Limited Competition at HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu for more information.