The Institutional Challenge Grant: Round 5

Webinar May 2021
@wtgrantfdn

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Today's Webinar

- The Institutional Challenge Grant Goals and Background
- The Award and Application Process
- Resources
- Questions

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Focus Areas

REDUCING INEQUALITY

- Launched in 2014
- Responses not causes/consequences
- Understand how programs, policies, and practices reduce inequality among young people in the United States

USE OF RESEARCH EVIDENCE

- Launched in 2008; new phase on improving URE launched in 2015
- Strategies not barriers to research use
- Understand how to create the conditions that improve the production and use of research in ways that benefit youth

Dec 09, 2020

Ohio State backs research supporting racial justice

Ten projects receive funding to join with community partners

Chris Booker
Ohio State News
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An initiative promoting the use of research to address the impact of racism and racial disparities in central Ohio and the nation is underway at The Ohio State University.

Ten team projects were awarded funding for the first round of Ohio State's Seed Fund for Racial Justice. The program seeks to develop research approaches and creative ideas to help contribute to the elimination of racism and solve its underlying causes and consequences on campuses, in the community and across the United States.

The seed grant program was developed at the request of the Office of the President through a collaboration of leaders from the colleges of Education and Human Ecology and Social Work and the offices of Diversity and Inclusion, Outreach and Engagement, Academic Affairs and Research.

JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY | RESEARCH

ABOUT THE OFFICE   AWARDS & INITIATIVES   BLOOMBERG PROFESSORS   COVID-19 INFORMATION   RESEARCH ADMINISTRA

COVID-19 information and resources for Johns Hopkins Uni

COVID-19 Research Response Program

kground: Johns Hopkins University has quickly mobilized to create a comprehensive response integrating dozens of fields of expertise to find solutions amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The disease caused by this coronavirus has a spectrum of effects in different patients, and we have deployed all of our systems, structures and expertise to identify these subgroups. In mid-March, nine critical research areas were identified to contribute to high impact initiatives with immediate and intermediate time scales.

The university's divisional research leadership selected leaders to serve as key conveners for each research program area. These leaders assembled interdisciplinary teams – from computational experts to cell biologists to clinicians – to achieve ambitious goals. The team

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PARTNERSHIP

- Build a sustained institutional partnership with a public agency or nonprofit organization

RESEARCH

- Pursue a joint research agenda to reduce inequality in youth outcomes

INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

- Create institutional change to value research-practice partnerships and their work

CAPACITY

- Develop the partners' capacity to collaborate, and to produce and use high-quality relevant research

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Research Practice Partnerships

Research-practice partnerships are long-term, mutually beneficial collaborations that promote the production and use of rigorous and relevant research evidence

Long-term view

Relationships between institutions

Persist beyond a single project

Benefit both parties

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Research-practice partnerships: Working together to improve outcomes for youth.

Whether you are looking to form, grow, or support a research-practice partnership, you need to know where to start and what to expect. We've [gathered] [tools], work samples, and resources from successful partnerships tha[t] [you can think] of it as a one-stop shop.

WHAT IS AN RPP?

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Under What Conditions Do School Districts Learn From External Partners? The Role of Absorptive Capacity

Caitlin C. Farrell
University of Colorado Boulder
Cynthia E. Coburn
Northwestern University
Seenae Chong
University of California-Berkeley

School district central offices regularly engage with external partners in improvement efforts, but these partnerships are not always productive. Indeed, little is known about under what conditions partnerships are likely to lead to organizational learning outcomes. We conducted a longitudinal comparative case study of two departments in one urban school district central office, both working with the same external partner. Data included 131 interviews and 372 hours of observations as well as artifacts and social network data. We...

Research-Practice Partnerships

A Strategy for Leveraging Research for Educational Improvement in School Districts

A white paper prepared for the William T. Grant Foundation
January 2013

Cynthia E. Coburn, Northwestern University
William R. Penuel, University of Colorado, Boulder
Kimberly E. Geil, Independent Researcher

Assessing Research-Practice Partnerships

Five Dimensions of Effectiveness

Erin C. Henrick
Vanderbilt University

Paul Cobb
Vanderbilt University

William R. Penuel
University of Colorado-Boulder

Kara Jackson
University of Washington

Tiffany Clark
University of Colorado-Boulder

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Reducing Inequality

- Conduct research on *programs, policies, & practices that reduce inequality in youth outcomes*
  - o Inequality by economic, racial, ethnic, and immigrant origins is pervasive
  - o Evidence often exists on the nature and sources of inequality
  - o Ways to *reduce* inequality are less well understood

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Barriers to Success

- Policies and practices within institutions inadvertently create barriers to the success of partnerships

  - o limit participation between and within institutions
  - o obstruct career advancement
  - o undermine longevity

Changing Policies & Practices

- Examine and redesign policies and practices to:

  o encourage sustained institutional partnerships with public agencies or nonprofit organizations

  o incentivize experienced researchers to pursue rigorous and relevant research agendas

  o improve the partnership skills of researchers

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Institutional Change

- University centers
- Integrating into strategic plans
- Small or seed grants for community-engaged research
- Hiring
- Research infrastructure support changes

- Revisions to merit, tenure & promotion criteria
- Raising the profile of community-engaged research
- Teaching releases
- Collaborations across university system campuses to expand institutional change

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Capacity Building

- Capacity, motivation & opportunity
- Organizational capacity
  - Research more likely to be used when integrated into existing routines
  - Research more likely to be used in learning organizations

(Yanovitsky & Blitz, 2017; Zahra & George, 2002)

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Capacity Building

- Build skills on partnership and university side
- Strengthening data collection to support solving problems of practice
- Leadership positions

- Co-design research agendas
- Build joint skills to write policy-relevant briefs

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Fellows & Capacity Building

- Developing the Capacity of Fellows and Partners

  ✓ The project plan should clearly allow the research fellows to significantly extend their skills as effective partners to policymaker and practitioners

  ✓ The project should include a feasible plan for leveraging the fellows to increase the capacity of the public agency or private nonprofit organization to use research in decision making to improve youth outcomes

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Fellows

- One university-based fellow and three partner-based fellows selected from current faculty selected or interest, skills in working with the community and content expertise

- Selecting fellows with expertise in working with government agencies; creating structured interactions between fellows, researchers and policymakers

- One fellow on university side mentored PIs on working with public agencies & one on partner side to drive research activities and act as intermediary in partner

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The Award & Application

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Institutional Challenge Grant

- $650K for 3 years
  - ✓ with a possible 2-year renewal

  o Up to a 9-month planning period

  o The partnership's research to reduce inequality

  o Mid-career fellows (8-20 years since Ph.D. or in role)

  o Capacity-building activities

  o Indirect cost allowance of up to 15% of total direct costs

- In-kind support for one fellow for one year

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Aspirations

- At the end of five years,

  - ✓ Established set of strategies that facilitate sustained research partnerships with public agencies or nonprofits

  - ✓ The public agency or nonprofit has increased its capacity to use research evidence

  - ✓ Researchers have improved their partnership skills

  - ✓ The research generated has been used in decision making and is likely to lead to improved outcomes for youth
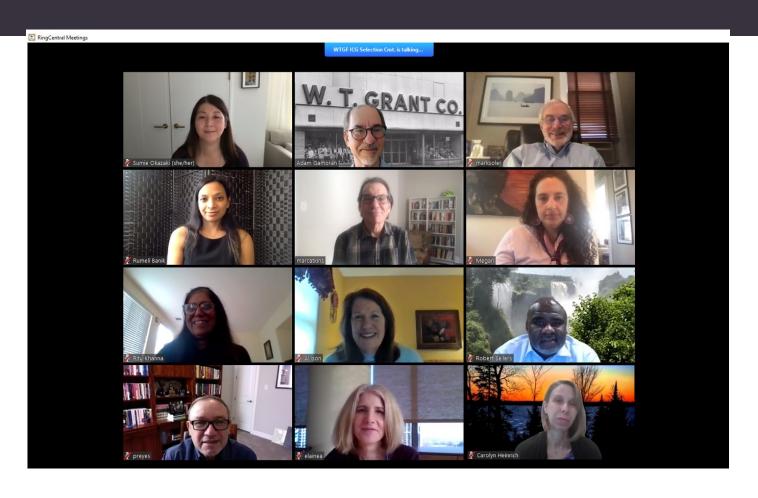
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Review Process

o Applications due September 14th, 2021 (3 pm ET)

- Full proposal and all agreements

o Senior Staff Reviews

- Four-page structured abstract

o Selection Committee Reviews

- Two in-depth committee reviews

- Selection of 3-5 finalists

o Finalists

- Written response

- In-person interviews

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Selection Committee

2021 – 2022 Competition

- Program unchanged!

- We encourage proposals from teams with African-American, Latinx, Native American, and Asian American members in leadership roles

- We welcome partnerships across a range of domains, including child welfare, mental health, housing, justice, and education

- Resubmissions welcome!

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On Our Website

SELECTED RESOURCES

wtgrantfoundation.org/grants/institutional-challenge-grant

Webinar: Applying for the Institutional Challenge Grant—Proposing Strategies to Foster Institutional Change

Partnering for Community Change: How the Institutional Challenge Grant Has Shaped Our Work

Research-practice partnerships website

The Foundation's research-practice partnerships website includes guiding tips, work samples, and resources from successful partnerships on topics including using research, communicating research and engaging stakeholders, and developing agendas and agreements.

rpp.wtgrantfdn.org

Funded Partnerships (2018-2021)

Cornell University

Cornell Cooperative Extension-Tompkins County

University Colorado-Boulder

Denver Public Schools

University of Toronto

Puerto Rico Department of Education

Boston College

United Way of Merrimack Valley & Massachusetts Bay

Northwestern University

Evanston Township School District 202 & Evanston/Skokie District 65

University of California Berkeley

San Francisco Unified School District

University of California Santa Cruz

United Way of Santa Cruz

Northeastern University

City of Boston

Johns Hopkins University

Fort Belknap Tribal Community

Questions?

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