Proposals to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Research Awards

Program (DEIRA) GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS

Proposal Deadline: **February 1, 2022**

SSSP invites proposals for the funding of **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) research awards (DEIRA)** that are consistent with the SSSP's purposes of advancing scholarship in and about school psychology and promoting the application of research to the practice of school psychology.

The purposes stated in the bylaws of SSSP are:
1. To advance basic and applied scientific research in all aspects of school psychology;
2. Disseminate important research results concerning school psychology to the general public, scientists, academicians, and practitioners; and
3. Foster communication about the profession of school psychology

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Priority
The DEI research award seeks to recognize, advance, and engage scholars in research that enhances topical, theoretical and methodological diversity. Enhanced diversity research may include, but not be limited to, topics such as race, ethnicity, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, ability, religion and absence of religion, and language in school psychology**.**

Award Program Eligibility
DEIRA Program eligibility is broadly defined to scholars with an earned doctorate of any academic rank whose research careers in universities, state or local agencies, or research centers **demonstrate evidence of or potential for DEI research**.

Only investigators affiliated with non-profit organizations, public institutions (including schools), or public (and private) institutions of higher education are eligible for funding. Jointly funded projects involving cooperation with other organizations also will be considered.

Nature and Scope of Projects
A wide array of projects consistent with SSSP purposes can be funded under this grant program. Funding for any given proposal is limited to $10,000.00. Key to success will be evidence of promise (e.g., pilot data, published manuscripts related to DEI, participation in projects with specific roles related to DEI). Funded projects generally will be of one year's duration; however, projects with longer timelines will be considered but must still be within the 10K budget. Note that SSSP awards, including the DEIRA, will **not** reimburse for indirect costs (IDC; see the SSSP website). The key features on which proposed projects are evaluated include their consistency with SSSP purposes, scientific merit, cost effectiveness, potential impact on school psychology scholarship, and potential impact on improving school psychology practice as well as focus on diverse populations. Projects consistent with the purposes of SSSP generally will fall into one of the following categories:

   a. Produce empirical results that address important scientific issues, methods, theories, or

practices in a different way or offer a new perspective to **advance and engage scholars in scientific research focused on topical, theoretical, and methodological diversity related to race, ethnicity, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, ability, religion and absence of religion, and language in school psychology.**

b. Evaluate and/or investigate assessment, intervention, and prevention procedures and techniques or other practice activities relevant to DEI.

c. Produce empirical results with the potential of contributing to the development or evaluation of a theoretical framework or DEI conceptual framework from which meaningful practical questions will be evaluated.

d. Produce empirical evidence that may inform the development of education and training models rooted in theory and research associated with DEI.

Award Priorities

Our **first and foremost goal** is to support projects that are innovatively focused on DEI as well as have the potential for advancing the science of school psychology by producing new theoretical, applied, or practical knowledge based on empirical findings; and incorporate methods that are rigorous, replicable, and clearly delineated.

Other priorities include

- Applicants who have authored (especially, senior authored) one or more published or in-press articles in a refereed journal with a DEI emphasis;
- Proposals where the applicant has a designated mentor who has reviewed the proposal and agreed to advise and consult on the project (Note: Current members of the SSSP Executive Board cannot serve as mentors);
- Applicants who have attended a School Psychology Research Collaboration Conference (SPRCC) sponsored by SSSP; and
- Projects for which there are no other, or only limited, alternative sources of funds, including small pilot projects for which the results could provide the basis for seeking funding from other sources in the future.

Application Process

- Applicants should include a letter of endorsement from the appropriate administrative head or organizational authority.
- The DEIRA award does not support the completion of theses, dissertations, or other awards to students as principal investigators (there are other SSSP awards available to students for these purposes).
- The SSSP does not provide honorariums for mentors. It is permissible to allocate up to $5,000 in salary and benefits to support project activities. Support may be paid as reimbursement for work performed in lieu of other duties (i.e., buyout), or for work done in excess of normal duties (i.e., overload or summer salary) if allowed by the investigator's employer. All compensation must be paid by the employer to the investigator; SSSP does not provide direct compensation nor reimbursement to individuals
- The SSSP does not support major equipment purchases (including computers and video equipment) or graduate assistantships; research assistants including graduate students can be hired on for prescribed tasks at an institutionally approved   hourly rate.
- Travel allowance is limited to that required for actual data collection and not for travel to

conferences or for meetings between PIs or PI and mentor.
- Indirect administrative (overhead) costs will **not** be reimbursed by the SSSP for any of its awards (see the SSSP website).

Awards will be made once each calendar year. **Proposals must be submitted by February 1, 2022.** A DEIRA Proposal Review Committee appointed by the President of SSSP, with the approval of the SSSP Executive Board, will review all proposals. The review committee will consist of five members, including three members of the DEI Committee (recommended to the Executive Board by the DEI Committee) and two members from the SSSP membership (solicited by the SSSP Director of Operations). The chair of the review committee will be recommended to the Executive Board by the DEI Committee Chair and must be approved by the Executive Board. Members of the Proposal Review Committee will serve a term of 2-3 years. Current officers of the SSSP are ineligible to participate on the Proposal Review Committee. In the event of a potential conflict of interest in the evaluation process, the Committee member who has such a conflict will not participate in the scoring process for that application. Applicants can expect a final decision on their proposals by March 31, 2022.

The proposal must be submitted electronically in a **single file** in **pdf format** to the Chair of the DEI Proposal Review Committee (Kristen Vargas, kvarjas@gsu.edu) via e-mail attachment. Applications (sections 2 through 6) must be no more than 10 pages, 1" margins, double spaced, in a font size of 12 point or larger. Title page, appendices, references, and mentor letter do not count toward the page limitation, **but all must be included in the single file**.

1. Applications should be organized into the following sections:

2. Title Page: This should include the title of the study, the Principal Investigator(s)   and their affiliation, the Mentor and affiliation (if applicable), and the requested total budget amount.

3. Overview of the Project: Provide a succinct one-half-page statement of what will be supported with SSSP funds, the major activities, and intended outcomes. Include the primary research questions or aims and **how it addresses DEI emphasis.**

4. Scientific Rationale for Proposal (1-3 pages): The rationale should include the theoretical, empirical, and/or logical foundation for the project. Previous literature and pilot studies (if available) should be critically reviewed in relation to the proposed research. Clear statements about how this research addresses previous limitations and/or extends previous findings should be included **especially as related to DEI.** This section should end with a brief description of the current study and restated research questions that are supported by the rationale in the previous pages.

5. Rationale for SSSP Funding: Discuss how the project rationale is compatible with SSSP purposes **and as related to DEI.** Describe the specific short and long-term impact that this study will have on scholarship and/or practice in school psychology.

6. Limited availability of other sources of funding: Discuss the rationale of SSSP funding in

terms of other available sources of funds or describe how other resources will be combined with SSSP funds to accomplish important goals as well as increase the opportunity for a larger grant proposal.

7. Operational Plan (2-4 pages): Include specific information about participants and how they will be recruited, measures used, descriptions of interventions or other independent variables, a description of the sequence of procedures, and a plan for analyzing the data that connects directly back to the research questions (i.e., how will you answer the questions). The operational plan should include the following details of the research strategies and method:

    a. *Participants*. Describe the number of participants and relevant demographics (e.g., ages, gender, grade levels, and DEI as outlined in the DEI priority statement included in this document). Also describe IRB approval, risks and protections, and methods of recruitment.
    b. *Measures, Methods, and Research Procedures*. Explicitly state the research design and link to the rationale and research questions. Briefly describe each of the measures and their technical adequacy for the purposes of the research **especially relevant are any works related to their use with diverse populations**. Also describe scoring procedures when appropriate, including procedures to minimize instrumentation threats. If some of the measures are author-created (e.g., rating scales), discuss how reliability of scores will be tested. Indicate if and how procedural reliability will be monitored and assured for experimental procedures.
    c. *Planned Data Analyses*. Describe the plan for analyzing the data to answer each of the research questions. Give enough detail of statistical analyses (e.g., correlations, regression, analyses of variance, growth models, and multi-level approaches) so that readers will understand the scores to be analyzed and the expected results to test the hypotheses.

8. Personnel: Describe the qualifications of the person(s) responsible for project activities in a brief vita (up to 3 pages) as an appendix for the key person(s) responsible for project activities. If applicable, indicate prior experience with School Psychology Research Collaboration Conference (SPRCC) sponsored by SSSP. (Vita pages do not count against the page limits). If applicable, describe the role and qualification of a mentor in this section. The qualifications of all key persons and mentor (if applicable) should make clear their prior and current DEI focused scholarship and activities.

9. Budget: Provide detailed estimates organized according to the budget categories of (a) Incentives for research participants, (b) Supplies, (c) Data processing, (d) Equipment, and (e) Other (specify). As noted above (see Application Process), travel funding is limited to that involved in the actual data collection process and SSSP will **not** reimburse for indirect costs (IDC).

Criteria for Awards
Awards will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

    1. 20 points: Importance of the scientific rationale and research/project in relation to needs

in school psychology

2. **20 points: Specific emphasis on DEI as outlined in the DEI priority statement included in this document.**

3. <u>5 points</u>: Rationale for SSSP funding in relation to other sources of funds and SSSP purposes

4. **10 points: Evidence of DEI focus in scholarship (e.g., past publications or other scholarly works)**

5. <u>30 points</u>: Operational plan including a detailed timeline, reasonable description of research plan, key stages and criteria for completion, persons responsible, benchmarks for success

6. <u>10 points</u>: Personnel and agency or institutional capabilities; qualifications of PI and mentor (if applicable)

7. <u>5 points</u>: Efficiency of resource utilization, including availability of matching funds, effective use of monies, and realistic appraisal of probable costs.

Procedures

The DEIRA Proposal Review Committee will review all proposals. Proposals will be rank ordered by the Review Committee with a two-tier process. The initial process will include the review of each proposal by at least three members of the Review Committee; based on these reviews, the top ranked proposals will be reviewed, discussed, and voted on by the full Review Committee, which will make recommendations regarding funding to the SSSP Board. Final approval will be made by the SSSP Board. Applicants can expect feedback concerning proposals by March 31, 2022. The grant will be for a period of one year, extending from May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023.

Successful applicants will be expected to acknowledge funding by SSSP in any subsequent publication of the results of the research supported by the grant. Successful applicants are encouraged to consider publication in the Journal *of School Psychology.* A grant report summarizing the activities and results will be required at the completion of the grant year.

If you have any questions, please contact kvarjas@gsu.edu, Chair of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Research Awards (DEIRA) Committee at kvarjas@gsu.edu. Proposals to the DEIRA must be submitted by February 1, 2022 by e-mail to: kvarjas@gsu.edu