OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

New Internal Funding Opportunity to Pursue Research on Social, Economic, and Health Dimensions of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Purpose:
On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19, a novel coronavirus, a pandemic. As of March 18, 2020, cases neared 200,000 globally, with over 8,000 deaths. These numbers continue to rise daily. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted nearly aspect of life in the United States (and globally) with schools closed, many businesses closed, travel curtailed, and major sports events cancelled.

Eligibility and Funding:
The Office of the Vice President for Research is making pilot grant awards to fund research in any area that is relevant to COVID-19 and its impacts through a competitive process.

Interested faculty on all USC campuses are eligible to submit proposals to conduct this research. The goal of the funding is to improve our understanding of the epidemiology, health impacts, and social and economic repercussions of this unprecedented event. Research needs to be conducted within the current constraints of the University's closure, abiding by all federal and state mandates.

Proposal Preparation: Please use 11-point font and .5-inch margins. The following needs to be assembled into a single PDF file:

1. **Title Page**: lead investigator name and home unit/department; names and units of any other key personnel involved; a 100-word abstract that includes the research problem, significance, approach/methods, and broader social impact of the project. Please note, the abstracts for all funded projects will be published on the Office of the Vice President for Research's website to facilitate possible collaborations and information exchange among investigators with complementary studies.

2. **Research Strategy:** Must be no longer than 3 pages, including background, significance and innovation, and overall research design (including the demonstration of the need for such data; human subjects' protocol, where appropriate). There should be a plan for rapid data collection including logistical challenges in gaining access to such data and procedures for data sharing, where applicable. Please address theoretical and/or applied benefits that might be realized from the project. The suggested timeframe is May 15 – December 31, 2020.

3. **Budget**: Grants will be funded in the range of $5,000 - $25,000. Please adhere to the following budgetary guidelines:
   - Faculty salary support should be minimal
   - If students are involved, either graduate or undergraduate, address how they can participate in the work remotely
   - Limited travel is allowable, but current UofSC guidelines for travel must be followed:https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/research/docs/faculty_and_staff_memo-travel_advisory.pdf

- Laptops and desktop computers are not allowable expenses
- Food is not allowable
- A budget justification must be included

4. **Appendices:** Current CV (**2 pages maximum**) that details relevant qualifications and publications, including current and pending support. No other appendices are allowable.

Proposal Due Date: Proposals should be submitted through USCERA (http://sam.research.sc.edu/uscera) by **5 p.m. Wednesday, April 8**. Please select "Internal Request: VP for Research" and choose the **COVID-19** category type from dropdown box in USCERA to ensure proper routing of proposals. The proposal must be a single PDF file.

Application Review: All applications will be reviewed by a committee consisting of faculty experienced in the areas of research. Their recommendations will be reviewed by the VPR, who will make final funding decisions.

Progress Report: A final report is due to the Office of the Vice President for Research one month after completion of your project. This will describe the research program, findings, and conclusions, as well as information on how this project will generate external funding opportunities. The final report will be used to prepare a comprehensive report to describe the University's research response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Contact: For questions, please contact Beth Herron at 803-777-2885 or bherron@mailbox.sc.edu.