REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:
TISCH COLLEGE COMMUNITY RESEARCH CENTER
SEED GRANTS 2021-2022

Proposal Deadline: Friday, April 30, 2021, 5:00PM EST

Background

The Tisch College Community Research Center (TCRC) is a collaborative of Tufts and community researchers from Boston, Somerville, Medford, and Grafton/Worcester areas. TCRC works to expand and support community participatory research across all Tufts campuses through the formation of research partnerships between community organizations and faculty, students, and staff. The TCRC 2021-22 RFP solicits requests for community-university collaborative research projects. All proposals are evaluated by a team of community and university representatives. Since 2008, TCRC has awarded more than 25 grants, investing $250,000 to promote community-engaged research across all disciplines.

Areas of Interest

TCRC supports research proposals across a wide range of disciplines. Research teams are expected to include both community stakeholders and Tufts faculty, leveraging a range of community-engaged research practices (e.g., community-based participatory research). Additional details regarding community-engaged research can be found on TCRC's website: tischcollege.tufts.edu/research/tcrc.

Grant specifications:

1. Funding available: The typical budget for a single proposal will be $10,000 - 12,000.
2. Funding must be used between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022.
3. A final report on the project must be submitted by August 31, 2022, unless an extension is approved. The report should include:
   - Information about the process and community involvement
   - Research findings
   - Any relevant lessons about the participatory research process, if applicable
   - Next steps regarding future research projects, funding proposals, and new or deepened collaborations.

   Grant teams will also be invited to present their work at a TCRC steering committee event or a TCRC-hosted research community forum in 2022.

4. The Tisch College Community Research Center must be credited in any publications, media announcements, or other products of the project. Grantees are expected to respond to an annual TCRC survey regarding related future research projects, funding proposals that emerge from this seed grant, and new partnerships. *(Post-award, TCRC is open to participation in future collaborations based on funded projects.)*

Research Scope:

1. Proposals are highly encouraged, but not required, to address urgent or overlooked issues identified by community groups, and/or issues related to Tufts neighboring communities

(Somerville, Boston Chinatown, Boston Fenway-Mission Hill, Medford, Grafton/Worcester). All TCRC funded projects in 2021-22 are expected to be based in Massachusetts.

2. Proposals may be from any discipline, program, or department at Tufts; however, we encourage interdisciplinary proposals that involve more than one school, program, or department.

Tufts-Community Partnerships *(Additional information: https://tischcollege.tufts.edu/research/tcrc.)*

1. New, developing, or existing partnerships are welcome to apply. Throughout the year, TCRC offers its assistance to help develop new collaborations, whenever possible.
2. Applicant research teams must include at least one Tufts-based faculty member and at least one representative from a community-based organization. Please contact elaine.donnelly@tufts.edu with any specific questions regarding eligibility.
3. We encourage inclusion of Tufts students.
4. Applicants should clearly describe the participatory nature of their community-university collaboration. The collaboration must be maintained throughout the project. There should be sharing of project information, including results, between partners. Community partners, for example, should be co-authors on related publications whenever possible.
5. Only tax-exempt organizations or those with tax exempt sponsors are eligible as community-based partners.
6. Inclusion of thoughtful design/application of antiracist participatory and action research practices that could be shared as lessons or resources for other researchers (post-award) are encouraged.

Other Application Requirements:

1. *Budget:* Applicants must clearly indicate how the TCRC funds will be used by providing a brief line item budget and justification (stipends, hiring a research assistant, etc.). Please note that TCRC funds cannot be used to offset faculty salaries, for travel to conferences, or for journal submission fees. Supplemental support for university and community researchers (e.g. student stipends, faculty summer salary) may be included. Funding allocated in support of community partners' participation is encouraged.
2. *Human Subjects:* Applications should specify whether the project will involve human subjects research. All projects involving human subjects as research participants will have to be submitted for approval or exemption to the Tufts Institutional Review Boards, either on the Medford campus (social, behavioral, educational research) or Boston (biomedical). Projects requiring human subjects approved protocols should anticipate the time that will be needed for approval as well as training of research team members, including community partners. Details are available here: http://www.tufts.edu/central/research/IRB/
3. *Previous TCRC awards:* If any research partners have been prior recipients of TCRC grants, they must specify the year of funding, the project title, and certify that final reports were submitted to and accepted by TCRC.

Submission process:

Applications should consist of a maximum 3-pages (Times New Roman, 12-point type, single spaced, 1-inch margins) of narrative, not including a budget, brief justification, and references. The proposal should clearly articulate the research questions as well as the research methodology to be used, but the structure of the narrative is discretionary.

Please include signed letters (on letterhead) from all partners, both community and university, indicating that they have agreed to participate in the proposal.

In addition, researchers should include a separate short synopsis or abstract (one paragraph) that TCRC may share relative to notifying our communities of awarded seed grants. Examples of previously funded research: https://tischcollege.tufts.edu/research/tcrc/research.

Please submit final applications via **TCRC SEED APPLICATION 2021-2022**.

TCRC anticipates funding approximately $36,000 in seed grants during this submission period. Proposals will be reviewed by members of the Tisch College Community Research Center Steering Committee, and grant awardees will be notified no later than *June 4, 2021.*

For more information, please see [website] or contact Elaine Donnelly, Director of Tisch College Community Research Center, at elaine.donnelly@tufts.edu if you'd like to schedule a phone call/meeting to discuss this RFP. Funded applications also will be eligible for technical assistance from TCRC's steering committee during the implementation of the research should they seek it.