



**POVERTY SOLUTIONS**  
*at The University of Michigan*



and

The Detroit Community-Academic Urban Research Center  
*A partnership involving the University of Michigan and Detroit-based organizations*

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**2016 COMMUNITY-ACADEMIC RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RESEARCH ON STRATEGIES TO PREVENT AND ALLEVIATE POVERTY  
IN MICHIGAN**

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**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSAL: Monday, November 21, 2016 – 11:59 PM EST**

**Purpose**

Poverty Solutions *at the University of Michigan* and the Detroit Community-Academic Urban Research Center (Detroit URC) announce a grant funding opportunity for collaborations between academic researchers at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor Campus, and community-based partners in the State of Michigan. These grants will support research focused on evaluating and strengthening interventions, programs and policies in the State of Michigan that seek to prevent and alleviate poverty. Up to four (4) awards of up to \$25,000 each will be given to undertake research that is collaboratively developed by community and academic partners.

**Background**

Poverty Solutions is a new inter-disciplinary initiative at the University of Michigan that seeks to foster research to identify and test strategies for preventing and alleviating poverty. The Detroit URC is a community-based participatory research (CBPR) partnership that equitably involves community-based and health services organizations in Detroit and academic researchers at the University of Michigan. The overall goal of the Detroit URC is to promote and support collaborative research aimed at understanding and addressing the social and physical environmental factors that contribute to health inequities.

Poverty Solutions and the Detroit URC are teaming up to support collaborative research in the State of Michigan that:

- equitably involves community and academic partners in all aspects of the research process;
- recognizes the strengths that each brings to the partnership;
- promotes co-learning and capacity building of all partners;
- benefits community and academic partners; and
- enhances knowledge of the efficacy of interventions, programs and policies for preventing and alleviating poverty.

Projects can support activities such as:

- an evaluation of an existing intervention, program or policy designed to prevent or alleviate poverty;
- an analysis of new or existing data to better understand the effectiveness of, or to strengthen, poverty prevention and alleviation strategies (e.g., interventions, programs and policies);
- the development, implementation and preliminary evaluation of a new pilot program, or an adaptation of an existing program, aimed at preventing and alleviating poverty; and
- an assessment of community needs and strengths/resources that leads to the identification of new strategies for the prevention and alleviation of poverty.

### **Terms of Funding and Eligibility Criteria**

The following terms apply:

1. Applications must be submitted by a team including at least one UM-Ann Arbor academic researcher and at least one community partner whose work addresses poverty in a Michigan community. Academic partners are defined as research professor, research scientist, and tenure track faculty. Community partners are defined as nonprofit community-based organizations, government agencies, federally qualified health centers, and health and human services agencies.
2. Grants will begin January 16, 2017. Grants will end January 15, 2018. A midway progress report will be due no later than June 16, 2017. A final report will be due no later than January 31, 2018.
3. During the first month of the funding period, academic and community partner teams will be required to attend a one-day training on community-academic collaborative research partnerships.
4. During the second quarter of the year-long grant period, academic and community partner teams will attend a second one-day training, mentoring and peer-review workshop addressing issues they identify related to their collaborative research projects.

### **Selection Criteria**

Applications will be evaluated by senior academic and community partners affiliated with the Detroit URC and Poverty Solutions. Proposals will be evaluated based upon several factors, including:

- the quality of the research design, including the appropriate research methodology;
- the feasibility of completion of the proposed study during the funding period;
- relevance of proposed research effort to communities involved;
- extent and feasibility of community and academic partner involvement; and
- the degree to which the study builds knowledge about the effectiveness of interventions, programs and policies seeking to reduce or alleviate poverty.

## Application Instructions

Applicants should submit their proposal via email to [povertysolutions@umich.edu](mailto:povertysolutions@umich.edu). Proposals must be received by **11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time on Monday, November 21, 2016**. The proposal should be submitted as a single PDF file that includes the following elements in the order listed below:

1. A cover sheet with:
  - The title of the proposed research
  - The academic researcher and community partner representative names and organizational affiliations with mailing addresses, email addresses, phone and fax numbers
  - A lead corresponding principal investigator (PI) must be identified. This person will be treated as the primary point of contact.
2. A one-page single-spaced abstract describing the study's specific aims, data and methods, and significance toward reducing or alleviating poverty.
3. A project narrative of no more than 7 double-spaced pages (excluding figures and references). The narrative should include sections that cover each of the following topics:
  - a. clearly describe specific aims and their research, intervention, programmatic and/or policy significance toward reducing or alleviating poverty (1 page),
  - b. briefly summarize the relevant literature (1 page),
  - c. present major hypotheses or research questions (1/2 page),
  - d. describe the research design, proposed methodology and data sources (2 pages),
  - e. describe extent of community involvement in identifying the poverty focus (1/2 page),
  - f. explain the role of community partner(s) throughout the research process (1/2 page),
  - g. indicate how the proposed project will build knowledge about the efficacy of interventions, programs and/or policies that seek to address poverty (1 page), and
  - h. describe how results will be disseminated in the peer-review literature and more broadly (1/2 page).
4. A one-page single-spaced description of: the experience and expertise that both community and academic partners bring to the project; the history, if any, that partners have collaborating in prior research; and the evidence of the feasibility to accomplish the proposed aims.
5. An itemized budget and a budget narrative that explains each line item. At least 25% of funds need to be designated for community partner organization(s). The University of Michigan school or unit of the academic research partner will serve as the fiduciary.

Please detail each funding item requested. Appropriate research expenses include:

- Personnel (e.g., community and academic investigators, staff, student research assistants)
- Consultants (e.g., stipends for community partner organization(s))
- Research-related travel
- Hosting (e.g., for community meetings/steering committee meetings)
- Supplies, copying, printing

6. A project timeline listing specific milestones for study completion. The timeline must be within the period from January 16, 2017 through January 15, 2018.
7. A letter of support/commitment from each community partner organization involved which addresses the interest and commitment to engage in the proposed collaborative research effort.
8. *Curriculum vitae* for all academic researchers. Biographies or resumes for all community partners.
9. Human subjects review approval (often a waiver in the case of secondary data analysis) is required for all projects before funding can be dispersed.

**Timeline of Important Dates**

Deadline for Receipt of Proposals .....	November 21, 2016
Notification of Award .....	December 16, 2016
Project Start Date .....	January 16, 2017
Detailed Mid-Way Progress Report Due .....	July 14, 2017
Project End Date.....	January 15, 2018
Final Report Due .....	January 31, 2018

**Contact Information**

Direct questions to: [povertysolutions@umich.edu](mailto:povertysolutions@umich.edu)

or

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