

**2023-2024 Moritz Center for Societal Impact (MCSI)
Projects for Societal Impact (PSIs)
Request for Proposals**

Up to \$25,000 per project

Submission Deadline: January 15, 2024, 5:00 p.m.

Submission Portal: <https://utexas.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1919281>

Mission of The Moritz Center for Societal Impact

The Moritz Center for Societal Impact exists to solve critical social problems and improve lives. Its approach is to align interdisciplinary efforts in research and scholarship, curriculum and instruction, and to establish and leverage robust community partnerships focused on strategic domains of interest and engagement. These domains are health and behavioral health, disability, housing, children and families, ethics, and aging. They are fluid and may intersect. The MCSI's work is grounded in the assumption that solutions to social problems are found in research focused on multiple research domains. MCSI's work is an active part of UT Austin's charge to become the world's most impactful public research university.

Projects for Societal Impact

Utilizing the summer months (June, July, and August), UT faculty and students (undergraduate and graduate) from any UT college or school will partner to work on projects funded by MCSI. Projects should be focused on one or more of the domains central to the mission of MCSI. All projects must include demonstrated collaboration with a partner, whether local, domestic, or global in identity and reach. Examples include publicly funded social services agencies, non-profit agencies, and for-profit businesses working to help ameliorate societal challenges related to one or more of the focal domains. Grants will be awarded annually to teams made up of faculty and students (shared equally) and may include financial support for community partners, when needed, to enable their full participation in the projects.

The goal is to allow faculty and students to engage in a sustained, streamlined effort to conduct original research, apply previous research findings in real-world settings, and/or focus on replication, implementation, or dissemination of findings while testing innovative and impactful ideas with community partners. Academic credit may be awarded to students (up to 6 credit hours), and faculty will be supported in their research and practice efforts as well as in their efforts to mentor students. Community partners will benefit from UT resources being utilized in service to common interests and efforts. Students chosen to participate in the PSI program, whether undergraduates or graduate students, will be designated as PSI Scholars.

Proposal Description

Please include the following information in this order and in one document. The total project description should total no more than 6 (single spaced, with font size no smaller than 11 pt), not including the cover page and bibliography. Proposals that do not adhere to the page/section guidelines will not be reviewed. If no page limit is listed, you can assume there is no limit set.

1. Cover Sheet
2. Biographical Sketch for each researcher, community partner member/organization, and (if already known) students included on the project. **(1 page total)**
3. Description of the proposed PSI in narrative form (a - h)
 - a. Purpose, specific aims, and aspects, situations or problems the project is intended to address, and significance of the project. **(1 page)**
 - b. Plan and methods, including specific tasks to be performed, plans for data collection and analysis, collaborative activities and working arrangements, expected results, and publication plan, where relevant. **(1 page)**
 - c. Timeline in table form. **(1 page)**
 - d. Budget in table form **(1 page)**
 - e. Relevance of this project to the Moritz Center for Societal Impact's mission and domains. **(3 sentences)**
 - f. Interdisciplinary collaborative activities of the proposed study, where relevant. **(3 sentences)**
 - g. Plans to obtain future funding for this project, where relevant. **(3 sentences)**
 - h. Curriculum vitae of the Principal Investigator(s)
 - i. Bibliographic list of sources cited in the proposal.
 - j. Optional: Curriculum vitae of the Principal Investigator(s)

Funding

Five Projects for Societal Impact (PSI) grants of up to \$25,000 will be competitively awarded by the Moritz Center for Societal Impact (MCSI) for Summer 2024. The amount of funding will vary relative to the needs of the project.

Eligibility

University of Texas Faculty are eligible to apply, (including tenured and tenure-track, research faculty and professional faculty) in collaboration with community partners and University of Texas students. Collaboration with at least one community stakeholder is required.

Application

Submit a complete application and curriculum vitae of the Principal Investigator(s) as a single PDF document via our online submission portal, on or before 5:00 pm on January 16, 2024. You should receive an acknowledgement of receipt within three business days of submission.

Review Criteria

- PSI applications will be reviewed by a committee assembled by MCSI leadership.
- Applications will be reviewed based on relatedness to the mission of MCSI, its focal domains, and relevance to the UT Austin's charge to design solutions to alleviate critical social problems and become the world's most impactful public research university.

Budget

- Budgets must be itemized, and all items listed must total no more than \$25,000. We fund projects based on approved itemized expenditures to which the PI will be held. Any changes to the approved budget will require MCSI approval.
- Do not include indirect costs (overhead) or fringe benefits in your budget, as these funds are internal and associated fringe costs are covered centrally.

Allowable Costs

- Summer support for tuition and living expenses for UT students.
- Summer support for research efforts for UT faculty.
- Financial support for community partners, where needed for project completion.
- Travel to research site(s) in the Austin area for the members of the team, including researchers and students.
- Research equipment and supplies and materials.
- Highly specialized computer software required for the project. Note that the university retains ownership of all equipment and/ or software acquired with PSI funds, which will remain the property of the researcher's department.
- Expenses for translators, transcribers, or technicians.
- Consulting fees or honoraria for external collaborators who directly contribute to achieving the project's objectives. Payment of external collaborators' administrative support or general operating expenses not directly allocable to the project is unallowed.

Unallowable Costs

- Books, journal subscriptions, music tapes, CDs, or DVDs.
- Any expenses related to manuscript preparation or book publication including indexing, page charges, reprints, copy editing, photographs for publication, or book subventions.
- Computer time, hardware, software (unless very highly specialized), or computer peripherals.
- General-purpose computer equipment or software (e.g., laptops, Microsoft Word etc.)
- Travel or registration costs for professional conferences, meetings, classes, or symposia.
- Professional membership fees.
- Entertainment expenses (e.g., refreshments etc.) unless specifically required for the proposed projects.
- Office supplies unless specifically required for the proposed projects.
- Any expenses not allowed in an indirect cost account.
- Expenses related to grant losses (e.g., losses as a result of currency fluctuations)
- Expenses before the award issue date.

Award

Disbursement of Awarded Funds

PSIs become effective upon award notification. If applicable and an award is made, required IRB (human subjects), IBC (biohazardous material), or IACUC (animal subjects) notice of approval must be submitted via the MCSI project coordinator erin.swearingen@austin.utexas.edu before disbursement of PSI funds to the recipient. The funded project cannot begin until approval is granted by the appropriate

institutional agent and proof of approval has been provided. PSI funding ends August 25, 2024. Carryovers and extensions may be possible.

Administration of Awarded Funds

- Any changes to the funded budget included in your proposal must be approved in advance and in writing by MCSI. Please submit requests to modify with specific dollar amounts and justification via email to erin.swearingen@austin.utexas.edu
- PSIs are not cash awards. Funds are made available through an account established by the MSCI.
- Reimbursement for items purchased with personal funds is not permitted from PSI funds, except in the case of travel expenses. Travel expenses paid from PSI funds are subject to the same regulations as travel expenses paid from State-funded departmental travel accounts. Requests for Travel Authorization (VE5) require prior approval.
- Employment of research assistants, technicians, and other support staff must be in accordance with established University regulations.
- Production of fiscal documents (purchase orders, requisitions, travel vouchers, personnel appointment forms, vouchers etc.) and accounting for the grant is the responsibility of the award recipient and their departmental accounting contact.
- All allowable encumbrances should be submitted by August 25, 2024, unless otherwise permitted by MCSI.

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• **Deliverables:**

- A progress report will be sent to MCSI leadership (or designee) following the summer in question, with the hope that projects and collaboration will continue and, perhaps, serve as the basis for ongoing collaborative work (and additional funding) that spurs a positive societal impact.
 - Faculty, students, and community partners will present their findings and help with identifying potential future research opportunities at an MCSI symposium held during the subsequent spring term.

Contacts

For programmatic questions:

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For submission portal questions:

vprcompetitions@austin.utexas.edu