# The Role of Biological Sex/Gender in Human Behavior,

# Health and Development

# Request for Proposals

The Social Science Research Institute (SSRI) invites Level 1 and Level 2 proposals for pilot research projects aimed at supporting the formation of new interdisciplinary teams and the development of external grant proposals to study significant issues in the areas of biological sex/gender, broadly defined. These constructs provide a key lens for social and behavioral science research with implications across SSRI’s five strategic aims. Example topics include biological sex/gender and its intersection with education, employment, and other domains; human physical and mental health and development; food security and nutrition; agriculture; environment and climate change; violence and security; poverty and economic well-being; and population processes. Projects can be at any level of analysis (micro to macro), can study any or multiple age groups, and be either domestic or international in focus. However, research teams must include interdisciplinary collaboration, and biological sex/gender must be central to the project and fully integrated into the problem, theory, research design and analysis, and expected outcomes.

We will prioritize applications that:

* Develop collaborations involving junior and senior faculty
* Propose novel research, including high-risk, high-reward and transformative, proof of concept projects that provide preliminary data necessary for external funding
* Advance one or more of SSRI’s strategic aims

**Further, priority will be given to projects that make a convincing case for how the research can yield externally fundable proposals that include a social and behavioral component and advance scientific understanding of biological sex/gender.**

# Eligibility

This mechanism is primarily designed to assist PSU social science faculty at University Park and the College of Medicine to advance their research by securing extramural funding. Although research teams can include students, post docs, faculty from other institutions and other external collaborators, our goal is to support interdisciplinary teams from Penn State's faculty. For this reason, team leaders should be tenure track or research faculty with continuing appointments. Single investigator proposals will not be considered. Investigators may be the lead or co-PI on only one proposal; however, investigators may serve as a collaborator on up to two proposals.

# Funding Availability and Timeline

Up to $100,000 of funding is available through this seed grant solicitation via the SSRI’s Level 1 and Level 2 mechanisms (see below).

**Timeline for Letters of Intent and Proposals**

August 15, 2019 Call for proposals released

October 14, 2019 Level 1 and Level 2 Preproposals due by 5pm Eastern Time

November 8, 2019 PIs will be notified and full proposals will be invited

December 13, 2019 Full proposals due by 5pm Eastern Time

January 24, 2020 Seed grant funding decisions announced

# Pre-proposals for Level 1 and Level 2 applications are due on October 14th. Pre-proposals identify the funding mechanism (Level 1 or Level 2) and include an abstract of up to 500 words that describes the study aims and methods and how the project can advance social and behavioral science on biological sex/gender, a preliminary budget, the project role of each team member, and an NIH or NSF biosketch for each team member.

# Pre-proposals should be sent as one PDF document to [ssri-seed-grant@psu.edu](mailto:ssri-seed-grant@psu.edu).

# Pre-proposals will be reviewed and teams will be invited to submit full Level 1 and Level 2.