

THE TIAA INSTITUTE CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Proposals due by Friday, August 25, 2017 at 4 p.m. EST

The TIAA Institute is a cutting-edge thought leadership organization that produces and shares knowledge on financial well-being, retirement planning, and organizational success for institutions in the educational, non-profit, and public sectors and the individuals they employ. The Institute informs individual and institutional decision-making and strategic actions critical to their wellbeing and success through academic research, strategic partnerships with top research organizations, and symposia that convene researchers, academic and business leaders, and other subject matter experts. We focus on three program areas: Financial Security, Higher Education, and Endowments & Foundations. We are now accepting research proposals focused on the following research themes and plan to allocate a maximum of \$75,000 in grant funds per selected proposal.

RESEARCH THEMES: We are interested in research proposals that support the Institute's program areas listed above and that align with the following themes:

- **Retirement Plan Design:** Examine impact of plan design, including provision of advice, on participant decisions and outcomes as well as on plan costs.
- **Lifetime Income and Retirement Security:** Understand the management of savings for income during retirement.
- **Financial Literacy and Capability:** Understand the implications of existing financial literacy and capability levels for financial behavior and outcomes, with a particular interest in certain demographic segments—Gen Y, Hispanics and working women.
- **Academic Workforce Trends and Issues:** Understand the drivers of change, emerging new workforce models, and implications for colleges and universities, faculty and staff, and students.
- **Higher Education Leadership:** Ensure a well-prepared and diverse population of leaders for colleges and universities.
- **Innovation and Financial Sustainability:** Ensure the financial sustainability and organizational effectiveness of colleges and universities through innovation.
- **Endowments and Foundations:** Understand endowment management and risk within broader financial landscape of higher education organizations.

ELIGIBILITY: Any faculty member with an active appointment at a U.S. college or university can apply. We encourage junior faculty members to apply.

GRANTS: Supported grant projects are expected to be completed within one year of the date of the grant. Larger grants may have multi-year timetables. First consideration is given to well-conceived, well-designed, specific projects that are strongly aligned with the Institute's strategic research agenda.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS

1. Acknowledge TIAA Institute on all papers, presentations and materials arising from research funded by the grant, with the acknowledgement subject to written approval by TIAA;
2. Comply with any and all IRB and human subject requirements at the researcher's home institution;
3. Submit progress reports bi-annually for the duration of the project to be scheduled in grant agreement. Submit reports in MS Word and tables/charts in MS Excel. The Final Reports must include:
 - a. A working paper in electronic form suitable for posting as a *Research Dialogue* on TIAA Institute's web site;
 - b. An executive summary of not more than 300 words written for a layperson;

- c. A nontechnical report of 3,000-5,000 words outlining the intuition and main findings of the research project. The report should be suitable for publication as a TIAA Institute *Trends and Issues*; and
 - d. A bulleted list of three to five key findings.
4. If requested by TIAA Institute, provide one oral presentation of the research; funding for any necessary and reasonable travel expenses would be separately financed by TIAA Institute; and
 5. Execute a Grant Agreement.

FUNDING LEVELS AND BUDGET

The grant program supports only the direct costs of research and does not fund overhead or indirect costs. We plan to allocate a maximum of \$75,000 in grant funds per selected proposal.

Proposals are expected to include a detailed and complete budget, separately itemizing costs for at least the following expenses:

- 1) Personnel, including salary and benefits for the principal investigator and any co-investigators or research assistants (each separately itemized)
- 2) Travel for research-related purposes
- 3) Equipment, materials, and other expenses, including the itemized costs, if any, of obtaining data, postage or printing.

FORMAT OF PROPOSALS

Proposals must include:

- 1) A narrative 3-5 page description:
 - a. Title and research investigators
 - b. Research Question(s)
 - c. Project Motivation and Significance
 - d. Project Goals
 - e. Research Plan/Methodology
 - i. Analytical framework
 - ii. Data sources (if any)
 - iii. Sensitivity analysis
 - f. Proposed Budget
 - g. Timeline for Deliverables
 - h. Potential Practical Implications or Conclusions
 - i. Recommendations for Communicating Research Findings – Who is likely to be most interested in the research? Why?
 - j. List of References cited in the Proposal
- 2) Complete resumes/CVs of the primary investigator(s)

PROPOSAL DEADLINE

Submit all proposal materials by email to Paul Yakoboski at pyakoboski@tiaa.org by Friday, August 25, 2017, 4 p.m. EST. Grant awards will be announced in October.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please contact:

Dr. Paul Yakoboski via email at pyakoboski@tiaa.org / Dr. David Richardson at dprichardson@tiaa.org