



— ASSOCIATED —
COLLEGES OF THE SOUTH

ACS Call for Pre-Proposal Abstracts
Cycle 9: August 2021 – August 2022

We are pleased to put out the call for pre-proposal abstracts for Cycle 9 of our ACS/Mellon funding. We are also sharing a new proposal process with you.

Cycle 9 Dates

Pre-proposal form with abstract: Due May 25, 2021

Share & Seek Collaborators: May 28 – June 4, 2021

Final Proposals due: July 15, 2021

Funding Cycle: August 2, 2021 – August 2, 2022

Our New Process

We have revised our process and are now using the pre-proposal period to help develop collaborations across the consortium and to check for conformity with ACS/Mellon Grant Guidelines. Preproposals have been simplified to a one-page abstract (please see preproposal form). Once pre-proposal abstracts have been submitted, we will post the abstracts on the members area of our website. We will also create a short 3-4 minute Zoom recording highlighting your proposed project and providing a short Q and A. We will have a 4-5 day period for colleagues to review the proposed ideas (abstract and video), and have follow-up conversations with you about a potential collaboration. After the time period for forming collaborative partnerships, there is approximately 1.5 months for the development of full proposals. We, at ACS, are happy to review ideas, discuss consortium-wide needs, and provide feedback anytime during the process. These final proposals will be reviewed by a selection committee made up of a committee of faculty and administrative members from member institutions and a representative from ACS. Decisions will be reported out two-to-three weeks following the final submission date.

About our Grants

Through a generous grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded in 2016, ACS has been able to award sub-grants to our members; we have already completed 8 rounds (Cycles 1-7, as well as an Emergency COVID round) and are working through Cycle 8. Our sub-grants focus on three areas: innovative instruction, collaborative curriculum, and diversity & inclusion.

- **Innovative Instruction:** Learner-based pedagogy (as informed by cognitive science and neuroscience) and blended learning. Assessment of pedagogies. We invite proposals designed to renew and invigorate teaching methods and incorporate assessment instruments that draw on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.
- **Collaborative Curriculum:** Multi-campus involvement in curricular projects. For example: shared study away (domestic study away from campus) courses, shared courses for low enrollment courses, shared seminar courses for which the integration of multiple objectives enhances our understanding and problem-solving capabilities of various real world and current topics– e.g. civil rights, public health, environmental justice, international studies, etc., and other collaborative projects related to the curriculum.
- **Diversity and inclusion:** New approaches in the classroom that promote inclusion, recognize diversity, address anti-racism, and current work in the area of diversity and inclusion. We are also interested in funding practices that help promote, recruit, retain, and support faculty and staff of color. We encourage proposals that incorporate inclusive pedagogies, strategies for improving student success, and interventions focused on transforming our campuses into more diverse and inclusive spaces.

Proposals must fit into one of these areas and must involve and impact multiple campuses; priority is given to proposals representing a collaboration of three or more institutions and having broad impact.

Proposals should demonstrate

- Direct links to the grant theme/s based on the definitions provided above.
- Impact that the project will have on participating campuses (i.e. desired outcomes relative to the current campus context.)
- The scholarship related to project needs and goals (e.g., literature on inclusive pedagogy for a proposal on diversity and inclusion.)
- Impact (or potential impact) across the ACS consortium.
- Insights from relevant campus offices and leaders.
- A plan for sustaining the project after the grant period ends.
- Linkages between project goals, outcomes, and budget requests.

NOTE: 1) Conferences, workshops, speakers, events, and symposia that are one-time in nature will not be funded unless their centrality to the projects is demonstrated and the explanation includes tangible outcomes and action steps. 2) The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, whose award comprises the bulk of current ACS funding, has as a core goal to promote the “wide participation of previously underrepresented communities in the humanities, the arts, and higher education.” While STEM fields traditionally fall outside of the Mellon Foundation’s mission, the Foundation is dedicated to diversity and inclusion in all disciplines. Thus colleagues in STEM fields should focus on Diversity and Inclusion as their main theme in their proposals in order to avail themselves of this funding source.

Budget Information

The figures in each category are meant to suggest the scale of projects we seek to fund. However, the higher figures should be considered maximums.

- \$15,000-\$25,000 for Innovative Instruction Projects
- \$25,000 - \$50,000 for Collaborative Curriculum Projects
- \$15,000-\$50,000 for Diversity & Inclusion Projects

In an effort to equalize stipend, travel, and other variable costs across our campuses, ACS has set the following limits that must be followed in all budgets at the final proposal stage. Please note that the stipend amounts listed below are exclusive of any fringe benefits, payroll taxes, or overhead expenses. You should consult with your campus grant administrator to determine if your campus grant administrator to determine if your campus will deduct such charges from the awarded funds. Do not submit budget proposals with line items for fringe benefits, payroll taxes (FICA), or overhead expenses.

Budget Limits and Guidelines

- Faculty or staff stipends or professional development funds: up to a maximum of \$2,500. (NOTE: staff members should check their own institution for policies regarding stipends versus professional development funds).
- Faculty or staff partial stipends or professional development funds: up to a maximum of \$500
- Lodging: \$150/night
- Meals: \$25/meal (lunch or dinner), \$40/day total
- Travel: \$350 or rarely higher (with justification based on distance, etc.)
- Honoraria and consultants will be evaluated based on the proposal.
- Requests for hardware and software purchases cannot exceed ten percent of total grant amount requested.

Grant funds cannot be used for the following:

- Student costs (including graduate students): stipends, financial aid, wages, tuition or any other direct payments to students. Hourly workers hired by the project who are also students are allowable under some circumstances.
- Alcoholic beverages

Grantees are not required to submit receipts for expenditures to ACS, but grantees ARE required to collect and preserve your receipts so that your home institutions can audit or verify their budget reports.

If you have any questions about your budget or these guidelines, please contact us via email grants@acsouth.edu.