

[The Mercury Project: Call for Proposals](#)

Social Science Research Council (SSRC)

Coordinator: Tiffany Worboy, Office of Foundation Relations (tworboy@emory.edu)
Submission Limitations: Unlimited
Foundation Deadline: Rolling basis
Website: <https://www.ssrc.org/programs/the-mercury-project/>

*Please contact your RAS unit *and* Tiffany Worboy to inform them of your intent to submit.*

Opportunity Details:

The Mercury Project is a \$10M research consortium investigating the impacts of health misinformation and evaluating interventions to prevent its spread in the United States, Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Evidence-based strategies to combat health mis- and disinformation and to increase the uptake of reliable health information are critical to an effective and equitable pandemic response.

The Mercury Project invites letters of inquiry for research projects that address one or more of the following goals:

- 1) estimating the causal impacts of mis- and disinformation on online and offline outcomes in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, including health, economic, and/or social outcomes, differential impacts across sociodemographic groups, and quantifying the global costs of those impacts;
- 2) estimating the causal impacts of online or offline interventions in the United States, Africa, Asia, and Latin America to increase uptake of Covid-19 vaccines and other recommended public health measures by countering mis- and disinformation, including interventions that target the producers or the consumers of mis- and disinformation, or that increase confidence in reliable information.

Preference will be given to research teams that are interdisciplinary and that include a diverse set of researchers and institutions, including researchers and institutions located in the country in which the study is being conducted and that have deep contextual knowledge and connections.

For proposals that seek to evaluate the causal impacts of offline interventions, preference will be given to projects that engage local public, nonprofit, and/or private organizations, and that propose interventions likely to be cost-effective at scale.

Budget:

Proposed budgets should be appropriate to cover project costs, with indirect costs not exceeding 15% of direct costs. There is no maximum award amount, but please note that The Mercury Project is a \$10M research consortium.

Proposed projects may have a duration of up to 30 months.

How to Apply:

Letters of inquiry should be submitted through the Social Science Research Council's (SSRC) [online application portal](#).

Applicants submitting a LOI are asked to provide the following information:

1. Identities of primary applicant organization and any proposed subaward organizations, including organizations' tax-exempt (or equivalent) status;

2. Identities of all investigators, including disciplinary and institutional affiliations and links to investigator websites or CVs, and contact information for principal investigator;
3. Project design, including the research question/s being addressed, the proposed strategy to make causal inferences (e.g., randomized controlled trial or a specified quasi-experimental design), sample size, outcomes of interest, project duration and timeline, analytic methods, and, for projects proposing evaluations of interventions, the identities of any collaborating partners (3 pages maximum);
4. Total budget request.

Letters of inquiry will be reviewed by Mercury Project staff and, as needed, outside reviewers.

Applicants whose LOIs are reviewed favorably will be invited to submit a full proposal.