

## Russell Sage Foundation – Research Grants (Core Programs and Special Initiatives)

- Behavioral Economics
- Decision Making & Human Behavior in Context
- Future of Work
- Social, Political & Economic Inequality
- Special Initiative: Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting recession in the U.S
- Special Initiative: Systemic racial inequality and/or the recent mass protests in the U.S

**Coordinator:** Tiffany Worboy, Director, Foundation Relations ([tworboy@emory.edu](mailto:tworboy@emory.edu))  
**Website:** <https://www.russellsage.org/how-to-apply/application-deadlines#project>  
**Submission Limitations:** None  
**Foundation Deadline:** May 4, 2021

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

### Overview

The Russell Sage Foundation dedicates itself to strengthening the methods, data, and theoretical core of the social sciences in order to better understand societal problems and develop informed responses.

**For the upcoming grantmaking cycle, RSF will accept letters of inquiry (LOIs) under these core programs and special initiatives:**

- Behavioral Economics

The Russell Sage Foundation's program on Behavioral Economics supports novel research that uses insights and methods from psychology, economics, sociology, political science and other social sciences to examine and improve social and living conditions in the United States. We seek investigator-initiated research proposals that will broaden our understanding of the social, economic and political consequences of actual behaviors and decisions.

RSF is especially interested in research at the intersection of behavioral economics and behavioral sciences and its other programs—Future of Work; Race, Ethnicity and Immigration; Social, Political and Economic Inequality. Priority will be given to field experiments, as opposed to lab experiments. Projects that can contribute to a more unified theory of human behavior to eventually eliminate the distinction between behavioral economics and the rest of economics are also of interest.

- Decision Making & Human Behavior in Context

The Russell Sage Foundation (RSF) is launching a new special initiative on Decision Making and Human Behavior in Context that will support innovative research on decision making across the social sciences that examines causes, consequences, processes, or context from a behavioral or alternative perspective. We seek to support a wide range of research on decision-making in context by scholars in psychology, political science, sociology, and other social science fields who are pursuing questions consistent with the aims of the Foundation.

This initiative will support research proposals from multiple methodological perspectives that will further our understanding of decision making processes and human behavior in the contexts of work, race, ethnicity, immigration, and social inequality, broadly conceived, in the U.S.

- Future of Work

The Russell Sage Foundation's program on the Future of Work supports innovative research on the causes and consequences of changes in the quality of jobs for less- and moderately skilled workers and their families. We seek investigator-initiated research proposals that will broaden our understanding of the role of changes in employer practices, the nature of the labor market and public policies on employment, earnings, and job quality.

We are especially interested in proposals that address questions about the interplay of market and non-market forces in shaping the wellbeing of workers, today and in the future.

- [Social, Political and Economic Inequality](#)

The Russell Sage Foundation's program on Social, Political, and Economic Inequality supports innovative research on the factors that contribute to social, political and economic inequalities in the U.S., and the extent to which those inequalities affect social, psychological, political, and economic outcomes, including educational access, job opportunities, social mobility, civic participation and representation, and the transmission of advantage and disadvantage within and across generations.

We seek innovative investigator-initiated research that will expand our understanding of social, political, and economic inequalities and the mechanisms by which they influence the lives of individuals and families. We welcome projects that explore the relevance of economic, racial, ethnic, age, gender, immigration, residence, or other statuses for the distribution of social, political and economic outcomes within and across these groups.

RSF funding priorities do not include analyses of health behaviors or outcomes. RSF seldom supports studies focused on outcomes such as educational processes or curricular issues, but does prioritize analyses of inequities in educational attainment or student performance.

RSF is particularly interested in analyses that make use of newly available data or demonstrate novel uses of existing data. We also support original data collection when a project is focused on important program priorities. Proposals to conduct field experiments, in-depth qualitative interviews, and ethnographies are also encouraged.

**In addition, RSF will also accept LOIs relevant to any of its core programs that address at least one of the following issues:**

1. [Research on the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting recession in the U.S.](#): Specifically, research that assesses the social, political, economic, and psychological causes and consequences of the pandemic, especially its effects on marginalized individuals and groups and on trust in government and other institutions. Our priorities do not include analyses of health outcomes or health behaviors. RSF seldom supports studies focused on outcomes such as educational processes or curricular issues, but does prioritize analyses of inequities in educational attainment or student performance.
2. [Research focused on systemic racial inequality and/or the recent mass protests in the U.S.](#): Specifically, research that investigates the prevalence of racial disparities in policing and criminal justice and their social, political, economic, and psychological causes and consequences; the effects of the current social protest movement and mass mobilization against systemic discrimination; the nature of public attitudes and public policies regarding policing, criminal justice, and social welfare; and the effects of those attitudes in the current political environment.

**PLEASE NOTE**

- Successful proposals from this round can have a start date on or after December 1, 2021.
- Investigators are encouraged to submit an LOI after they have developed and pre-tested survey instruments, completed preliminary data analyses if the data are publicly-available or conducted some preliminary interviews for qualitative studies.
- We are particularly interested in analyses that make use of newly available data -- or demonstrate novel uses of existing data.
- We also support original data collection. Proposals to conduct field experiments, in-depth qualitative interviews, and ethnographies are also encouraged.
- ALL applications are due by 2pm ET/11am PT.

## Funding

- Trustee Grants are generally capped at \$175,000, including 15% indirect costs.
- Presidential Grants are capped at \$35,000 (no indirect costs). RSF encourages early career scholars who are new to the foundation to apply for Presidential Grants.
- PIs may request up to \$50,000 (no indirect costs) when the proposed research project has special needs for gathering data (e.g.: qualitative research) or gaining access to restricted-use data.
- Grants are available for research assistance, data acquisition, data analysis, and investigator time for conducting research and writing up results.
- Budget amounts are over a two-year period.