

Call for Research Proposals – Fall 2022

Miller Center for Social Entrepreneurship seeks faculty partners who wish to research social enterprises and social entrepreneurship. Miller Center can mobilize significant intellectual and financial resources for researchers, and will provide them according to the alignment with Miller Center's research framework and evaluative criteria. Successful proposals will reflect [Miller Center's mission, vision, values, and pathway to scale](#); its [definition of social entrepreneurship](#); and its [social entrepreneurship research framework](#). Miller Center invites research proposals that articulate a clear value exchange between the research and Miller Center which explains how the faculty member and Miller Center's interests can be advanced by this proposal. Full time faculty with appointments from all disciplines are encouraged to apply. The **deadline is November 15, 2022, at 5pm**, and awards will be announced no later than 30 days later.

Funding awards will be made in two categories. **Faculty grants** provide \$2000 to \$8,000 for a research project initiated and executed by the investigator. **Faculty fellowships** provide \$10,000 to \$25,000 for research projects that are co-designed with Miller Center and simultaneously support the scholarship of faculty while also contributing practical knowledge — such as in a white paper — to Miller Center, its social enterprise partners, or the social enterprise movement. Applicants to the Faculty Fellowship must work with an identified collaborator on the Miller Center team (a staff member or mentor) in the design of the proposal. To initiate discussions about a faculty fellowship, please email Jen Merritt jmerritt@scu.edu.

Background. Our approach to the faculty fellowship was piloted in collaboration with Leslie Gray of the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences in 2016. Miller Center recruited her to work with [Solar Sister](#), a social enterprise that has participated in Miller Center's programs for the past decade. Solar Sister has a mission to provide a reliable lighting source to rural communities and also is dedicated to the economic empowerment of women. Miller Center co-created a research project with Professor Gray and Solar Sister to evaluate Solar Sister's impact on its end customers, particularly the effects of small-scale solar lanterns on users' health, education, time allocation, income generation, and economic empowerment and agency. Gray supervised two [Miller Center Fellows in Tanzania](#), and she and her team wrote [Turning On the Lights](#) and a scholarly [journal publication](#). From Miller Center's perspective, this was successful because the research project created value for all participants: our social enterprise partner received a practical research report, an SCU faculty member was research productive, SCU students were mentored in research, and the social enterprise movement was advanced through the practical and scholarly publications. This project was funded at roughly the same funding level as the faculty fellowship envisioned here.

	Faculty Grants	Faculty Fellowships
Size of award	\$2000-\$8,000	\$10,000 to \$25,000
Advances Miller Center's social enterprise research framework	Yes	Yes, and also reflects Miller Center's strategic plan, and research project is co-designed with a collaborator on the Miller Center team
Data sources	Faculty secures	Miller Center team collaborates to identify and analyze data, if requested
Supports scholarly research and publications	Yes	Yes
Expected results	Academic conference presentations or journal article	Conference presentation or journal article plus Miller Center newsletter article, and/or a white paper (produced by Miller Center)
Miller Center role	Funder	Funder, and a collaborator in the research design and process, and markets the white paper to audiences in the social enterprise ecosystem
Faculty financial support	Up to half the award may be used as a stipend for faculty member	Up to half of the fellowship award may be used for supplemental pay, whether a blend of summer salary, course buyout (pending approval of Chair), or faculty stipend
Writing up the results for publication	Faculty writes for audience of choice	Faculty writes for the academic audience, and Miller Center team or its technical writer collaborate with faculty to write white paper
Publicity, marketing, communication	Publication listed in Miller Center newsletter	Miller Center promotes the white paper and journal article as part of its marketing and communication activities, including newsletter article
Time frame	12 months	18 months preferred, but subject to negotiation and mutual agreement

Evaluative Criteria

Research proposals will be reviewed according to the following criteria:

- 1. Intellectual merit and/or potential to advance knowledge of social entrepreneurship.** This will be assessed by how well this research proposal advances or deepens our understanding of:
 - a. Social entrepreneurship as a methodology for social justice
 - b. The field and/or practice of social entrepreneurship
 - c. The social conditions that support or inhibit the launch and growth of social enterprises (such as cultural factors, or legal or policy environments)
 - d. The practice of social enterprise acceleration for growth, scaling, and impact
 - e. How Miller Center can best support social enterprises and their missions
 - f. How to best evaluate supportive services (e.g. acceleration, impact investment) for social enterprises that facilitate growth, scaling and impact

- 2. Broad social impact or the potential to create social value.** Miller Center highly values practical research that can help foster a more just, humane, and sustainable world. Proposals will be assessed according to how well they help:
 - a. Social enterprises to positively impact local communities
 - b. Miller Center to deliver more impactful programs to social entrepreneurs
 - c. Facilitate impact investment in social enterprises in order to grow and scale
 - d. Foster greater student engagement in the social enterprise movement

- 3. The overall quality of the proposal.** This will be assessed according to:
 - a. The coherence and feasibility of the research plan
 - b. The qualifications of the applicant/s
 - c. The appropriateness and sufficiency of resources to achieve the proposal's goals

The first two criteria, adapted from the [National Science Foundation](#), refer directly to [Miller Center's definition of social entrepreneurship](#) and [Miller Center's social entrepreneurship research framework](#).

Instructions for Application

The **deadline is November 15, 2022, at 5pm**. Please email your application as a Word or PDF attachment to jmerritt@scu.edu.

Applicants should prepare their application in response to the prompts below. Please limit your application to 5 pages. Only the first 5 pages of an application will be considered.

Part One: Applicant

1. Surname of researcher
2. First name of researcher
3. Email address of researcher
4. Phone number of researcher
5. SCU academic department of principal investigator
6. Researcher's faculty or research page or LinkedIn page (if available)
7. Name of chairperson of principal investigator's academic department

Part Two: Application and Budget

8. Title of the research proposal
9. Is this an application for a faculty grant? Or a faculty fellowship?
10. If a faculty fellowship, please provide the name of your collaborator on the Miller Center team.
11. If this is a faculty fellowship, please indicate your preferred funding period in months. Miller Center prefers to make fellowship awards for periods of 18 months, but if you are requesting a longer period, please explain.
12. Amount requested
13. Please enter whole dollar amounts in the following fields (which correspond to university budget categories):
 - a. Faculty financial support
 - b. Supplies
 - c. Travel
 - d. Student wages
 - e. Contracted services
 - f. Special events
 - g. Miscellaneous (describe and explain)

Please provide a brief justification for your budget items. Provide detailed breakdown of these budget items, if appropriate. For example, if relevant, describe the form of faculty financial support. Note that the applicant is responsible for negotiating with the chair and dean any request for academic year course buyouts. Other forms of supplemental pay are somewhat easier to arrange. Justify your proposed financial support for you as the researcher. Please explain how these budget items will help you succeed in your research project. For example, if you are requesting funds for

international travel, justify the expense of a trip (versus, for example, several zoom calls). Recruiting and hiring students as research assistants is recommended, and Miller Center can work with you to recruit them.

Part Three: Research Proposal

14. Title
15. Abstract
16. An explanation of how your research project will advance [Miller Center's Social entrepreneurship research framework](#). Please explain clearly how your research addresses themes presented in the framework, and how your research will help specific social enterprises (please identify them) or the social enterprise movement. If you are applying for a faculty fellowship, explain how your white paper (or other knowledge product with practical application) will benefit one or more audiences (please define).
17. Research plan (what you would do, including data and methods)
 - a. What are you trying to do? Articulate your objectives using no jargon.
 - b. What's new in your approach and why do you think it will be successful?
 - c. Provide a research plan, preferably including materials and methods. Justify this with published literature, if possible. Describe what you propose to do, who you will do it with, where and when. Provide a schedule of activities, with specific milestones.
 - d. Is there innovation and/or creativity in your approach to the research?
 - e. Are there social, cultural or economic dimensions to the issue that might shape the application of science and technology for social benefit?
18. Outcomes and impacts: how might this research provide benefit to society?
 - a. If you're successful, what difference will it make to social enterprises or the social enterprise movement?
 - b. How are the results likely to attract the attention of other scholars that might become interested in the field of social entrepreneurship?
 - c. How will the results of the study positively impact the problem as defined above?

Restrictions

- All funds except faculty financial support will be dispensed through Workday.
- Requests for student research assistants should include benefits, calculated as 0.85% of wages during the academic year and 8.5% during the summer.
- Research that entails the use of [human subjects must comply with university policy](#).