



Boston University Arts & Sciences
Center for Innovation in Social Science

2021-22 Pilot Grant Program

Description: The CISS Pilot Grant program is designed to provide funding for innovative research projects that explore cutting-edge social issues, especially those that align with the Center themes of inequalities and sustainability. Applicants are encouraged to adopt an interdisciplinary approach, such as integrating concepts or methods from multiple academic disciplines, or collaborating with a co-investigator representing a distinctive methodology or field of study. Funded projects should have the potential to attract subsequent external funding, and should yield concrete products at the end of the funding period, such as peer-reviewed journal articles or a book proposal. The Center will award two grants of \$10,000 each (total costs), with a funding period of January through December 2022.

Eligibility and Funding Guidelines: All faculty and full-time lecturers in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), and CISS faculty affiliates from any unit are eligible to serve as principal investigators. Grant funds may be used to hire graduate or undergraduate research assistants; for research-related expenses specific to the funded project such as software, data collection, transcription service, compensation for research participants; or travel to research sites. Faculty salary support is not allowable, although faculty may provide summer salary support to graduate students (plus fringe). The CAS faculty research account [guidelines](#) provide details on other allowable and unallowable expenses.

Informational Session: A goal of the pilot grant program is to facilitate collaborative interdisciplinary work. CISS will hold an informational session on *Monday November 8, 2021 from 4-5 p.m.* Attendees are invited to share their research ideas with one another, and the Center director and Steering Committee members will help to facilitate potential collaborations among investigators seeking research partners who bring a new disciplinary or methodological lens to the project. Please register [here](#).

Review Process: Applications will be reviewed by members of the CISS Steering Committee and the Center director. Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the significance of the topic, quality and feasibility of analytic plan, evidence of a commitment to interdisciplinary approaches and perspectives, and potential to yield high-impact research outputs. Application deadline is December 1, 2021. Selected applicants will be notified no later than December 20, 2021. Projects must have IRB approval before funding will begin.

Required Proposal Components: The proposal must be submitted as a *single PDF* to the Center administrator (ciss@bu.edu) and should include:

A. Project Narrative: Up to five pages inclusive of tables and graphics, and using 1.5 spacing, 1 inch margins, and 11 pt. Arial font) comprised of the following sections:

1. Project Aims
2. Significance and Impact
3. Planned Approach/Method
4. Expected Outcomes
5. Timeline

B. References (do not count as part of the 5 page narrative)

C. Detailed Budget and Justification. Costs listed should reflect the actual anticipated expenses and must be justified.

Reporting and Acknowledgement

Each awardee is required to submit a report to the Center Director within 90 days of completion of the project and will present the outcome of the award to at a Center-sponsored research showcase. Each report should detail the outcomes of the project and link them to the aims set forth in the proposal. The report should include information on presentations, publications, or other scholarly work deriving from the project and the awardee must acknowledge the award support in all publications resulting from the award. In addition, any external award submissions that result from the project or use the data derived from the project should be detailed in the report. Failure to comply with these reporting requirements will disqualify an individual for future consideration in all internal funding programs.

Please direct questions to Deborah Carr, Center Director (ciss@bu.edu)