



CREATING THE FUTURE

UCLA Strategic Plan 2023-28



Social Impact Collaboratives Grant Opportunity



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Agenda

- Overview of Social Impact Collaborative Program: Goals, Key Definitions, Priorities
- Grant Categories
 - Exploratory grants
 - Seed grants
 - Transformative grants
- Timeline
- Post-award expectations
- Questions

According to the RSVP responses

- *Exploratory grant–1*
- *Seed grant–5*
- *Transformative grant–13*

Strategic Plan Goal 1: Deepen UCLA's Engagement with Los Angeles—partner for social impact

- “To meaningfully impact the lives of Angelenos, tap into the contributions and expertise of our region’s communities, and partner with those communities to improve quality of life in the city.”
- Commitment to measure and report on impact:
 - “Identify, collect and report on metrics that track the quality of the partnerships and impact of community-engaged research and creative activity, with community partner input in the development of those metrics.”

Social Impact Collaborative Grants as a strategy to advance Goal 1

- *Build equitable and sustained relationships with Los Angeles partners*
- *Contribute to building a more equitable Los Angeles*
- *Partnerships for change and impact*
 - *To achieve these goals, the Social Impact Collaborative grant program asks all grantees to work with a theory of change.*
- *Interdisciplinary teams to bring multiple perspectives to complex issues*

Social Impact Collaboratives – priority areas of focus

- Issues related to post-fire recovery and rebuilding of lives and communities, including but not limited to fire- and climate-specific topics, housing, economic recovery, health and wellbeing, and attention to vulnerable populations.
- Community priorities identified by the UCLA LA Community Engagement Council (composed of leaders from Los Angeles community organizations and nonprofits, government, business, and foundations): Climate change, housing and homelessness, food insecurity, public safety and restorative justice, and community health and wellbeing

Social Impact Collaboratives – other priorities

- Proposals that include early career faculty as Co-PIs (particularly for Exploratory grants) or on the research team
- Proposals involving researchers and/or partners with a history of successfully addressing equity and inclusion in their work
- Proposals that partner with under-resourced community organizations
- Proposals that include first generation college students and/or students with ties to communities affected by the equity issue that the research/creative activity seeks to address

Community-Engaged Research

Traditional Research

CE: None or Low

- Research “**on**” communities
- **Process:** Unidirectional, researcher directed
- **Products:** Scholarly articles with sole benefit to the researcher; limited direct applied benefit.

Community-Engaged Research

CE: High

- Research “**with**” communities
- **Process:** Researcher & community partner are equal partners
- **Products:** mutually determined and beneficial to researchers AND community; Applied benefit is central to the partnership.

Theory of Change

- A conceptual model for how change will happen
- An artifact that documents/articulates such a model, including along-the-way changes and longer-term goals

A theory of change articulates one's underlying beliefs and assumptions about why particular actions will contribute to the anticipated changes or new conditions

[*Drawn from Annie E. Casey Foundation resources](#)

Overview of 3 Grant Categories

Exploratory

Social Impact Collaborative Exploratory Grants (up to \$10,000):

This grant focuses on initial **relationship building** for starting a new collaborative team.

Seed

Social Impact Collaborative Seed Grant (up to \$50,000):

This grant will support a *newly formed or existing interdisciplinary group working with a Los Angeles community partner(s) on an equity-advancing topic to conduct* **early-stage research and/or creative activity.**

Transformative

Social Impact Collaborative Transformative Grant (up to \$250,000 over 2 years):

Proposals at this level have successfully completed one or more interdisciplinary community-engaged research projects or creative activities, and now seek to **expand their scope or scale of work, add new partners, or add a new dimension to their collaborative efforts.**

Collaboratives to include:

Principal Investigators: All proposals require a *minimum* of two Principal Investigators (PI) from different departments, and both must be [UCLA Senate Faculty](#). One of the PIs must be designated as the Contact PI, who is responsible for receiving and coordinating communications on behalf of the Collaborative.

Community Partner(s) could include non-profit organizations, tribal or community organizations, governmental agencies, and if appropriate, for-profit entities. In all cases, community partners should be a recognized and credible entity respected for its work in the particular issue area.

Additional Team Members: UCLA faculty/staff/students who will be contributing to the collaborative (ladder faculty, lecturers, adjuncts, other non-Senate faculty such as academic administrators, visiting faculty, postdoctoral fellows, graduate and/or undergraduate students). In addition, individuals without UCLA appointments can join a social impact collaborative team. Additional team members should reflect the interdisciplinarity of the collaborative.

Exploratory Grant (\$10,000)

- **Interdisciplinary and community-engaged work**
- **Focused on social equity issue in Los Angeles (City or County)**
- **Community-Engaged Research/Creative Activity & Theory of Change**
 - Relationship building phase—interdisciplinary research team with community partners
 - Co-construction of research question/creative activity plan
 - Collaboratively developing a [theory of change](#) for how the planned research/creative activity links to the partners' ongoing social change work

Seed Grant (up to \$50,000)

- **Interdisciplinary and community-engaged work**
- **Focused on social equity issue in Los Angeles (City or County)**
- **Community-Engaged Research/Creative Activity & Theory of Change**
 - Early-stage research and/or creative activity.
 - Seed grants provide an opportunity to test how the research/creative activity collaboration enacts a [theory of change](#) to address an equity issue.
- Applicants must have established partnerships and an articulated theory of change.

Transformative Grant (up to \$250,000 over 2 years)

- **Interdisciplinary and community-engaged work**
- **Focused on social equity issue in Los Angeles (City or County)**
- **Community-Engaged Research/Creative Activity & Theory of Change**
 - Expanding your scale of work, such as by adding new partners, or adding a new dimension to your collaborative efforts
 - *Transformative* both in equity-advancing outcomes and for knowledge-making (research, scholarship, creative activity)
 - At this stage, the Collaborative must be able to articulate how the research/creative activity collaboration contributes to a [theory of change](#) to address the equity issue.
- Applicants must have an established track record of community-engaged equity-focused research, with a [theory of change](#) and preliminary evidence of impact.

Fundable expenses

Personnel:

- **Community Partners:** Compensation of community partners is required.
- **Personnel:** Research assistants (undergraduate and/or graduate students).
 - Please note **Exploratory and Seed Social Impact Collaborative grants** do not fund faculty salary support of any kind, but **Transformative grants** can (one summer 9th per co-PI).

Travel expenses if needed

Additional Expenses such as supplies and materials needed to support research/creative activity (planning for Exploratory grants)

Application Timeline

February – April 15th

Proposal Consultation with staff at the Center for Community Engagement is available. A consultation is encouraged but not required.

**February 18th
2-3:00pm (PST)**

Information Session–Thank you for joining us today!
Attending the Zoom information session is encouraged but not required.

**March 17th
11:59pm (PST)**

Statement of Intent to Apply (Required)
• **Submission Info** [here](#)

**April 15th
11:59pm (PST)**

Grant Proposal Due
Submission Info [here](#)

Late Spring Quarter

Grantees Announced

July

Funds Released after completing an award acceptance form.

Social Impact Collaborative Award Requirements

Faculty Learning Community: Faculty representing all funded Social Impact Collaboratives will attend a series of meetings over the year bringing together all grantees in one broader learning community to:

- Explore points of convergence across research and creative activities on equity issues in Los Angeles
- Exchange learning and incorporate best practices on building and sustaining collaborative, interdisciplinary, community-engaged research teams
- Provide professional development with strategic communications and fund development
- Develop metrics for evaluation of impact

Reporting:

- **Streamlined Quarterly Progress Reports**
- **Final Report:** A final report (progress narrative and financial report) must be submitted after the completion of the grant.



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Questions?

