

# AEJMC SENIOR SCHOLARS

## 2025 RESEARCH GRANTS

**Proposal Deadline:  
October 1, 2025**

The **2026 AEJMC Senior Scholars Program** will award up to two \$5,000 grants to senior scholars to fund innovative and timely research projects in journalism and mass communication. Senior scholars who are AEJMC members may submit proposals for these grants by Oct. 1, and selections will be announced by early January 2026. **Deadline for submitting proposals is Oct. 1, 5:00 P.M. Eastern Time.**

The AEJMC Senior Scholars Program is designed to support researchers in a wide area of study. These funds may support research assistants, travel to research centers or relevant locations, or pay for supplies and services associated with the research. This program seeks to recognize senior (typically tenured) scholars who aim to engage in extended research projects. For at least one of the two awards, priority will be given to a project that requires travel. Members holding an endowed professorship or an endowed chair are not eligible to apply.

Proposals should outline the applicant's significant research project. Proposals may also be submitted by a team of scholars who would share the award if selected. AEJMC will showcase initial results from the projects selected for the 2026 grants at a special session at the AEJMC 2026 conference in New Orleans. In addition to the \$5,000 grant, AEJMC will also provide \$750 for each selected proposal to assist scholars with travel expenses to that conference.

### PROPOSAL CRITERIA

- The proposed topic should center on Journalism and Mass Communication and related disciplines. Topics in related disciplines should also include a central element within mass communication.
- **Applicants must be current AEJMC members.** Check your membership status before you submit your proposal. Proposals submitted by non-members, or members whose memberships are not current, will be eliminated from the competition.
- Only one proposal per person will be considered. (If you submit as part of a team, that is the only proposal you may submit.)
- The program is looking for proposals from senior faculty members teaching full-time (preferably tenured).
- The proposal should include a demonstration of past research success and the likelihood that this project can be completed by February 2027.
- For the proposals selected, a five-page interim report is due to AEJMC by July 15, 2026, and will be part of the 2026 conference session. Applicants should submit proposals for projects on which they would be able to make significant progress by that time.

### APPLICATION PROCESS

**All application materials should be emailed as one attachment** to Lillian Coleman at [lillian@aejmc.org](mailto:lillian@aejmc.org) (attachment **MUST** have a document suffix, such as .doc, .docx or .pdf). All material should come in **ONE** file in the order outlined under the "Application Process" section of this call. Incomplete proposals will **NOT** be reviewed.

**Applications should contain five sections and include the following materials:**

- I. A cover sheet that lists** the following information: (a) name, address, telephone number and email address; (b) a 200-word bio of applicant(s); and (c) a 300-word abstract of the project.
- II. A proposal written** for a general mass communication scholarly audience, of no more than 1,500 words (excluding endnotes/references) describing the project, which must include the following: (a) scope and purpose of project; (b) how the project will expand knowledge; (c) detailed description of the project, including methods, survey information (if used), etc.; (d) current status and timeline for completion; (e) anticipated outcomes; (f) a list of potential publication venues for the finished project. (Proposals that exceed this word count will **NOT** be reviewed.)
- III. A one-page, detailed budget** that fully explains the expenses necessary to complete the project. Maximum grant amount is \$5,000. Funds may not be used for university indirect costs or PI stipend. If project will cost more than the maximum grant amount, explain where you will get the remaining funds to complete the project.
- IV. One letter of support** from your immediate supervisor. For proposals with more than one author: if co-authors are in same department at the same school, one support letter is sufficient, but if co-authors are in different departments at the same school or at different colleges/universities, each must have separate letter of support.
- V. A three-page vita** — edit it so it is only three pages. If project has more than one author, each co-author must submit a three-page vita.

All proposals will undergo peer review by JMC scholars. After a competitive judging process, applicants will be notified of the status of their proposals by early January 2026. Questions about the program should be directed to Lillian Coleman at [lillian@aejmc.org](mailto:lillian@aejmc.org).