



Mission Fund Grant Program Call for Proposals

The NCME Mission Fund was established to provide a means for donors to express their tangible support for NCME's mission to advance the science and practice of measurement in education, and to provide individuals and organizations with financial support for projects and research that address this mission directly.

For the current cycle, the Mission Fund is again offering grants for initiatives focusing on fairness, equity, and social justice in assessment, which remains well-aligned with the 2024 Annual Meeting theme (Reconceptualizing Measurement Theory and Practice to Reduce Inequities) and Presidential priorities (<https://www.ncme.org/about/news/president-message>). We invite researchers and practitioners to contemplate ways that fairness, equity, and social justice can be included in the design, administration, analysis, interpretation, use, and consequences of educational assessment and measurement in either large-scale or classroom settings. Those interested are invited to submit project proposals that may directly address, but are not limited to, the themes below which have been developed in collaboration with the Committee on Diversity Issues in Testing (CODIT):

Social Justice at the Center of Assessment Design

Possible topics:

- Approaches to construct definition and representation that promote social justice
- Culturally sustaining and antiracist item development
- Investigations of constructs from current assessments for which there is evidence of adverse impact
- Modification of existing assessments to mitigate injustice
- Assessment design practices that include principles of equity (e.g., equity-centered assessment design, universal design for learning)

Fairness and Equity in Validation, Reporting, and Consequences

Possible topics:

- Score reporting practices that are more accessible and promote more equitable interpretations and uses of assessment results
- Evaluation of intended and unintended consequences of assessment use through the lens of equity and fairness
- Innovative validity research centering on fairness and equity (e.g., validity research that captures intersectionality)
- Investigations of construct representation, underrepresentation, and construct-irrelevant variance through an antiracist lens
- Fairness and equity in standard setting
- Investigations of equity concerns in different assessment uses

Innovation in Service of Fairness, Equity, and Social Justice

Possible topics:

- Investigations of fairness, equity, and/or social justice involving novel item types or test delivery methods
- Interdisciplinary research to improve fairness, equity, and/or social justice in the development, use, or evaluation of assessments

Types of Activities Eligible for Funding

Grants for project and research activities related to the identified themes will be considered. The Mission Fund Grant Program is especially interested in funding projects that may have difficulty attracting other funding sources, yet have a strong potential to:

- Produce actionable insights and/or practical tools for practitioners, or
- Expand beyond traditional research horizons.

Award amounts are limited to \$20,000 each. Overhead costs in the proposal budget, if any, are limited to 10% of the total funding request. Identify all costs that are necessary and reasonable to complete the work described in your proposal. The best strategy is to request a reasonable amount money to do the work, not more and not less because:

- Reviewers look for reasonable costs and will judge whether your request is justified by your aims and methods.
- Reviewers will consider the salary listed for each of the key personnel and will judge whether the figures are in sync with reviewer expectations based on the research proposed.
- Significant over- or under-estimating suggests the scope of work is not well defined.

Submission Requirements

The Committee will accept one proposal per primary applicant, who must be an active NCME member submit the following:

- Name and affiliation for all authors
- Descriptive title (maximum: 15 words)
- Proposal (maximum: 1500 words) describing the project or research activities. Tables, figures, and references do not count toward the word limit. The proposal should include: project purpose; theoretical framework; methodology; anticipated results, outcomes, and/or products; and the educational implications of the anticipated results.
- Timeline and budget (not included in the word limit)

[Please use the application template available here.](#)

If you have any questions about the requirements, please email NCMEMissionFund@talley.com

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Scholarly and/or practical significance of the fairness, equity, and/or social justice issue(s) addressed by the project,
- Technical quality of the theoretical framework, appropriateness of the methodology, and clarity of expression,
- Feasibility, given the proposed timeline and requested funding, and
- Potential for broader impacts of the project.

Application Submission

Please email your completed application as a single Word document or PDF to:

NCMEMissionFund@talley.com

Funding decisions will be based on recommendations from the Mission Fund Committee and the Committee on Diversity Issues in Testing, with final approval for grant awards coming from the NCME Executive Committee. Decisions will be emailed to corresponding authors in mid-March. Note that recipients will be invited to present their work at the subsequent NCME Annual Meeting.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION: JANUARY 30, 2024