



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 offering grants for initiatives focusing on fairness, equity, and social justice in assessment. 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 research proposals that directly respond to one of the themes below, 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
- Development/evaluation of frameworks to promote fairness, equity, and social justice in assessment practices (e.g., frameworks to systematize evaluation and reporting on consequences, including responsibility and roles)

Types of Activities Eligible for Funding

Grants for project and research activities related to the identified themes will be considered. 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.

Submission Requirements

To qualify for a grant, the primary applicant must be an active NCME member, and must 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 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
- 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.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION: JANUARY 24, 2022