2015-2016 FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
CALL FOR PROPOSALS
Deadline: October 24, 2014

Overview
The Institute for Research on Race & Public Policy (IRRPP) is committed to increasing society’s understanding of the causes of racial and ethnic inequality and to providing the public, organizers, practitioners, and policymakers with research-based policy solutions. Its Faculty Fellowship Program supports outstanding scholars of race and ethnicity who wish to develop their ability to influence public debate, community mobilizations, and decision-making processes. The Institute is pleased to invite applications for Faculty Fellowships for the 2015-2016 academic year. Applications are due Friday, October 24, 2014.

The Faculty Fellowship Program seeks to address a central need of faculty members who do research on race and ethnicity—to develop a more engaged research agenda by connecting with communities beyond the campus, exchanging ideas and knowledge, and contributing to one another’s debates, decisions, and actions. To support UIC scholars in these efforts, the Faculty Fellowship provides research funding and an intensive, year-long policy development program to scholars whose research on race and ethnicity has the potential to contribute to current policy conversations and actions. By the end of the award year, Faculty Fellows will not only have completed their research; they will also have developed a portfolio of work that will enhance their ability to use that research to engage more meaningfully in public policy debates.

Award Description
Faculty Fellows receive financial support for exceptional research projects that focus on race or ethnicity and have the potential to influence public debate, community practice, and policy decisions. This support can take one of two forms:

1. Course Release: Faculty members may apply for release from up to two courses per year. Release funds are paid directly to the Fellow’s department and may be taken at a time and in a combination agreed upon by the Fellow and his or her department.

2. Research Grants: Faculty members are awarded up to $5,000 per year for individuals and up to $10,000 per year for teams. Funds may cover project costs such as travel, research assistant salaries, supplies, and equipment.

Faculty members may apply for one form of award or the other, that is, either a Course Release or a Research Grant. All award funds must be spent by the end of the fiscal year (June 30) of the fellowship year. All documents and reports must be submitted by the same date.
Eligibility
IRRPP Faculty Fellowships are open to all full time clinical, research, tenured, and tenure track faculty in all disciplines at UIC, regardless of how recently they have received IRRPP funding. Junior faculty and those from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups are especially encouraged to apply.

Fellowship Activities
The Fellowship term runs for a full academic year (mid-August through mid-May of each year), during which time Fellows are expected to be on campus, work on their own research projects, and participate in policy development training meetings. The program includes three components:

1. **Financial Support for Research**: Funding may be used for either course release or for project costs, but not both. For more detail, please see the “Awards” section above.

2. **Technical Assistance in Policy Engagement**: Throughout the year, Fellows will attend one training session with each of IRRPP’s Associate Directors to develop their capacity for public policy engagement in the following areas:
   a) **Working in Community Partnership**: Fellows will meet individually with the Associate Director for Community Partnerships to learn and refine best practices for developing strong, collaborative community partnerships with practitioners and advocates outside the university.
   b) **Funding Engaged Policy Work**: Fellows will meet with the Associate Director for Research to improve their funding search strategies. They will choose between attending an introductory workshop on applying for grants at UIC or individual meetings for pre-award support for their particular projects.
   c) **Writing for Social Impact**: Fellows will meet with the Associate Director for Programs to strengthen their writing practice and learn strategies for framing and presenting research in ways that connect with and influence non-academic audiences.

3. **Intellectual Community & Exchange**: Faculty Fellows will have the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with a vibrant, interdisciplinary cohort of race and ethnicity scholars during the opening and final receptions.
Fellowship Outcomes
By the end of the Fellowship term, Fellows will have developed a portfolio that reflects their enhanced capacity to engage communities and policy debates outside the university. The portfolio will include the following three elements:

1. *A Policy Document* on the Fellow’s research project written for a non-scholarly audience and designed to influence policy debates and decisions, e.g., fact sheets, info graphs, literature summaries, audio or video files, transcripts, op-eds, and traditional white papers;
2. *A Draft Grant Application* along with a list of funding sources for which the application can be modified;
3. *An Engaged Research Plan* developed with a community partner that identifies common interests, a possible project question, and a tentative timeline for collaboration.

Submission Guidelines
Application materials should be submitted electronically as a single PDF document to Ryan Viloria at rvilor1@uic.edu. The PDF file should include, in the following order:

1. A completed cover sheet, including all necessary signatures
2. A 150-word abstract
3. A 2-3 page description of the research activity that details:
   a. the purpose and nature of the activity, including the specific tasks to be conducted, and the location and timeline for their completion;
   b. the research design, including data collection method with instruments, recruitment strategies, sampling criteria, data analysis method, and up to 2 pages for appendices with references, tables, and figures;
   c. the policy relevance of the project: that is the manner in *and* extent to which the research findings could contribute to a particular policy debate, mobilization, or decision-making process;
   d. the project’s contribution to the applicants’ professional progress;
   e. the Fellowship’s contribution to the applicant’s ability to engage policy debates
4. A 1-page budget and budget justification;
5. A 2-page, abbreviated curriculum vitae;
6. A 400-word biography describing the relevant publication and funding record of the applicant(s).
Criteria
The purpose of the Faculty Fellowship Program is to enhance UIC scholars’ capacity to conduct collaborative, engaged research that contributes to policy conversations and processes of interest to the public, advocates, activists, and policymakers. Applications will be evaluated according to how well they meet the following criteria:

• *Fit*: alignment with the substantive focus of the Institute
• *Rigor*: quality of research design
• *Innovation*: extent to which the research topic or methods are inventive or creative
• *Feasibility*: likelihood that the research can be completed in accordance with the timeline
• *Usefulness*: potential for generating knowledge that is of use outside of academia
• *Engagement*: alignment with the focus or needs of one or more community organizations
• *Social Significance*: relevance to pressing and recurrent public debates
• *Fundability*: Applicant’s likelihood of receiving external funding
• *Career Impact*: the award’s potential affect on the applicant’s professional progress

Complete applications are reviewed by an interdisciplinary committee of IRRPP staff members and UIC faculty and should be written clearly enough to be understood by scholars who are not specialists in the applicant’s field.

For More Information
To learn more about IRRPP and its former award recipients, visit us at [www.irrpp.uic.edu](http://www.irrpp.uic.edu). For questions about the application process, email Michelle Boyd, Associate Director of Programs, at [mrboyd@uic.edu](mailto:mrboyd@uic.edu).