

TIAA Institute Request for Research Proposals

Due: Friday, September 14, 2018, 5 p.m. EST

The TIAA Institute conducts and sponsors research aligned with specified themes in three programmatic areas – financial security; higher education; endowments, foundations and philanthropy. The Institute is accepting research proposals aligned with the following themes.

Financial Security

- *Retirement Plan Design* – Examine the impact of plan design, including the provision of advice, on individuals' decisions and outcomes and on plan costs.
- *Lifetime Income and Retirement Security* – Understand how individuals manage savings for income during retirement.
- *Financial Literacy and Capability* – Examine existing financial literacy and capability levels, and their relationship with financial behavior and outcomes.

Higher Education

- *Academic Workforce Trends/Issues* – Assess emerging faculty workforce models, the factors underlying change, and the implications for institutions, students and faculty.
- *Higher Education Leadership* – Examine and validate strategies to ensure a well-prepared and diverse population of leaders for colleges and universities.
- *Innovation and Financial Sustainability* – Analyze strategies to ensure financial sustainability and organizational effectiveness among colleges and universities.

Endowments, Foundations and Philanthropy

- *Role of Endowments* – Examine endowment risk and management within the financial context of the nonprofit sector, including higher education.
- *Philanthropy* – Assess the current landscape of postsecondary philanthropy, including the evolving priorities of donors who support higher education.

How to Apply

Submit the following materials as a single file in an e-mail to Quentin Graham at Quentin.Graham@tiaa.org. The submission deadline is Friday, September 14, 2018, 5:00 p.m. EST.

1. Cover page with proposal title, primary investigator names(s) and full contact information
2. Abstract (150 words)
3. Proposal narrative (3-5 pages)
 - a. Project motivation, significance and goals
 - b. Research question(s)
 - c. Methodology (i.e., analytical framework, data sources, sensitivity analysis)
 - d. Potential practical implications or conclusions
 - e. Academic or practitioner publications where you might submit the research
 - f. Academic or practitioner conferences where the research could be presented
4. List of references cited in the narrative (not part of page count)

5. Timeline for deliverables (see below)
6. Complete resumes/CV's of the primary investigator(s)
7. Budget that itemizes costs for at least the following:
 - Personnel, including salary and benefits for the principal investigator(s) and any other investigators or research assistants (each separately itemized).
 - Travel for research-related purposes.
 - Equipment, materials, and other expenses, including the itemized costs, if any, of data, postage, and/or printing.

Note: This grant program funds direct research costs only; overhead and indirect costs are not funded. A maximum of \$70,000 will be allocated per selected proposal.

Deliverables

1. Technical report, analogous to an academic working paper; this will be published and posted as a TIAA Institute *Research Dialogue* on the Institute's web site.
2. Non-technical paper in the 2,000-3,000 word range that summarizes the motivation for the research, key findings, and implications of the findings. It may also cover methodology at a high level. This summary must be accessible by readers who are not research-oriented. It cannot be a "copy and paste" of sections from the technical report.
3. Executive summary (no longer than 300 words) outlining the key findings and implications of the research in plain English.
4. Bulleted list of three to five key takeaways.
5. Deliverables must be submitted in MS Word, with tables/charts in MS Excel.
6. Up to two oral presentations of the research if requested by the TIAA Institute. Resulting travel-related expenses will be paid by the TIAA Institute.

Timeline

- Delivery of final reports is expected one year from start date of the grant.
- Progress reports to be submitted four and eight months from date of grant.

Terms and Conditions for Grant Recipients

1. Acknowledge the TIAA Institute's grant support on papers and presentations stemming from the funded research. Please use the statement below:

"The project described received funding from the TIAA Institute. The content is solely the responsibility of the author(s) and does not necessarily represent the views of TIAA or the TIAA Institute."
2. Comply with IRB and human subject requirements at the researcher's home institution.
3. Execute a grant agreement.

Questions

Please contact Paul Yakoboski with any questions (704-988-4681, pyakoboski@tiaa.org.)