

Social Science Research Institute (SSRI) and Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) call for the inaugural SJRC Equity Fellows for the 2025/2026 Academic Year

Release Date: November 11, 2024

Due Date: January 27, 2025

Estimated Date of Award Notification: February 17, 2025

Earliest Start Date: July 1, 2025

The **Social Science Research Institute (SSRI)** and the **Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI)** are seeking applications for **inaugural SJRC Equity Fellows** during the 2025/2026 Academic Year. SJRC Equity Fellows are expected to engage in work, together or individually, that aligns with the mission of SSRI or CTSI.

The purpose of this fellowship is to help support SJRC efforts to foster change in policies and practices towards a culture of inclusive excellence across the University. SJRC Equity Fellows will engage in cross-cutting work that aligns with our Penn State values, strategic plan, commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB), and aligns with the mission of the institutes. This work can take various forms, shaped by the goals and background of the Fellow.

Funding:

SJRC Equity Fellows will be appointed for one academic year, with the potential for renewal. Fellows will be granted one course release per year (for SSRI and CTSI) if approved by their department head or summer salary (for SSRI only). Specific compensation will be negotiated with the Department or Unit Head by the SSRI Director or CTSI Director.

Eligibility:

All Penn State faculty are eligible regardless of appointment type (tenure-line, teaching, clinical, research, etc.), rank, or campus location.

Application Process:

All applications should be submitted to ssri-seed-grant@psu.edu. Faculty are encouraged to think creatively about projects that enhance the mission of SSRI or CTSI and SRJC while also building on or complementing their ongoing work. Depending on the challenge being addressed, fellows may be partnered with an existing unit or work group within SSRI, CTSI, or OSVPR for support and resources.

Applicants for the Equity Fellow may propose to engage in a broad range of efforts. A few examples of possible areas of work for Equity Fellows include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Identify barriers for inclusion among faculty, staff, and/or students.

- Improve practices in equity-minded faculty support and mentoring, working to foster an inclusive culture and enhance belonging.
- Create events or opportunities to foster professional learning and rebuild community among faculty supporting mentoring, research, and service.
- Contribute to current groups identifying novel ways of evaluating scholarly activities, as well as their impact on the field, to better recognize and value a wider range of scholarship and engagement.

Format:

Applications are limited to 2 single-space pages and should include the following components:

- ***Your updated CV***

- ***Description of the problem:*** Briefly describe, in non-technical terms, the problem or issue that you intend to address through the proposed work. Explain why the problem/issue is important and how it aligns with the missions of SSRI or CTSI and with the DEIB goals of Penn State. Identify the specific goal and objective(s) that will be addressed.

- ***Statement of interest and expertise:*** Describe why you wish to address this problem/issue. Explain what background, skills, and expertise you bring to addressing this problem/issue.

- ***Project plan:*** Provide a detailed plan for what you will do to address the problem/issue you have identified. Be specific about what you will do, when you will do it, and in what context(s). Your project plan should include a rough schedule for the project's major tasks.

- ***Outcomes, products, and impact:*** Describe the results/outcomes and products or deliverables (i.e., networks, tools, manuscripts, reports, policy implementation plans, etc.) that can be expected as a result of serving as an SJRC Equity Fellow.

Review Criteria

- Merits of the proposal, including its innovation, significance as well as its alignment with our Penn State values, strategic plan, commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) and anti-racism, and with the mission of SSRI ([SSRI Mission](#)) or CTSI ([CTSI Mission](#)).
- Qualifications, commitment, and clarity of roles for the Fellow
- Clarity, rigor, and feasibility of the proposed activities.

Expectations of Awardees

- SSRI and CTSI encourage equity fellows to participate in workshops, open houses and other SSRI and CTSI sponsored events throughout the award period.
- Must register as an Affiliated Faculty member of SSRI and/or CTSI if they are not already designated as one.

- Provide a progress report at six months and at the end of the funding period. The reports should highlight progress made and document tangible outcomes (e.g., presentations, meetings). Follow-up reports will be requested to assess the long-term impact of the Fellow's activities.
- Acknowledgement of SSRI's or CTSI's support in any work that results from your project by using the following language.

For SSRI: This project was supported, in part, by funding from Penn State's Social Science Research Institute (SSRI). Content is the responsibility of the authors and does not represent the views of the SSRI.

For CTSI: The project described was supported, in part, by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, National Institutes of Health, through Grant ULI TR002014. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NIH

Timeline:

Call for SSRI and CTSI-SJRC Equity Fellowship Applications on Monday, November 11, 2024
 Deadline for receipt of applications is no later than 5:00 pm on Monday, January 27, 2025
 Fellowship awards will be announced by February 17, 2025
 Funding will be available by July 1, 2025, for SSRI and Fall Semester 2025 for CTSI

The Social Justice Research Council (SJRC) serves as an interdisciplinary, university-wide initiative aimed at promoting equity, social justice, inclusion, and belonging. Situated within the Office of the Senior Vice President for Research (OSVPR) and led by the OSVPR Institutes, SJRC works to advance the shared mission of fostering interdisciplinary and translational research at Penn State while also supporting a diverse academic community at Penn State.