Berkeley Initiative for
Transparency in the Social Sciences

Catalyst Program
Research Transparency and Reproducibility Scale-Up
Request for Proposals

Quick Reference

Funding Available: $75,000
Eligibility: Catalysts
Submission Deadline: Rolling beginning Wednesday, November 9, 2016
Submission Requirements: Send proposals via email to Katie Hoeberling
(khoeberling@berkeley.edu) with "Catalyst Phase II Proposal" in the subject line

Executive Summary

The Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences (BITSS) now invites Catalysts to submit proposals to design and conduct educational projects, including developing and implementing new curriculum, seminars, workshops, and boot-camps, to scale-up practices on transparency and reproducibility in social science research for current undergraduate and graduate students, as well as researchers and practitioners.

There is a total of $75,000 available for this call. Projects will be assessed for quality and expected impact. BITSS is able to utilize several potential funding mechanisms for the projects: individual-level Fellowships, Travel Reimbursements, and institutional-level Professional Services Agreements (PSA). For institutional-level PSAs, BITSS strongly encourages joint application from multiple Catalysts and minimum project costs of $10,000.

Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis beginning on **Wednesday, November 9, 2016** until the $75,000 is fully committed.[1] Scope for Catalyst Projects

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[1]*Note: This request for proposals has been sent to intended recipients who are eligible to apply for Catalyst grants. BITSS may eventually open up this request to other candidates. If you have questions regarding your eligibility to participate, please send an email to Katie Hoeberling at khoeberling@berkeley.edu.*

Funding will be primarily directed to education and training projects that advance the teaching, practice, or publishing of transparent, reproducible social science research. These projects will be focused on, but not limited to, the disciplines of economics, psychology, and political science. Funded projects will fall mainly in the following categories, but other types of projects will also be considered for funding.

(1) Curricula and Coursework at the university level

Design new undergraduate and/or graduate level academic courses with content that focuses on transparency and reproducibility theory or methods, or integrating these themes into existing courses. Course formats may vary depending on their goals and content and may be organized as lectures, labs, practicums, seminars, for example.

(2) Workshops, Boot-Camps, or Summer Institutes

Design and deliver workshops, boot-camps, or summer institutes whose content or curricula focus on transparency and reproducibility theory, methods, and tools. Workshops and boot-camps may vary in length and targeted audiences depending on the theme, content, and available resources.

(3) Panel Discussions or Presentations at professional convenings

Organize panel discussions or deliver presentations at professional convenings such as conferences, symposia, workshops, or working groups. These panel discussions may focus on themes such as the causes of limited transparency in past and current research, operationalizing or facilitating the uptake of transparency methods in research and publishing, methods for improving transparency, or other relevant themes. Please provide proof of acceptance of your presentation by the convening's organizing body when submitting your proposal.

(4) Other relevant events

BITSS invites proposals for the organization of other training events whose content or theme is relevant to the Catalyst program and BITSS mission.

In addition to applicants' own materials, Catalysts are welcome and encouraged to utilize resources provided by BITSS including the PowerPoint presentation library (of which two presentations are available in both English and French), the Manual of Best Practices, UC Berkeley transparency course videos (available on the BITSS YouTube Channel and soon to be available on edX as a MOOC).

Proposal Requirements

Proposals should include the following items:

Cover Page: Title of the proposal, the name and contact information of the Catalyst(s), the institution that will manage the Professional Services Award (PSA) if applicable, the funding amount requested, the period of performance, the targeted population for the education project, and an abstract of the project. *PLEASE NOTE: This abstract will be used for any public announcement on the BITSS website of selected projects.*

Description: Provide a 1-2 page description of the proposed project including:
- Problem statement – What does the project intend to address?
- Who is targeted by the project – Specify undergraduate/graduate; discipline; and other factors such as targeted underserved populations. How many individuals will be reached?
- Where will the project be delivered?
- When will the project be delivered? What is the general period of performance and exact dates of event(s) (if applicable)?
- What are the project's theme and intended agenda or curricula? Please provide a list of materials or resources to be used and provide actual materials if possible.
- What are the expected deliverables? How will the project generate materials to expand and improve the BITSS Library of educational materials?

Budget and Budget Narrative: Provide an itemized budget, as well as short budget justification. Please refer to the template attached for formatting guidance.
- If your proposal is accepted, we will work with you to decide on the most appropriate funding mechanism. This will depend largely on the amount of funding requested, the number of institutions involved in the project, and Catalyst preference. Available mechanisms include Professional Service Agreements (PSAs) for institutions, and Fellowships or Reimbursements for individuals.
- Note for U.S. citizens requesting payment via a Fellowship or an individual PSA, the IRS will tax your award as "non-employee compensation."
- Note for institutional-level PSAs, indirect costs must not exceed 9% of the total budget.

Work Plan and Outputs: Include a brief summary of the timeline or key milestones for the training. Applicants should consider the time required to execute a PSA can be 6-8 weeks from receipt of all required documentation. Therefore, applicants should consider that they will not receive funds until estimated three months from selection notification.

Assessment Criteria

An internal BITSS team will evaluate project proposals with the following criteria. Note that not having met all criteria does not disqualify a Catalyst from receiving funding; proposals will be reviewed holistically.

(1) Impact

Does the proposal demonstrate a clear need within the academic institution or community? Will the proposed event(s) adequately address this need? Does the event reach a sufficient number of students or researchers?

(2) Feasibility

Is it feasible to implement the proposed project within existing time, resource, and expertise constraints? Does the budget adequately account for these constraints? Does the proposal identify possible challenges or gaps in information and include a plan to address these challenges or gaps? Does the project have a realistic and effective plan for communication or promotion to potential learners? Does support exist at the Catalyst's institution for implementing the project (i.e. does the Catalyst's institution agree with the need for such a training)?

(3) Past Catalyst Activities

Has the Catalyst led any advocacy efforts to affect policy change at their own institutions? For example, has s/he written any blog posts or OpEd pieces or has s/he met with administrators or other decision makers to discuss and develop revisions to curriculum? Has the Catalyst participated in or provided expertise on other BITSS initiatives or events?

Selection

Selection will be made on a rolling-basis as proposals are received and will be announced on the Catalyst web-page as selected to ensure transparency in terms of funding available and selected projects. Once the $100,000 is fully committed, BITSS will notify all Catalysts via email.

Reporting Requirements

In addition to providing any final materials (PPTs, curricula, etc.) for the BITSS resources page, awardees are to produce (1) one BITSS guest blog post and (2) a short final summary of their activity, including attendance, agenda or materials, learning and evaluation outcomes, and next steps.