



SHEEO

STATE HIGHER EDUCATION EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

State Higher Education Equity Funding RFP

State Higher Education Executive Officers Association
November 7, 2023

About SHEEO

National association serving chief executives of statewide governing, policy, and coordinating boards of postsecondary education and their staffs.

- Advocate for state policy leadership
- Act as a liaison between states and the federal government
- Provide information and analysis on educational and public policy issues
- Recognize that state context matters

State Higher Education Equity Funding Research Request for Proposals

- With generous support from the Joyce Foundation, SHEEO is issuing this Request for Proposals (RFP) to fund research projects that investigate inequities and adequacy in higher education funding.
- The **immediate goal** of these research projects is to advance understanding of equity-based funding, define funding adequacy and inequitable funding, and provide states with actionable, evidence-based solutions to help close equity gaps in public institution funding.

Awards

- SHEEO seeks to fund six research projects at \$10,000 each through this RFP.
- Proposals Researchers will receive these dollars directly as an honorarium.
- Awardees may seek funding from other sources to supplement the funds.

Project Expectations

- Awardees will produce an empirical research paper with an abstract and an executive summary.
 - Final papers are due in January 2025.
- Researchers will present findings to SHEEO's equity and adequacy learning community.
 - Learning community consists of states partnering to explore equitable funding.
 - Researchers must directly connect their academic research to actionable state policy and solutions.
- Awardees will present research findings during meetings of policy organizations that are coordinated by SHEEO.
 - Bimonthly meetings in March – June 2025.

Timeline

- Proposals are due Sunday, December 10th at 11:59pm MT.
 - Email your proposal to kkunkle@sheeo.org.
- Review will take place from Monday, December 11th – Monday, December 18th.
 - Review panel will consist of three SHEEO staff members and two academic researchers.
- Decision letters will be sent on Tuesday, December 19th.

Proposal Content

- Single-spaced, 12-point font, cannot exceed 2,000 words.
- Should include:
 - **Objectives & purpose**
 - Related literature & relevant theory
 - Theory from any field of origin is welcome
 - **Research methods**
 - **Significance for policy and practice**
 - References
 - Staffing plan
 - **Project completion timeline**
 - Résumé or curriculum vitae

Selection Criteria

- Relevance to the topic of equitable and adequate funding to public institutions of higher education.
- Significance of proposed research questions and topic.
- Rigor and rationale for proposed research method and design.
- Ability to turn the potential findings of the proposed research project into actionable solutions that will help states determine if they are funding their public institutions adequately and close any equity gaps that may exist.
- Project timeline suggests the proposed project can be completed in a maximum of 12 months.

Methods

- We are open to any method that is high quality, meets traditional academic standards, and is rigorously applied. These may include but are not limited to:
 - Survey research
 - Descriptive, correlational, inferential, quasi-experimental, or experimental quantitative studies
 - Analyses of original and secondary data
 - Qualitative research
 - Theoretical and philosophical examinations
 - Legal analyses
 - Historical studies

Potential topics

- We are open to funding any project of relevance to the larger topic of equitable and adequate funding to public institutions of higher education.
 - Methods for measuring inequalities in higher education finance.
 - An overview of K-12 equity audits and lessons for higher education.
 - Defining and measuring base funding adequacy across institution types.
 - Aligning equity-based funding strategies with mission-specific institutional needs.
 - The impacts of inequitable funding on student success, specifically for low-income and first-generation students and students of color (e.g., Black, Latino, Asian-Pacific Islander, and Native American students).

Potential topics (continued)

- We are open to funding any project of relevance to the larger topic of equitable and adequate funding to public institutions of higher education.
 - The impacts of inequitable funding on degree attainment and college completion.
 - Considerations for the analysis of equitable funding at minority serving institutions (MSIs).
 - State funding needs and cost differences across institutions in rural, suburban, and urban communities.
 - Best practices for creating a sustainable and consistently equitable funding structure.
 - Trends in funding inequality and inequities over time.

Questions?

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