

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH EQUITY



DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

IRWIN W. STEANS CENTER  
FOR COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICE LEARNING & COMMUNITY SERVICE STUDIES

## Call for Proposals:

# Health Equity-Focused, Community-Engaged Research Fellowship

**Co-Sponsored by the Center for Community Health Equity (CCHE) and the Irwin W. Steans Center for Community-Based Service Learning**

**Proposals Due by March 15, 2021**

**Fellowship Timeline: July 2021 to December 2022**

### Background

The Center for Community Health Equity (CCHE) (<https://healthequitychicago.org/>) was co-founded by DePaul and Rush in 2015 with the goal to improve community health outcomes and contribute to the elimination of health inequities in Chicago. A jointly run Center, the work of CCHE is interdisciplinary – linking sociologists, geographers, and other social scientists with health care professionals – with a shared desire to conduct meaningful research that contributes to social justice in our communities. The mission of The **Irwin W. Steans Center** (<https://resources.depaul.edu/steans-center-community-based-service-learning/Pages/default.aspx>) is to develop mutually beneficial relationships with community organizations to engage DePaul students in educational opportunities grounded in Vincentian values of respect for human dignity and the quest for social justice.

CCHE and The Steans Center believe in promoting community-engaged inquiry, scholarship, and service. Together, these centers hope to engage community partners to identify, understand, and respond to public health needs.

CCHE and The Steans Center request support for health equity research that engages a community partner in identifying solution-focused strategies to health inequities. This program, co-sponsored by the CCHE and the Steans Center, will award one faculty fellowship to a mid-career DePaul faculty member (at the assistant or associate level) who is interested in developing health-focused and community-engaged scholarship. The faculty fellow will be supported by The Faculty Scholarship Collaborative (FSC), will receive a \$4,000 stipend (provided in three installments) and a funded research assistant for three academic quarters. Community partners will also receive a \$1,000 stipend as a collaborator in the research process.

The [Faculty Scholarship Collaborative](#) (FSC) is available to assist in the preparation of proposals, and will support the faculty member throughout their fellowship period in the form of research/scholarship design, methodological approaches, and recommendations for extending and expanding the project (including opportunities for additional internal and external funding) beyond the fellowship term.

Faculty in the humanities, social sciences, and/or interdisciplinary departments and programs are especially encouraged to apply. Applicants can provide drafts of the proposal by February 15, 2021 to receive feedback. Awards will be announced on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Proposed research/scholarly projects must:**

1. Be driven by, and defined through collaboration with, a non-university, community-based partner(s)
2. Involve issues of community health and health equity, broadly defined
3. Benefit a community or set of communities (i.e., improve the quality of life for residents and contribute to the assets of Chicago area communities)
4. Advance the faculty member's scholarship and long-term research agenda
5. Support development of students' research skills

Reviewers will favor applications that are both community-engaged **and solutions-focused** (engaging community partner(s) in not only identifying and understanding health disparities/community health needs but also identifying effective ways of responding to public health needs and outlining specific ways of promoting health equity). Applicants can view samples of projects on the Irwin W. Steans Center website [here](#).

**Faculty Fellowship Benefits and Expectations:**

- \$4,000 faculty summer stipend (with first installment in summer of 2021, second installment in summer of 2022, and third would be at the end of the fellowship term in December 2022).
- Funded undergraduate or graduate research assistant for three academic quarters sometime within the Fellowship timeline
- Support from the FSC to support and extend the research project and research agenda; the recipient is expected to utilize this support
- Faculty Fellow will be expected to submit a mid-term fellowship progress report (by 3/15/22)
- Faculty fellow is strongly encouraged to contribute to the [CCHE Working Paper Series](#) and ultimately submit an article for publication to a peer-reviewed journal of their choice sometime after completing the project. The fellow also is strongly encouraged to work with the FSC on securing additional internal and/or external funding to extend their research/scholarly project
- Faculty fellow will make a presentation based on their research at an annual university-wide conference sponsored by the Steans Center and/or the CCHE.

**Submission Guidelines:**

Project narrative of 7-10 pages (double spaced), submitted in MS Word, to include:

- Name, department, and type of faculty appointment
- Project abstract (3-5 sentences)
- Detailed description of how the project's goals and objectives support the community-partner and the issue(s) that they seek to address in Chicago area communities;
- Project rationale: why is the research important to the applicant; and what are the implications of the research for community health and health equity
- Research aims/goals
- Research question(s) to be addressed (as defined collaboratively with community partner)
- Theoretical foundations
- Research methodologies
- Description of how project's goals and objectives support the community issue(s) it seeks to address
- Description of how this project fits into faculty member's broader and longer-term research agenda;
- Timeline for project completion

**Additional Documents Required (not included in proposal narrative):**

- Job description for the research assistant (undergraduate or graduate) with details of how RA will contribute to the project;
- Letter of support from the partnering community organization(s) or neighborhood association(s)
- Applicant's CV

Please submit narrative and all additional required documents to Maria Ferrera, [mferrera@depaul.edu](mailto:mferrera@depaul.edu).