

Dear Faculty, Staff, Students and Postdocs of UC Law SF, UCSF and UCLA,

The California Institute on Law, Neuroscience, and Education is pleased to announce the inaugural Request for Applications for its Collaboration Grants.

## Request For Applications: Collaboration Grants

The **California Institute on Law, Neuroscience, and Education** (hereafter “CA Institute”) seeks cross-campus, cross-disciplinary proposals for research projects aimed at advancing social justice and improving literacy outcomes through the integration of neuroscience, law, and education. Proposals should address and seek to disrupt the pervasive connection between racism, poverty, and other socioeconomic injustices and to positively impact literacy acquisition by understanding the cognitive/behavioral diversity and the adverse experiences of minoritized youth particularly those involved in the juvenile justice system.

The overall aim of this Request for Applications is to encourage research projects that are collaborative cross-disciplinary and multi-campus. Proposals may address basic, clinical, policy, implementation, advocacy, and/or dissemination research projects. Developing interdisciplinary research protocols and approaches is one of the goals of the CA Institute.

The principal investigator should be based at either UCLA, UCSF or UC Law SF. The proposal must include collaboration across at least two of the three CA Institute campuses. Additionally, collaboration with the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (hereafter “OYCR”) is encouraged.

Proposals shall address one or more of the [statutory goals](#) of the CA Institute as set out in Cal. Ed. Code § 99275. Below is a sample list of possible topics. The list is intended to be illustrative, not exhaustive or restrictive.

### **1. Expanding interdisciplinary research on the legal implications of new scientific knowledge in neuroscience:**

- Review of legal systems for ensuring equal access to education for underserved or vulnerable communities.
- Policy analysis on the effects of educational disparities in underserved populations.
- Impact of improved access to legal services to remove barriers to learning and positive life outcomes.

- Development and evaluation of evidence-based advocacy and policy to address systemic inequities in education and the justice system.
- Examining the intersection of law and science, and the problem of defining outcome variables that are legally relevant and pedagogically accurate.

**2. Promote and conduct interdisciplinary research on socioeconomic factors, such as trauma, abuse, social exclusion, discrimination, poverty, homelessness, and neglect:**

- The effects of systemic discrimination, such as redlining in housing, on access to educational opportunities.
- Interdisciplinary approaches to uncover the impact of adverse childhood experiences, social exclusion, discrimination, poverty, homelessness, and structural racism on language, cognition, and behavior.
- Develop and test culturally appropriate cognitive and behavioral testing tools that are relevant and fair for children and young adults.

**3. Develop interdisciplinary research protocols and approaches:**

- Development and evaluation of community-based programs to support youth reintegration and promote life success.
- Evaluation of programs that address systemic inequities in both education and the justice system.
- Evaluation of educational services for incarcerated youth.

**4. Conduct longitudinal studies related to the success of teacher preparation and development, pupil interventions, and educational outcomes:**

- Development and evaluation of educational interventions and curricula to support neurodiversity in historically vulnerable communities.
- Evaluation of efficacy and impact of workforce/career technical education programs and programs that increase access to postsecondary success.
- Innovative methods for early identification and support for neurodiverse individuals in schools.
- Evaluation of educational and health services for historically marginalized populations.
- Pilot programs aiming at prevention of system-involvement in at-risk youth.

## CATEGORIES

There are four categories of proposals:

- Faculty (up to \$200,000). Staff researchers with PI status are also eligible.
- Post-graduate, i.e. LLM, post-docs, fellows, and residents (up to \$150,000).
- Graduate students (up to \$100,000).
- Staff/student-initiated (up to \$10,000).

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Each proposal will be reviewed by two expert reviewers not affiliated with UCLA, UCSF or UC Law San Francisco. Final funding decisions will be made by CA Institute leadership team. Evaluation criteria will include overall significance, quality of the investigators and the approach, innovation and impact, justice and equity, and the potential to lead to further collaboration and funding. All projects must be multi-disciplinary and include at least two of the three campuses. Students and fellows should seek joint mentorship across campuses, or at least across different departments within their institutions. Priority will be given to early-stage investigators and investigators new to the field, and to proposals that center the perspectives of individuals with lived experiences of racism, system-involvement, and economic inequity. For topics not directly related to literacy, the strength of the rationale for the project as it pertains to the relationship between literacy, education and social injustice will be carefully evaluated.

## PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please submit a Letter of Intent using [this](#) form. The survey will request basic information: e.g., lead investigator and institutions; other investigators and institutions; a tentative title; and a brief summary of the project (maximum five sentences). This information should reflect the general theme of the forthcoming proposal and serve the purpose of recruiting appropriate expertise for reviewers. All teams who submit an LOI should plan to submit a full proposal as they see fit.
2. Review the [Q&A Document](#) and/or [sign up](#) for an optional Collaboration Q&A session and/or a Budget Q&A session.
3. Prepare a proposal using the [Collaboration Fund Application Template](#).
4. Transfer the finished proposal into [the Qualtrics Survey](#) and upload the Proposal PDF, including investigator CVs and the [Proposal Budget](#) PDF.

## REVISED TIMELINE

October 4, 2024	Letter of Intent Due
December 6, 2024	Proposal Submission Deadline
January 31, 2025	Approximate Announcement of Award
March 1, 2025	Approximate Funding Start Date

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** If you have additional questions not addressed in this document, please contact Andrea Lynn Hartsough at [andrealynn.hartsough@ucsf.edu](mailto:andrealynn.hartsough@ucsf.edu)