**Requests for Proposals**

The Center for Research on Early Childhood Education (CRECE) is an interdisciplinary research community at the Wisconsin Center for Education Research that supports scholarship focused on equalizing opportunities for children ages birth through 8 years. Critical goals for CRECE are (a) cultivating **research partnerships that** bring together scholars across disciplines and methodological approaches to address problems of practice and (b) building capacity for current and next generation early childhood scholars. For more information about CRECE, please refer to our website <https://crece.wceruw.org>

To continue to grow this community, CRECE has created a funding opportunity for researchers doing work related to early childhood education (ECE). We take an expansive view of ECE, including

* home, childcare, school, community, & policy
* children, families, caregivers, teachers, & leaders
* curriculum, assessment, & teaching
* general and special education and work supporting multilingual learners

We do not privilege a particular type of social science research. We hope to support ambitious and robust research using high quality methods initiated by scholars focusing on equitable early education. Examples of topics include studies of family engagement practices across preschool programs, 4K math curricula, principal knowledge of EC practices, parental childcare subsidy use, support of children with special needs in kindergarten, alignment of policy supporting multilingual learners, disproportionality of K-3 disciplinary actions across racial, SES, linguistic or special education status, or teacher beliefs about and practice in first grade science.

Proposals will be evaluated on their alignment with these criteria:

* Relevance: Does the proposal address an important issue in early childhood education that complements CRECE’s mission?
* Methodological strength: Does the proposal clearly describe a rigorous research strategy that addresses the research questions? Can it produce knowledge relevant to scholarship on early education?
* Personnel/Feasibility: Does the PI have relevant substantive and methodological expertise and experience to do this research? Has the PI committed adequate time to carry out this project?
* Potential contribution to CRECE community: Does the project contribute to interdisciplinary campus research focused on early childhood practice?
* Project Potential: Is the proposed work likely to produce publications and/or additional funding? Does it contribute to the PI’s program of research?

Successful applicants will participate in CRECE events and research seminars. Grantees will be expected to make a presentation about their work to the CRECE community.

Award Details:

* Expected funding: CRECE will fund up to two projects for direct costs up to $30,000 each.
* Eligible applicants: UW-Madison faculty & research staff
* Submission deadline: April 15, 2020, with funding decisions communicated by early May.
* Funds available: June 1, 2020
* Allowable expenses: Funds may be used to pay for PI time, research assistance, tuition remission, materials, or travel.

Proposal Guidelines:

Deadline to submit: April 15, 2020. Submit proposals in PDF format to Alison Lindner (amstaples@wisc.edu), CRECE project manager. All proposals must include the following elements:

* Format: All documents must be in single-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman with 1-inch margins.
* Cover page: Project title, PI name and title, and names and title of supporting researchers.
* Project description: Outline significance of the problem to be addressed, relevance to CRECE’s mission, project goals, research questions, and research design/methodology, and implications/impact, not to exceed three pages of text without references.
* Project budget: Completed budget detail form (attached), and a brief justification of expenses. Entire project budget is not to exceed one page.
* Timeline for study: Timeline for all research activities, including project preparation and dissemination of results. All direct research activities must occur by June 1, 2021.
* Personnel: One-paragraph bio for each PI and support staff; CV for each PI.

**Budget**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Budget Item | Cost |
| Salary & wages |  |
|  |  |
| Fringe benefits |  |
|  |  |
| Total salary & benefits |  |
|  |  |
| Equipment & Supplies |  |
|  |  |
| Travel |  |
|  |  |
| Other Direct Costs: |  |
|  |  |
| Total Budget Request |  |

Budget Justification

**Proposal Scoring Rubric**

| Possible Points | Rating Description |
| --- | --- |
| Relevance | |
| 1 | Does not explain relevance of research questions to the literature or to early education. |
| 2 | Links research question to literature but potential for informing ECE policy, practice, and research is unclear. |
| 3 | Links research question to literature with clear potential to inform policy, practice, and research. |
| Methodological strength | |
| 1 | Methodology poorlyarticulated, unclear, and/or uneven. |
| 2 | Articulates methodology but lacks clear connection *to research*. |
| 3 | Methodology is appropriate, clear and aligned with project goals; supporting assumptions are explicitly addressed. |
| Personnel | |
| 1 | No evidence of previous research related to proposed topic or using proposed methodology. |
| 2 | Some evidence of previous research related to proposed topic or methodology. |
| 3 | Strong evidence of previous research related to proposed topic or methodology. |
| Project feasibility | |
| 1 | Proposed project is either over or under ambitious given resources and timeline. |
| 2 | Generally feasible with some potential difficulties given resources and timeline. |
| 3 | Proposal reasonably fits within requested resources and timeline. |
| Project potential | |
| 1 | Project unlikely to produce publications and/or future grants and is not connected to previous work by the researcher. |
| 2 | Project may produce publications and/or future grants but is a new area of research for the researcher. |
| 3 | Project has strong potential for publications and/or future grants and extends the researcher’s program of research. |
| Potential to contributions to CRECE community | |
| 1 | The link between proposal and CRECE’s mission is unclear. |
| 2 | Some connection made to CRECE’s interdisciplinary, equity-focused mission |
| 3 | Clear and compelling case made for how this project will both produce high quality scholarship but also how the researcher will engaged in the CRECE community. |
| Point total and comments | |
|  |  |