UC-Hispanic Serving Institutions Doctoral Diversity Initiative Competitive Grants Program
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW
What is a Hispanic Serving Institution?
A Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) is defined as an accredited, degree-granting, public or private nonprofit institution of higher education with an undergraduate full-time equivalent enrollment that is at least 25% Hispanic. HSIs are eligible for specific federal grants through the U.S. Department of Education to strengthen academic programs, facilities, and student services aimed at expanding educational opportunities.

Do the students benefitting from a grant's proposed efforts have to be Latinx/Chicanx/Hispanic?
No. The UC-HSI DDI is designed to support all students irrespective of race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, or gender identity.

Can I propose efforts not listed in the "examples"?
Yes. Since the UC-HSI DDI is a newer systemwide effort, it is difficult to predict which projects/programs/activities will be most successful and yield greatest impact. As such, the request for proposals (RFP) lists examples of interventions that have demonstrated past successes, but the UC-HSI DDI encourages and welcomes innovative strategies that align with and address the goals of the program.

How many projects do you anticipate will receive funding?
It is difficult to know. It is impossible to predict how many proposals we will receive in total, and/or per each of the funding mechanisms (large vs. small grants); therefore, we cannot allocate specific amounts to each award type nor do we know what types of projects the Initiative will fund. Proposals will be assessed thoroughly by a panel of reviewers who will recommend the most meritorious proposals that align with the goals of the program. After the cycle closes, a list of awardees will be posted on the website.

How many proposals can each campus submit?
There are no limits on the number of proposals that a UC campus can submit to the UC-HSI DDI competitive grants program. However, individual PIs are eligible to submit no more than one proposal per application cycle (only one large grant or one small grant, but not both), but they may serve as co-investigators/collaborators on other grants.

What timeframe do the proposed efforts/activities have to take place?
Funding for the 2025-2026 award cycle is expected to be transferred by June 2026. PIs will have the flexibility to define the length of their grant term from that point—up to five years for large awards and up to two years for small awards.

The instructions require that the Chief Diversity Officers sign off my proposal submission, where can I find that information?
Please reference the list of Vice Chancellors for Equity and Inclusion from your campus.

What types of letters of support should I submit?
Letters are required from collaborators that will serve as partners and contribute to the project in a significant way, in addition to those that will provide resources (cash or in-kind). Please make sure to provide letters of support from key partners and stakeholders that can:
- speak to the institutional commitment of the collaborator/partner/organization,

- acknowledge and advocate for the value of the project and the potential impact of the proposed activities, and
- indicate the contributions (funding or in-kind resources) that will be provided.

Please note that you must provide a letter of support confirming the resources that your collaborators agreed to commit to this project/effort.

ELIGIBILITY

How do I know if I work for a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) or if my collaborators are at HSIs?

The UC-HSI DDI will focus on California HSIs—which officially includes eight of the nine undergraduate UCs (UCD, UCI, UCLA, UCM, UCR, UCSD, UCSB, and UCSC)[1] as well as designated California State University (CSU) campuses (currently 21 of 22 campuses), several private colleges and universities, and several California community colleges throughout the state.

Can I work with HSIs from other states?

No. This program is dedicated to support California HSIs.

Do I have to work with California State University (CSU) campuses, private HSIs and community colleges?

No. PIs may work with any combination of California HSI institutions, including CSUs, other UC campuses, or folks from their home campus—as long as their home campus is a designated HSI.

I am not employed at an HSI, can I serve as PI?

Yes. PIs may be from non-HSI UC campuses as long as they are collaborating with a designated HSI. PIs must be University of California faculty senate members representing administrative or academic units.

I am an academic staff member on my campus; can I serve as the principal investigator (PI) on the grant?

No. Only academic senate faculty members are eligible to serve as principal investigators (PIs). Administrators (such as Department Chairs or Deans) may serve as PIs as long as they are senate faculty members. Other academics and staff, such as senior researchers, scientists, and program directors may serve as grant collaborators.

BUDGET AND EXPENSES

How many years of funding can I request?

Large awards can submit proposals up to $350,000 to be used within 5 years, and small award applicants can submit proposals up to $50,000 to be used within 2 years.

Can I request salary for my work on the project during the summer?

No, this program does not provide summer salary.

What am I allowed to budget for with this grants program?

You may request funding for direct *student-support expenses* (such as student summer stipends, room and board, equipment, travel, etc.) or other project expenses that may not be direct student-support *(*such as graduate student mentoring, research/administrative support, equipment, travel, social networking/support opportunities, and honoraria—within UC guidelines, etc.). PIs may budget a percentage of salary support for staff to provide administrative and logistical support for the project.

Is there advice/guidance regarding financial support for student participants?

Student stipends/support will vary depending on the nature of the program. For example, full-time undergraduate summer research internships should include a student summer stipend so that participation does not create a financial burden for the student (minimum of $5,000 for programs of at least 8 weeks in duration; and minimum $4,000 for shorter programs). In addition to stipends, please

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[1] Three of UC's campuses (UCD, UCLA and UCSD) have recently met the minimum eligibility requirements to obtain the federal HSI designation. For purposes of this grants program, UCD, UCLA and UCSD will be considered HSIs while they are in the process of obtaining the official status.

consider other types of student-related support needed to ensure successful program outcomes such as student program-related travel, student room and board, necessary supplies and equipment, and program expenses (non-research activities, minimal administrative expenses, etc.).

Is there advice/guidance regarding financial compensation for graduate students working on the project?

PIs should include stipend/salary support for UC graduate students who serve as mentors on the project and salary support for graduate students who have significant staffing/coordinating and administrative responsibilities. PIs are required to accurately account for work hours and appropriately compensate UC graduate students who serve on the project. Graduate student employees' salary must adhere to the salary scales outlined by the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Graduate students often serve critical roles in projects; thus, it is important to account for all the time and energy they spend supporting the success of your project. PIs must be sure they account for this time so graduate students are not undercompensated for their role.

Can I include indirect costs in the budget?

No. You do not need to account for indirect costs in your budget. It is assumed that those costs will be covered by the campus since they will not be covered by the grant.

REPORTING AND MONITORING

Is annual reporting required?

Yes. Annual reporting is required for both award types, in addition to engaging in regular conference calls to share, learn from and improve inclusion and equity efforts at UC. Failure to participate may jeopardize a PI's funding and ability to apply to future grant cycles.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Where do I get information and templates to submit a proposal?

Please refer to the application instructions on the website and visit propsalCENTRAL.

When can I get customer service at pC?

pC works on Eastern Time. Please note the deadline is **Monday, December 1, 2025, at 12 noon (Pacific Time)**, which is 3pm (Eastern Time). Contact pC during *their* local operating times.

Does the proposal require the signature of the campus Contracts and Grants official?

No. Signatures by the PI's next level authority (e.g. Department Chair or Provost) **AND** the campus' Chief Diversity Officer are required. However, campuses may require you to obtain your C&G official's signature. If so, please provide ample time to acquire that signature as well. The annual award allocation will be transferred directly to principal investigators (PIs) at their departments. Please provide a legible/typed name and contact information for each person signing your grant proposal, in addition to the signature. Otherwise, it is difficult to verify each signature. Electronic signatures and scanned signatures are acceptable.

Questions? For more information, please visit the UC-HSI DDI website or email UCOP's Graduate Studies at gradstudies@ucop.edu.