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Subject: New pandemic relief programs aim to support faculty research

Dear Colleagues,

We are now two years into this pandemic, and the University of Michigan community has navigated through personal and professional hardship that has been both relentless and unpredictable.

To better support the outstanding work and the well-being of our faculty, the Provost's Office and the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) have drawn on the reporting of our ADVANCE program and organized an additional series of focus groups, listening sessions and surveys. We sought to identify key challenges that continue to impact your ability to fully resume research, scholarship, and creative practice across the whole range of disciplines on our campus.

The valuable feedback generated by our community has inspired our development and implementation of a new suite of programs designed to support faculty who are at critical stages in their careers. These programs focus in particular on challenges to their productivity in research and scholarship, core to our shared mission, where these have been significantly impacted by the pandemic.

We understand that these programs do not address every individual or type of need. As we look forward to improved conditions for our work, the Provost's Office and OVPR will continue to engage with the university community to develop other programs and initiatives that help support our faculty.

General information about our new programs is included below. Please note that faculty can apply and (if eligible) receive funding from both the Provost's initiative and the OVPR Program. In addition, receipt of funding from these programs is supplemental to funding that may be available to faculty through their schools and colleges.

### **Provost's Early Tenure-Track Faculty Research Support**

- What does this program include?
  - Flexible funds to support tenure-track faculty as they undertake research, scholarship, and creative practice activities that were slowed or postponed by the constraints of the pandemic. Up to \$3000 is available for tenure-track assistant professors and tenure-track associate professors who are not yet tenured. Up to \$1500 is available for tenure-track associate professors who are within four years of being awarded tenure.

- Applications, managed by the ADVANCE program, will consist of a one-page online form, with no departmental or unit approval required, for administrative review only.
  - The focus is on just-in-time needs, particularly those that may not be met by other funding, with emphasis on support for time that can be dedicated to research, scholarship, or creative practice. Funds can be used to support a wide array of activities such as travel, support for child/dependent care while on research travel (e.g., fieldwork or sitework), data collection, editorial or research assistance, research supplies, writing retreats, and collaborations or consultations with colleagues.
- Where can I learn more and apply?
    - The application form and additional information about this initiative, including the full range of eligible and non-eligible expenses, will be available in early March at [provost.umich.edu](http://provost.umich.edu).

### **OVPR Pandemic Relief Program**

- What does this program include?
  - Flexible relief funds that support research focused faculty at the early associate and assistant ranks whose research activity continues to be significantly impacted by the pandemic. A simple one-page form can support \$3,000 for eligible assistant professors and up to \$15,000 for eligible associate professors.
    - All faculty across ranks (tenure track, research professor and scientist track and clinical track) that meet eligibility criteria will be funded.
    - Funds are available for a broad range of uses, including data collection, support for graduate students and research assistants, aid with performance costs, coverage of child/dependent care while on research travel (e.g., fieldwork or sitework), conference travel, research supplies and writing retreats.
  - No-cost extensions across the OVPR internal grants programs that were awarded 2019-2021.
  - A workshop series starting this spring to aid with revising deliverables and budgets on *current grants* that have been impacted by the pandemic, as well as focused guidance and online resources about how to navigate COVID-19 relief with external sponsors.
  - A workshop series starting this spring to facilitate internal networking and the planning process around starting *new projects* at this point in the pandemic.
- Where can I learn more and apply?
  - <https://research.umich.edu/pandemic-relief-program/>

We recognize that the pandemic has affected faculty members in different and lingering ways. Our goal in developing these programs is to help you move beyond the challenges that the last

two years have brought. Our hope is that this support will contribute to your personal well-being too.

We look forward to your continuing contributions to our community.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Collins  
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

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