

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

GLOBAL SOGIESC RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM

DUE DATE: December 15, 2025 | APPLY HERE: tinyurl.com/GlobalGrants26

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Williams Institute's Global SOGIESC Research Grants Program is designed to encourage new empirical research focused on sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, and/or sex characteristics (SOGIESC) in least developed, low-, and middle-income countries ([as defined by the DAC list of ODA recipients](#)), and to amplify voices of researchers from those regions.

The program promotes two goals:

- Generate sound empirical research on issues addressing SOGIESC in least developed, low-, and middle-income countries that impacts law and policy.
- Strengthen the capacity of researchers from these countries to further conduct rigorous, impactful research on issues impacting SOGIESC through partnerships, knowledge exchange, and mentorship (as needed).

Applicants must consist of partnerships between experienced researchers and civil society organizations.

Priority will be given to research proposals that *expressly aim to inform practice, service delivery, and policy*. Awardees will receive a grant to support their research, and work supported by the program may be featured on the Williams Institute's website and highlighted at organizational events.

We plan to award up to five research grants in this cycle.

Eligibility

- At least part of the research team must reside or work in countries [defined by the DAC list of ODA recipients](#), and the research must focus on issues impacting SOGIESC in those countries.
- Proposals must consist of partnerships between experienced researchers and civil society organizations.
- Experienced researchers include senior and junior faculty from a variety of disciplines, including social sciences (e.g., economics, sociology, demography, social psychology), public health, empirical legal studies, and public policy. Advanced graduate students (Ph.D., J.S.D.) interested in pursuing research focused on SOGIESC, as well as experienced researchers unaffiliated with academic institutions or who work with civil society organizations, are also eligible to apply in partnership with at least one civil society organization.
- We are only able to accept proposals in English at this time. However, publications that result from the research grant may be in any language.
- Projects should aim to be completed within 12 months, with a final publication within 18 months of the start date.

Project Topic Areas

Research projects are not limited to any particular topic, methodology, or area of public policy, but they must be empirical in nature. Sample projects that we have funded in the past include:

- Survey of LGBTQI+ refugees in Lebanon
- Impact of legal gender recognition and other non-discrimination protections on discrimination and violence against transgender people in Argentina
- Mental health outcomes and inequities among LGBTQI+ persons in Malaysia.
- Queer Women, Trans and Nonbinary Persons, and the Criminal Justice System in Ghana
- Needs and Experiences of Intersex People in Serbia
- Economic Empowerment of Grassroots Transgender Communities in India

Other topics are welcome and may include (but are not limited to):

- Demographics and socio-economic characteristics of LGBTQI+ people
- Discrimination, including multiple forms of discrimination, against LGBTQI+ people
- Economic and educational outcomes among LGBTQI+ people
- Access to services, programs, and government benefits among LGBTQI+ people, including barriers to access
- The effects of laws and policies on LGBTQI+ people, including supportive (e.g., non-discrimination laws) and unsupportive (e.g., bans on access to gender affirming care) policies
- Public opinion toward or among LGBTQI+ people
- Unique experiences and needs of trans+ people, people with intersex conditions, LGBTQI+ youth, and LGBTQI+ elders
- Religiosity, religious exemptions, and LGBTQI+ people
- The experiences of LGBTQI+ parents
- Projects that include new methodologies in collecting data on SOGIESC including development of research instruments in local languages

Budget Information

We plan to fund projects with budgets up to USD 4,800. Funds will be disbursed in a lump sum and can provide both salary support and costs associated with acquiring and analyzing new or existing data. Proposals that are part of larger research initiatives are also welcome. Funds must be awarded directly to individual grantees and not through universities or other institutions. We cannot provide funding for indirect (or overhead) costs. Requests for travel funding should be limited to travel required to carry out the research project. Project budgets should be for activities during the 12 months of the grant period. Applicants should consult a tax adviser on any potential tax liabilities stemming from an award of a small grant.

Reporting responsibilities

Grant recipients will be responsible for the following reporting requirements:

1. A brief introductory meeting via Zoom at the start of the project.
2. A brief project update via Zoom at the mid-point in the project timeline.
3. A summary report by the project end date, including a description of progress in accomplishing the project aims, funds expended, and a 500-word summary of the project findings written for a general audience that we may use to highlight your work.
4. At least one publication based on the research project.
5. Participation in a future colloquium with other grantees and invited participants to share research findings.

Selection Criteria

Project proposals will be assessed on the quality of the research design, the potential impact on research and policy, and the extent to which the project will advance the program goals of bolstering SOGIESC research in low- and middle-income countries. Priority will be given to awardees who have not yet received a grant from the Williams Institute.

Application Process

All application materials must be submitted via tinyurl.com/GlobalGrants26

Applications must include:

1. **Research Proposal.** Proposal includes the following sections:
 - Research aims: succinctly describe the specific research aims of the project and the key research questions you plan to investigate (1,000 characters max)
 - Research strategy: describe the project's design including hypotheses, data sources, methods, sampling measures (where applicable), and plan for data analysis (1,500 characters max)
 - Significance of the project (1,500 characters max):
 - Significance to research: discuss the knowledge to be gained and how it is relevant to existing research
 - Significance to policy: discuss relevance to policy and its impact on SOGIESC in the country or countries of focus.
 - Advancing program goals: describe how the project will contribute to the two goals of this program (above)
 - Timeline: present a general timeline for completion of the project (1,000 characters max)
 - Dissemination: describe plan for disseminating the results, including expected research publications (1,000 characters max)
2. **Applicant Qualifications and Description of Partnership.** Please include bios for project leaders and organizations, with a description of their qualifications and experience indicating the ability to successfully complete the proposed research project. This should also include a description of how the researcher(s) and civil society organization(s) will jointly work to implement the research project and disseminate findings. (2,000 characters max)

3. **Budget and Budget Narrative.** Budgets should include the total amount requested through the grants (up to USD 4,800) and estimates for all costs to be covered by the grant. The budget should reflect resources necessary to complete the proposed project in a timely manner. If the overall project budget is greater than the request to the Williams Institute, please describe other sources of funding and the amount of funding those sources are providing or the amount that has been requested from those sources. For in-kind contributions, provide a letter from the institution providing these funds. (1,500 characters max)
4. **Human Subjects Narrative.** Applicants must indicate if the project involves human subjects and, if so, identify the institutional review board (IRB) responsible and what IRB process (e.g., expedited review) will be used. **If human subject(s) approval is necessary, funds will not be released until IRB approval is obtained.** If national governing laws do not require IRB approval, research teams must show proof of training on human subjects research or complete such training through UCLA (e.g., CITI) (1,250 characters max)
5. **Statement of Mentorship Needs (optional).** If applicable, please include a brief statement of mentorship needs you would like from Williams Institute scholars during the course of your project. Please identify any areas of expertise, including subject matter and methodological expertise, where you would benefit from consultation with Institute scholars. This request will be considered along with the research proposal (1,000 characters max)

For questions, please email wiglobalsmallgrants@law.ucla.edu. Please be aware that we cannot answer questions about the suitability or merits of planned proposals. We expect to announce the grant recipients in Spring 2026.

For more information on the Williams Institute, see williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu.