

NSF-CJARS Fellowship Competition, 2021

Solicitation release date: March 5th, 2021

Application deadline: extended to June 15th, 2021 by 5 PM (Eastern Time)

Submission portal: <https://cjars.isr.umich.edu/2021-fellowship-portal>

Fellowship overview

The [Criminal Justice Administrative Records System \(CJARS\)](#) is a nationally integrated criminal justice data platform built to support a wide range of research activities and investigators. This solicitation seeks to cultivate a diverse CJARS user base by encouraging interested researchers from a range of backgrounds to incorporate CJARS into their ongoing research activities or to develop original research projects that feature CJARS data infrastructure.

Proposals may focus on a range of themes, including but not limited to studying the causes and consequences of criminality in the U.S., improving measurement of the scope of the U.S. criminal justice system, measuring the impact of criminal justice policies on the U.S. population, and examining the organization and operations of the U.S. criminal justice system.

Research using CJARS must occur in a [Federal Statistical Research Data Center \(FSRDC\)](#). FSRDCs are secure U.S. Census Bureau facilities for conducting research with restricted microdata. Research in the FSRDCs must be for a statistical purpose, produce a benefit to the Census Bureau, generate only aggregate statistical output, and be approved by the Census Bureau. Chosen applicants will receive a \$10,000 stipend to support their proposed research activities, which can support time needed to write an FSRDC proposal, FSRDC access fees, or research assistants to work in the secure FSRDC environment. Although we cannot guarantee Census Bureau project approval, selected fellows will also receive feedback and mentorship on their FSRDC proposal prior to submission to help increase the likelihood of a successful outcome.

Fellows will be invited to present their research plan and/or disclosed findings at one of the annual CJARS board of directors meetings.

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of intellectual merit, the compatibility of CJARS data holdings with the proposed research, the feasibility of the data access plan, and the applicant's experience and training. Priority will be given to early stage researchers, demographic groups underrepresented in science and engineering, and research fields underrepresented in the FSRDC system.

Award information

Funding: \$10,000 stipend per fellow, and travel expenses to board of directors meeting

Anticipated number of awards: 3 to 5

Required application materials

All applications must include the following documents:

1. **CV/resume.**
2. **Research proposal.** The research proposal should address the following: (1) an overview of the research that describes the research topic, research questions, and a basic overview of a research plan, (2) data requirements including requested FSRDC data, user-provided data, and the linkage strategy (person, geographic, etc.), and (3) a description of the research methodology that explains empirical specifications, key variables/outcomes, and statistical methods. (2,000 word limit)
3. **Data access plan.** The data access plan should describe (1) in which FSRDC location you plan to conduct your research, (2) any anticipated data access barriers, and (3) plans to address those barriers. (500 word limit)

Researchers of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Successful applicants will need to be able to pass a federal background check in order to work in the FSRDCs.

Submission information

Please submit application materials through this online portal: <https://cjars.isr.umich.edu/2021-fellowship-portal>. All application materials must be submitted through this portal by 5 PM (Eastern Time) on June 15th, 2021 to be considered. If you have any questions about this solicitation or how to submit your application, please reach out to us at cjars-fellowships@umich.edu.