



The HBCU Sustainable Communities Initiative (HBCU SCI) Research Fellowships

Program Overview: The HBCU Sustainable Communities Initiative (HBCU SCI) is a joint effort of INROADS, Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF), and the United Negro College Fund (UNCF). The program is supported by funding from the Southern Company Foundation. The Community Research Fellowships program component of HBCU SCI seeks to provide a platform for college undergraduates to contribute to real-world solutions for pressing sustainability challenges. Faculty Mentors will engage college undergraduates in meaningful research projects that engage community stakeholders and seek to find solutions for local and global sustainability challenges.

HBCU SCI Research Projects: Faculty Mentors will develop a research project and will select and engage 3 to 5 undergraduates in research-related activities. Each research team will be led by an experienced Faculty Mentor who provides direction on the project and guides and supports student teams.

Project Timeline: The project cycle is defined by the Faculty Mentor but must span a minimum period of 16 weeks, beginning no later than February 3, 2025, and ending no later than May 30, 2025.

Dissemination of Findings: Research teams will present their research findings at the Washington DC Social Justice Summit in June 2025 in Washington, DC.

Reporting Requirements: Research teams are to submit a final report that includes feedback from community partners and stakeholders.

Eligibility Guidelines

Faculty Mentors must be employed by HBCUs in the states of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Virginia, Tennessee or by PBIs in Illinois. Faculty must be under contract with their institutions through May 2025. Full-time faculty of any rank are preferred.

Research Fellowships are open to college undergraduates from various disciplines attending an HBCU in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee, Virginia, or PBI in Illinois. GPA requirements should conform to the usual standards for undergraduate research as the Faculty Mentor's institution.

Grant Funding Guidelines

- Each team can be led by (1) or (2) Faculty Mentors. Solo Faculty Mentors will receive a stipend of \$3,500; Co-Faculty Mentors will each receive a stipend of \$2,500. These stipends are inclusive of fringe benefits assessed by the university.
- Each Research Fellow will receive a stipend of \$2,500
- Faculty members receive an allowance of \$1,000 for research-related expenditures.

- Each grant will include \$800 per team member to cover airfare, ground transportation, and meals for a 2-night, 3-day stay in Washington, DC. The program will cover hotel costs for up to two nights per person.
- Faculty stipends, student fellowships, and research expenses will be paid to the institution (or the institution's foundation) sponsoring the team as a one-time payment.
- An administration fee (i.e., G&A or indirect costs) up to 10% of direct costs is allowed.

Applications must include a Statement of Interest, CV of faculty mentor(s), a Research Proposal, Budget (template), and AOR Approval Form (complete the section below).

See <https://hbcusci.org/community-research/> for more information.

AOR Approval Form

I attest that I have been designated as an Authorized Organizational Representative for the institution named below and that I have reviewed the following: 1) Program overview and guidelines for the HBCU SCI Community Research Grant on page 1 of this document, 2) Research proposal authored by the faculty member indicated below, and 3) Program Budget.

I understand that INROADS, the administrator of this grant, allows a maximum IDC rate of up to 10% of direct program costs.

Please complete and sign the form below. This form must be uploaded as part of your institution's grant application.

Name of Institution			
Lead Faculty (PI) for this grant			
Project Title			
Grant Amount			
AOR Printed Name			
AOR Title			
AOR Signature		Date	