

“Equality Can’t Wait” Challenge

Unrestricted funding opportunity

Coordinator:	Kristin Anderson, Foundation Relations (kristin.anderson@emory.edu)
Website:	https://www.equalitycantwaitchallenge.org/
Submission Limitations:	None. <i>We encourage faculty to work with the Office of Foundation Relations & their RAS unit if interested in this opportunity.</i>
Award Amount:	\$10 million <i>Finalists are eligible to receive a one-time award of \$100,000. At least two grants of a minimum of \$10 million will be awarded to the top proposals, to be paid out over 5 years.</i>
Internal Deadline:	August 3, 2020
Foundation Deadline:	September 22, 2020

Opportunity Details:

[Pivotal Ventures](#), Melinda Gates’ investment and incubation company, with additional support from MacKenzie Bezos, is hosting the **Equality Can’t Wait Challenge**, in partnership with Lever for Change. For this competition, Pivotal Ventures will award \$30 million in grant money to the organizations or coalitions of organizations with the most compelling proposals to expand women’s power and influence in the U.S. by 2030.

Accelerating Progress for Women in the U.S.

Recent events have exposed deep inequalities in the United States. The injustices Black Americans face every day have forced a spotlight on systemic racism in our country. At the same time, COVID-19 has magnified the structural inequities that hold millions of U.S. women back, adding urgency to the phrase, “Equality can’t wait.”

While there has been a groundswell of awareness, activism, and energy to accelerate change, progress is not moving fast enough. Women in the U.S. are still vastly underrepresented in the places where agendas are set and decisions are made. Additionally, the gains that have been made do not extend to all women. Women of color, women living in poverty, and LGBTQ women, for example, still face additional barriers to equality, both at home and at work.

Proposals should be able to increase the rate of change for women’s power and influence in the U.S. through at least one of these key indicators:

- Wages and wealth: narrowing the gap between earnings and wealth for women in comparison to men
- Unpaid care: improving the division of caregiving and other household responsibilities done by women in comparison to men
- Share of leadership roles: increasing the percentage of women in senior roles across the public, private, and social sectors
- Content creation: increasing the percentage of intellectual and cultural content created by women
- Public perceptions: increasing the percentage of the public who feel women should have more power and influence

Award Amount & Finalist Information:

Up to 10 participants will be named as finalists. Finalists are eligible to receive a one-time award of \$100,000 and have the opportunity to revise and resubmit their proposal.

Once resubmitted, at least two grants of a minimum of \$10 million will be awarded to the top proposals, to be paid out over five years. An additional \$10 million will be allocated among finalists and determined at the award decision stage.

For more information about this opportunity, please visit: <https://www.equalitycantwaitchallenge.org/about>

Important Deadlines and Next Steps for Emory Applicants:

To ensure that the most robust proposals are submitted for this competition, the Office of Foundation Relations will offer the following assistance for Emory faculty interested in pursuing this unrestricted opportunity:

- **Immediately:** Interested faculty should speak with their respective Chairs and/or Deans of Research to discuss project viability and opportunities for collaboration and development.
- **Attend one of two Zoom Informational meetings** sponsored by the Office of Foundation Relations. These sessions are helpful for brainstorming ideas, hearing about other potential Emory applicants (and possible collaborators), and learning more about the funder and their review process.

RSVP to Tiffany Worboy at tworboy@emory.edu to get Zoom information for the following meeting dates:

- July 7th 10:30 am
- July 9th at 3:00 pm
- **August 3, 2020:** Internal deadline for preliminary proposals.
- **August 3-September 20, 2020:** Proposal feedback and development with the assistance of the Office of Foundation Relations.
- **September 1, 2020:** Online registration deadline for applicants via Equality Can't Wait website.
- **September 22, 2020:** Final proposals are due to the foundation.

For questions about the opportunity and the Emory process, please contact:

Kristin Anderson, Executive Director, Office of Foundation Relations kristin.anderson@emory.edu