



SUNY United States 250th Anniversary Faculty Research Fellowship
Submission Deadline: August 14, 2026

Introduction and Program Goals

In recognition of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution, the State University of New York announces the SUNY United States 250th Anniversary Faculty Research Fellowship. Through this fellowship, faculty will have the opportunity to engage in public-focused research and creative activities related to providing a deeper understanding of the history of the United States and the promises and tests of democracy. Projects focused on lesser-known histories are welcome. Faculty from a variety of disciplines, including but not limited to history, literature, political science, sociology, and the arts, are encouraged to apply.

The fellowship supports SUNY’s efforts to support civil discourse and civic learning and engagement while advancing a commitment to a complete history of the nation.

Program Guidelines

Eligibility: Tenured and tenure-track faculty (or the equivalent) who will be employed in the same position throughout the 2026-2027 year, from across disciplines at any of the 64 campuses in the SUNY system, are eligible to apply for this fellowship. Those with pre-approved or planned leaves, such as sabbatical leaves, are not eligible for this program during the academic year when the leave will occur.

Funding: The fellowship will provide faculty with up to \$20,000 to support project expenses related to researching, preserving, or interpreting knowledge about U.S. democracy and sharing it with the public (e.g., collecting, preserving, or digitizing historical documents or artifacts; creating professional development for K-12 and higher education faculty on research topics and resources; public events, presentations or exhibits). Up to five fellowships will be awarded.

Award Duration and Requirements: Funds for selected fellowships will be available in the Fall 2026 semester. All funds must be expended by June 30, 2027.

Fellows will be required to submit reports regarding the status of their projects and remaining budget. Reports should include relevant information about upcoming events, displays, or offerings provided through fellowship funds that can be shared across the SUNY system (when applicable). Any public dissemination of a project must include a statement acknowledging support from SUNY System Administration.

Proposal Submission Guidelines

All interested faculty must apply via the online application, which will include the following components:

Project Abstract: (200-word limit) Provide a summary of the proposed project and its intended aims. If selected, this abstract will be used for public access on SUNY System Administration's website and for other publications and reporting.

Narrative Application Questions:

- Brief explanation of the nature and significance of the proposed project and a description of how the proposed project advances research and scholarship on the United States, civic engagement, or democracy building in New York, the region, or the nation;
- Timeline for completing the project;
- The relevance of the project to your instructional interests, broader scholarly work, and/or professional objectives and goals;
- Necessary partnerships or collaborations with academic or non-academic institutions;
- Expected dissemination of the project (e.g., activities, presentations, partnerships, learning guides, publications, performances, exhibits, digitized collections, podcast series, etc.); and
- Discussion of the intended audience and the local, state, and/or national impact your project may have.

Budget spreadsheet and narrative: Applicants will be required to submit an Excel file (template will be provided) outlining the proposed budget for this program. Applicants will be able to provide explanation/justification for budget

items in the narrative portion of the application. The proposed budget must be reasonable, clearly aligned with the goals of the project, and in conformity with campus, SUNY, and state policies. Consult the Budget Guidelines.

Letter of recommendation from department chair (one-page): Applicants must attach a brief letter of recommendation from their department chair with their application.

Proof of support from the campus provost or chief academic officer: Applicants must upload a one-paragraph note from their campus provost or chief academic officer stating that they have the support of the campus. A pdf of an email is acceptable.

Brief bio (100 words): Applicants must provide a brief bio about themselves and their professional background. If selected, this bio will be used for public access on SUNY System Administration's website and for other publications and reporting.

Applicant CV: Applicants must upload their current CV with their application.

Proposal Review

Proposals will be evaluated on:

- clarity of stated goals and objectives;
- scope of the contribution toward advancing the understanding of the history of the United States and the promises and tests of democracy in U.S. political experiences;
- dissemination plan;
- potential local, state, and/or national impact;
- realistic timeline to complete stated goals;
- alignment of participant qualifications to carry out the project with goals/outcomes expected; and
- reasonableness of the proposed budget.

Additional consideration will be given to proposals from SUNY alumni and from individuals who were Pell-eligible as undergraduates, were first-generation college students, are AmeriCorps alumni, or are veterans.

As part of the review process, System Administration will work to ensure an equitable distribution of awards in terms of disciplines and campus sectors, to the extent possible.

Funds will be made available to the awarded fellows upon receipt of the award acceptance agreement duly accepted by campus administration.

Deadline: August 14, 2026

Anticipated notification: On or about September 8, 2026

Contact

Questions about the United States 250th Anniversary Faculty Research Fellowship can be directed to awards@suny.edu

SUNY 250th Faculty Research Fellowship Budget Guidelines

Fellowship funds may be spent in several categories to achieve the desired research, scholarly, or creative outcomes for this program. A total of up to \$20,000 will be awarded for each fellowship.

All funds must be expended in accordance with campus, State University of New York, and state policies and procedures for the use of state funds. All forms and correspondence authorizing disbursement of funds are to be processed through the campus Business Office (not the Research Foundation). Any funds not expended by the end of the grant term shall revert to the State University of New York System Administration upon completion of the project or termination of the award, whichever is earlier.

Expenditure guidelines for budget categories include:

Personnel:

- Funds may be used for extra service or course buyouts. Total extra service/buyout funding is limited to \$10,000.
 - Applicants must confirm with their campus that their extra service request is within their campus limits.
 - With campus agreement, applicants can choose either course buyout within the grant period (September 2026-June 2027) **and/or** extra service.
 - All extra service and course buyout requests are contingent on campus request and must be approved via established campus procedures. Fellows must work with their campus Business and HR offices, as well as campus leadership.
 - Funds do not have to be used for extra service or course buyouts.
- Funds may be used to hire research assistants at an hourly rate. Fellows should work with campus business offices to facilitate hiring and compensating research assistants.

Travel:

- Funds may be used for transportation, lodging, and eligible per diem incurred specifically to carry out program activities.
- Travel funds must follow all campus and [NYS travel guidelines](#).

Equipment:

- For this fellowship, equipment is defined as tangible property with a useful life of more than one year. Purchases under \$5,000 are typically categorized as "supplies".
- All equipment purchases must be explicitly detailed in the approved grant budget.
- Fellows must maintain records including the item's description, serial number, source, acquisition date, cost, current location, condition, and ultimate disposal date.
- NYS procurement standards require competitive quotes or proposals for high-value purchases to ensure reasonable costs.
- After the funding period has ended, equipment purchased will become the property of the home campus.
- Equipment proposed to be purchased must not incur any ongoing costs after the grant funding period has ended **or** campuses must provide a plan for how they will support ongoing maintenance costs.

Supplies:

- Supplies may include (but are not limited to) general materials, such as consumables directly related to the project scope (i.e., shelving, storage boxes, or specialty folders); hardware, tools, and equipment with a unit cost of less than \$5,000; and computer software.
- Note that general office furniture and supplies are ineligible (see note below on indirect program costs)

Contractual:

- Prequalification: To be eligible for state grants, all vendors must prequalify via the SFS Vendor Portal and maintain this status at the time of contract execution and claims processing.
- Awardees should work with their campus business office to ensure that contracted services follow all NYS guidelines.

Marketing:

- Funds may be used for multimedia marketing (digital, print, social media, etc.) directly related to the project's scope and/or advertising the project to the public.

Other Direct Program Costs:

- Other Direct Program Costs are project-specific expenses that do not fit into standard categories. To be eligible for reimbursement, these costs must be reasonable, necessary, allocable to the grant, and strictly auditable.
- Honoraria may be used for non-SUNY presenters, up to \$500 per presenter.

Unallowable Costs:

- Honoraria to SUNY (including contract and community college) faculty or staff participants;
- Travel expenses that do not meet state requirements and limits;
- Alcoholic beverages

Additional Guidelines:

- Once awarded, changes to the application budget must be submitted for approval before expenses are incurred outside the initial proposal. Budget changes should be submitted to awards@suny.edu
- Applicants should consult with their department and campus business office about how pooled offset costs will be addressed.