



**Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics  
Challenge Grant  
Call for Proposals**

On May 12, 2021, the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics released a report: [“Achieving Racial Equity in College Sports.”](#) In the report, the Commission called on universities, athletics conferences, the College Football Playoff (CFP) and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) to take decisive action to address systemic policies and practices that create barriers to the success of Black college athletes. To achieve the equity goals highlighted in the report, the Knight Commission is offering \$100,000 in multi-year Challenge grants to fund collaborative research that demonstrates how specific interventions impact the Black athlete experience and/or Black athlete advocacy areas. Also, the research should be conducted as a partnership between researchers and athletics administrators at the campus, conference or national association levels.

Researchers are encouraged to submit proposals using the guidelines outlined below. Proposals will be judged based on their ability to advance research in the areas of Black athlete experience and/or Black athlete advocacy, demonstrated partnership with college athletics program(s), clarity, feasibility, and potential impact.

**Grant Funding**

The total for the Knight Commission Challenge grant funding is \$100,000. Grants may be awarded for various amounts (e.g., \$5,000; \$25,000) over the course of two years. Applicants are not limited in the amount they may request through the application process.

**Proposal Guidelines.** Proposals must include the following information and should not exceed 3,000 words (not including citations):

- **Cover Page.** A cover page outlining the title of the proposal, name of the partnering athletics program and corresponding information for the Principal Investigator (name, title, address, email, and phone number).
- **Problem statement.** Clearly identify the issue(s) the research is seeking to address and how it aligns with the areas of Black athlete experience and/or Black athlete advocacy.
- **Project description.** The proposal should clearly outline all elements of the research project and include previous research substantiating the conceptual and methodological approaches.
- **Budget.** A detailed project budget outlining use of funds and a rationale for each item requested. Funds may be used for salary support, data collection, equipment, and similar expenses. **Indirect or overhead costs will not be covered.**
- **Timeline.** Please include a timeline for all aspects of the proposal.

- **Letter of Support.** Please include a letter of support from the partnering collegiate athletics department, conference, or collegiate athletic national governing body.

### **Eligibility**

The grant is open to any researcher exploring the Black college athlete experience and/or Black college athlete advocacy. The Principal Investigator must evidence partnership with a collegiate athletics department, conference, or collegiate athletic national governing body.

### **Proposal Submission**

Please email a single PDF using the format outlined below to [applications@knightcommission.org](mailto:applications@knightcommission.org)

### **Dates/Deadlines**

August 26, 2021 – Application opens on <https://www.knightcommission.org/>

September 15, 2021– Q&A teleconference call (**Note: If you plan to participate in this call, please register by emailing [applications@knightcommission.org](mailto:applications@knightcommission.org) to receive the call-in information**)

October 22, 2021 – Application deadline

November 15, 2021 – Notifications of receipt of grant funding via email.

December 1, 2021 – First round of funds to be distributed

TBD – Presentation on research findings to the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics

**Review Process.** Proposals will be evaluated by the Knight Commission members and staff. Both recipients and nonrecipients will be notified on November 15, 2021.

**Intellectual Property.** Grant recipients maintain legal rights to intellectual property developed during the grant process. However, grant recipients must grant the Commission rights to publicize and use data developed during the grant process.

**Publicity.** Any publicizing of the grant award or the grant outcomes is required to mention the financial support from the "Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics" with the following text and link to the cited report:

*This research was completed with support from a challenge award provided by the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics to support the goals of its [“Achieving Racial Equity in College Sports report.”](#) The Knight Commission does not take a position on the findings produced by the research.*

**Questions.** For questions on the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics Challenge Grant, please review the Frequently Asked Questions document. If your question is not answered in the document, please contact Dr. Christopher Brown at [applications@knightcommission.org](mailto:applications@knightcommission.org)