



Charles J. Strosacker Fellowship Graduate Research Fund for Health and Risk Communication Call for Proposals

2025-2026 Deadline: February 27th, 2026, at 5:00 PM

Overview

In 2013, the Charles J. Strosacker Foundation of Midland, MI established a generous endowment to support and encourage graduate student research about health and risk communication issues, particularly within the mid-Michigan area. The Strosacker Graduate Research Fund provides funding intended to support opportunities for graduate students to engage in hands-on research, apply theoretical constructs to real world health practices, and share results and impacts from funded projects with community partners. Priority for support will be given to projects that are implemented in or will have impact on Michigan residents and in mid-Michigan specifically.

Funding Amount

This year's funds allow us to support several fellowships of up to \$4,000 each.

Eligibility

1. Currently enrolled graduate students in the MSU College of Communication Arts & Sciences
 - a. Minimum three credits in Spring 2026.
2. **Student must have one or more years remaining in their program of study-the faculty letter writer should confirm this in their letter.**
3. Student must be actively engaged in the proposed project across two semesters
4. Open to domestic and international MA and PhD students
5. Funded projects can be performed to satisfy some component toward completion of a degree (thesis, prelim, dissertation) or can be independent research performed by a student or group of students in development of his/her/their research agenda.
6. **To improve the quality of applications, all students must attend a special presentation on writing grants presented on Tuesday, January 27th at 10 AM in CAS 182 by Dr. Bree Holtz. If you can't attend the session, you must provide documentation of other training in grant preparation to Ashley Wilson at wils1620@msu.edu in order to be reviewed to proceed with application for the Strosacker fellowship.**

Submission Guidelines

Materials to be submitted for consideration include:

1. Narrative to explain the proposed project (not to exceed 1500 words; appendices are in addition to the word count). Proposals should include the following sections:
 - Introduction and Rationale for Project
 - Please indicate if this project assists in degree completion or if it is an independent/group research project
 - Indicate how this project relates to health issues in (mid)Michigan
 - Proposed study hypotheses/research questions
 - Study/Project Design
 - Indicate method, sample, and measures to be used, as well as if the project is to be implemented throughout (mid-)Michigan (Mechanical Turk is not mid-Michigan)
 - Actual measures should be included/described in an Appendix so that they don't count against the word limit
 - Project Timeline (Appendix)
 - Research team members and roles
 - If students are partnering for a project, please identify the role each will play in the project
 - Budget (Appendix). It can be simple and in line-item form.

- For example,
 - \$1000 participant costs
 - \$500 software to do data analysis
 - \$1000 development costs
 - \$500 conference fees to present papers
- *If your budget includes
- 2. Letter of support from your major professor(s) OR a faculty member who will supervise the project. New this year: **Student must have one or more years remaining in their program of study-the faculty letter writer should confirm this in their letter.**
- 3. Current Resume(s) or CV(s) of all applicant(s)

Review Criteria

- These competitive funds will be awarded to current CAS graduate students who have demonstrated potential for research excellence in health and risk communication.
- Faculty reviewers will be asked to evaluate and rate the following:
 - Significance of the Project
 - What is the project's contribution to HRC research?
 - What is its contribution to addressing social/health problem?
 - Project Design
 - Is the research design clear, appropriate, and rigorous?
 - Are data collection procedures appropriate and explained clearly?
 - Is the data analysis plan appropriate?
 - Is the timeline realistic?
 - Is the project achievable?
 - Relevance to Michigan HRC challenges
 - Is it Michigan-based?
 - Mid-Michigan based?

Deliverables

- If you receive funding, you should provide the following acknowledgement when presenting and/or publishing your work. (*This research was supported with funding from the Charles J. Strosacker Graduate Research Fund for Health and Risk Communication in the College of Communication Arts & Sciences.*)
- If you receive funding, you are required to send a letter of appreciation within 2 weeks of notification of the award to the HRCC which will be shared with the Charles J. Strosacker Foundation.

Due Dates:

Submit all materials to Ashley Wilson via a single email with the required documents attached at wils1620@msu.edu no later than **February 27th, 2026, at 5:00 PM.**

Additional Advice

1. The most frequent reason that proposals are rejected is that they have little connection to health issues in Michigan. **Tip:** The Internet has information about the types of health and risk problems that people from Michigan suffer from—look it up.
2. Another common problem is providing too much of the wrong information and too little of the correct information. This is an exercise in writing a competitive proposal for funding. Treat it like a grant proposal.
3. Reviewers are more likely to give money to applicants who clearly need the money in order to do their research and are less likely to fund projects that the use of money is poorly explained.
4. Applications that exceed page limitations are highly unlikely to do well because reviewers are restricted to judging only material that fits within page limitations.
5. Applicants who submit proposals that are poorly written, have grammatical errors, fail to use APA format, and have spelling errors are communicating to the reviewers that they are not careful in their work.