



Call for Research Proposals 2026

The USC Lusk Center for Real Estate is pleased to announce the availability of research stipends to become available in July 2026. The stipends will facilitate high-quality research that will eventually get published in the leading scientific journals. The broad topics should be related to real estate and urban issues.

The Lusk Center is especially interested in proposals that focus on housing and real estate finance, non-residential real estate, urban entrepreneurship, urban transportation and land use, urban poverty and segregation, neighborhood change, and local taxes and housing regulation. Studies can focus on the U.S. or any other country. Faculty members, postdoctoral researchers, and Ph.D. students at USC are eligible to apply. Funds can cover compensation or expenses for data acquisition, research assistance, travel, and the like. A maximum of \$25,000 is available for faculty members and \$15,000 for Postdocs or Ph.D. students.

Relevant Criteria

The Research Committee will consider the following:

- The intrinsic quality of the proposed research and topical relevance.
- The likelihood the study will be published in a leading scientific journal.
- The likelihood that the proposed research might lead to external funding.
- Satisfactory performance based on past Lusk Funding (if applicable).

Award Requirements

Those interested in receiving a stipend should submit a brief research proposal to the Lusk Center Research Committee following Appendix A (Past awardees should also fill out Appendix B). The proposal should define the project objectives, research methodology, data (if any), anticipated findings, and academic (and business or policy-related) contributions. Many accepted proposals may receive amounts less than requested because of competition for resources in the Lusk Center Research Fund.

Deliverables

Awardees must submit a working paper to the Lusk Center Working paper series by no later than Fall 2026. The expectation is that awardees will acknowledge funding from the Lusk Center when submitting their work to a journal. The Lusk Center will also host a Research Awards Presentation Day, sometime in late Fall 2026, where awardees will join other fellow recipients to present their work and obtain feedback from colleagues and faculty members. Awardees with funded research projects should submit a Lusk Center Research Brief based on their research.

Research Proposals are due on May 1, 2026

Please submit proposals online by visiting the [Lusk Center website](#).