



Cavanagh Fund
Ethical Solutions to Social Problems
Call for Proposals

The *Cavanagh Fund* supports innovative research that develops practical, ethical solutions to today's most pressing social problems. The Fund honors the legacy of Fr. Gerald Cavanagh, SJ—a pioneering scholar in business ethics and a founder of the Social Issues in Management (SIM) Division of the Academy of Management. Fr. Cavanagh believed that business ethics should be applied and action-oriented—that management scholarship should not only deepen theory but also help address the real challenges facing organizations and society.

Funding Priorities

- We welcome projects focused on designing and/or evaluating practical approaches to improving social outcomes in and through business.
- Each research team must include at least one academic, one industry practitioner, and one student from any discipline.

Priority areas include, but are not limited to:

1. The Dignity of Work, Morality, and Spirituality

- Improving the dignity of low-wage work
- Integrating meaning, purpose, and spirituality in the workplace
- Embedding ethical decision-making in business operations

2. Race, Inclusion, and Society

- Designing programs that advance workplace equity
- Addressing leadership disparities
- Leveraging technology to reduce bias

3. Ethical Norms and Organizational Values

- Strengthening ethical governance
- Promoting accountability in global supply chains
- Translating corporate values into practice

4. CSR and Social Entrepreneurship

- Developing CSR initiatives with demonstrable social impact
- Scaling social entrepreneurship to address systemic challenges
- Designing sustainable and profitable business models for social good

5. Business Ethics in Education

- Innovating ethics education to prepare future business leaders
- Collaborating with industry to develop relevant ethics curricula
- Empowering students to design businesses that serve society

Timeline

- **Call for Proposals Released:** July 2025
- **Proposal Submission Window:** September 1st, 2025 – March 30th, 2026
- **Review Period:** April – May 2026
- **Awards Announced:** Summer 2026
- **Award Amount:** Up to \$20,000

Application Process

Access and read carefully the [submission guidelines](#) to see all requirements and a more detailed [call for proposals](#). Proposals should clearly articulate the project's potential to create practical, positive social outcomes and outline a clear plan for implementation and/or evaluation.

For questions, please contact: Diego Arias at ariasdi@udmercy.edu