



Introduction

Announcing the Barbara W. LeRoy Research Initiative



Dr. Barbara W. LeRoy served as Director of the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Institute at Wayne State University from 1993-2015. She earned her BA from St. Mary's College of Maryland, and her MA and PhD in Education from the University of Michigan.

Dr. LeRoy has had a profound and prolific research career. She designed and launched Michigan's Home and Community Based Services Rule Compliance Assessment. As an OECD TJ Alexander Fellow, she examined the educational access and performance of 15-year-old students with special educational needs across the world. Dr. LeRoy also collected and analyzed 160 oral histories from women with intellectual disabilities in 18 countries looking at their experiences as they aged. This work led to the publication of her book, [Women with Disabilities Aging Well: A Global Perspective](#).

Dr. LeRoy has received many awards and recognitions including the Distinguished Alumna Award (St. Mary's College of Maryland), WSU President's Exceptional Service Award, Michigan Rehabilitation Association's Tina Award, the AUCD International Service Award, and the TASH Positive Images in the Media Award for her creation of the [Possibilities video series](#).

Focus of Research and Timeline of Award

To honor Dr. LeRoy's outstanding contributions to MI-DDI and the disability field, we are launching the Barbara W. LeRoy Research Initiative. This Initiative will be offered every 3 years and will fund pilot research projects. Funding (up to \$15,000) will support research that addresses the following:

Focus: Community inclusion across the lifespan (e.g., daycare, school, sports, employment, living, religion, etc.).

Population: Individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD).

Inclusion: The research MUST include the participation of people with I/DD (or their families, if minors are the focus) in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the research.

Timeline:

- Application opens online January 1, 2024.
- Completed applications due by **April 1, 2024**.
- Notification of award will be sent **June 1, 2024**.
- Project start date of **July 1, 2024**.
- Project period can be 6 -12 months (Ending June 30, 2025).

Who is eligible to apply:

The Lead Researcher (applicant) must be Michigan-based and may include university junior faculty/researchers, advanced graduate students, and community organizations. University and community partnerships are strongly encouraged. National and international partners are allowed. Only one application per Lead Researcher.

Allowable use of funds:

Salaries, materials, payment of co-researchers with disabilities, research participants with disabilities, travel. Please note: this initiative will be funded based on WSU administrative policies. Indirect costs are **NOT** allowable.

Applicant Contact Information

Your Name:

Your Organization/Employer:

Mailing Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Please complete all fields below with the information requested. You will have the option to attach up to 4 supporting documents (Curriculum Vita/resume, budget documents, etc.) at the end of the application.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

- **Why is the proposed initiative needed? What problem does it address?**

SOLUTION:

- **What solution is proposed? (Provide 1-2 sentences briefly describing solution)**

METHODS:

- **Who are the research subjects?**
- **What are the project goals and objectives?**
- **How will success be measured?**
- **How will the findings be disseminated and shared?**
- **Provide a timeline of proposed project activities**

LEAD RESEARCHER AND PROPOSED TEAM

- **Describe the expertise (including any lived disability experience) of the Lead Researcher (please attach Lead Researcher's Curriculum Vita).**
- **Describe the expertise (including any lived disability experience) and role of each Team member.**

BUDGET

- **Provide a description of how the funds will be used. Upload a detailed budget and budget justification at the end of this application.**

ALIGNMENT WITH MI-DDI'S MISSION

- **How does your project contribute to the development of inclusive communities? Describe any anticipated quality of life outcomes for persons with disabilities and their families as a result of your project**
- **How will you ensure that your project is culturally sensitive in the sharing of information related to training, educational opportunities, supports and services, and research?**

SUSTAINABILITY

- **How will the outcomes from your project be used to leverage other future research opportunities?**

- **How will they add to the evidence base?**



Please upload up a budget with justification. You may also upload up to 3 other supporting documents related to the information you provided in this application.

Budget and budget justification:

Supporting Document #2 (Optional):

Supporting Document #3 (Optional):

Supporting Document #4 (Optional):

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