

INSTITUTE ON THE  
**ENVIRONMENT**

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

**Driven to Discover<sup>SM</sup>**

## Spring AY2017 MiniGrant RFP

**The Institute on the Environment (IonE) is pleased to announce the Spring AY2017 IonE Mini Grants competition.**

IonE Mini Grants are intended to spur new collaborative efforts by providing small amounts of funding (\$3K max), administrative and logistical support (including organizing and staffing meetings) and space (for meetings, small conferences, new courses, reading groups, etc.) to interdisciplinary groups of faculty, staff and students from across the University system.

Beyond the necessities of innovation, novelty and a connection to environmental challenges, there are few constraints on Mini Grant activities. The overarching goal of the program is to encourage risk taking, collaboration and experimentation across disciplines, units or campuses at the University of Minnesota. Examples that would advance this goal include:

- Catalyzing interdisciplinary teams around the development of new research proposals and projects;
- Supporting teams to develop new cross-disciplinary course offerings, curricula, and training programs;
- Facilitating the development of new partnerships between the University and outside organizations, including NGOs, businesses and government agencies;
- Encouraging international collaborations and partnerships around environmental work at the University.

Funds can be used to conduct preliminary research, develop a proposal, sponsor a workshop or meetings, bring in outside partners, support travel for visitors, etc. The Mini Grant program does not support ongoing work or activities that are commonly associated with traditional departments and research programs. Only in the most rare cases will the program fund proposals for PI salary only or for equipment development.

### Connecting to IonE

Mini Grants are an opportunity for interdisciplinary teams of faculty, staff, students and postdocs, from any campus of the University to engage with IonE. While students can submit proposals, all teams must be led or coordinated by a faculty or staff member who is eligible to be a principal investigator at the U of M. Teams are encouraged to work with partners beyond the University, although funds must stay at the University (except for travel expenses).

### Proposal Requirements

The proposal (2-page limit) process is simple. Please use the [submission template](#) to address the following:

- Who will be the project lead, and what is their administrative unit?
- Who else is involved in the project, and what disciplines, units and campuses do they represent?
- What is your project idea and why is it important and beneficial? How will you succeed?
- What are the expected outcomes of the project? and
- What are your budget, administrative and space needs, and how these resources will be used?

In addition, if you are requesting logistical support, please consult our [intranet event planning resources](#) for further information. Award letters for successful proposals will ask that event logistics be addressed as part of the award process. Student proposals must include a letter from the sponsor outlining the sponsors role in the project.

Proposals are due on **28 Feb 2017**. Decisions on funding will be made by 14 March 2017 and funds will be available as soon as possible thereafter.

Proposals must be sent electronically (as a single PDF file) to [ione-mg@umn.edu](mailto:ione-mg@umn.edu), with the subject line "Mini Grant Proposal: PILastName" by midnight on **due date** - **no exceptions**.

Short reports of outcomes will be expected by 1 July 2018.

For additional information, please contact Lewis Gilbert ([legilber@umn.edu](mailto:legilber@umn.edu)), Managing Director / COO, Institute on the Environment.